

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

February 2023 NEWSLETTER



## FOW Walks

### Family Explorer

*Sunday 26th March, 10:15*

Families with primary-aged children are invited to join Sue Houghton to explore the woods around the Castle.

### Woodland Conservation Walk

*Sunday 26th March, 10am*

This walk will highlight some of the problems facing the flora and fauna of the woods and discuss what we are doing to protect them.

Booking is essential for all walks. If you would like to join a walk please contact Mike

[oxleas.events@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.events@gmail.com)

Walks are free, donations are welcome.

Hello Friends,

Many of you will have walked the middle path through Jack Wood and discovered the two newly installed flights of steps which were completed in December in areas which were suffering significant erosion. This is the first instalment of a series of improvements to the woodland pathways which are being funded by Royal Greenwich Parks and Open Spaces Department.

The focus is now on the lower path in Jack Wood which runs behind the houses of Crookston Road; regular users will know this can be impassable in wet weather. Funding is available for further improvements, and we have been actively engaged in scoping the works.

## FOW AGM

Tuesday 21st March, 7:30pm

We're looking forward to seeing Members at the meeting where we will be looking back at FOW's work during 2022.

As usual, there will also be a talk which we hope will be of interest to many of you.

Look out for more information about the AGM which we will send to members shortly.



The improvements will concentrate on the areas which have the greatest erosion and safety issues, with the intention of avoiding the use of steps and providing greater access to a wider variety of users.

Alan Jarrett,  
FOW Project Coordinator

## Need to Know

You can be a Friend of Oxleas Woodlands, a volunteer-run community organisation.

For more information see our website or email [oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com](mailto:oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com)

[www.oxleaswoodlands.uk](http://www.oxleaswoodlands.uk)

For More Information

@OxleasFriends



# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands



## Oxleas Woodlands Pathway Project - Funding

In addition to the improvements that will be funded by Greenwich Park and Open Spaces Department, we have submitted two bids to the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund community funding scheme. The bids cover the replacement of two sleeper bridges in Jack Wood, which are reaching the end of their life and the replacement of an associated flight of dilapidated steps. If our bids are selected, they will go to a public vote along with all other bids made so we will let you know when this happens and seek your support. As we've previously reported, making good all the paths in Jack Wood to prevent further habitat destruction, is a large undertaking and we will be exploring other options for funding and fundraising.

## Shepherd Leas Development

We've received confirmation from Meridian Home Start that they've put in an appeal following the refusal by members of the Planning Board in July. While they await this decision they have been working on a new planning application due to be submitted this month. The main change will be a reduction in two storeys on the highest element, decreasing the height from 30 meters to 24 meters. We will respond when we see the planning application.

## Habitat Conservation

Whilst we are cutting back holly and removing some of the verge-side undergrowth we're also preserving habitats by leaving stumps in the ground and building log pyramids.



Log Pyramids provide the perfect home for Stag Beetles

## Pathway Improvement

Since mid-April 2022, the Woodland Conservation Group has concentrated on pathway improvement - amassing 562 volunteer hours to date on the Lower Path, northern part of Stoney Alley and, latterly, the eastern end of middle path. The objective is to remove holly and scrub within 3-4 metres of the paths which allows the drying effect of sunshine and air circulation. Additionally, acting on advice from Butterfly Conservation, we intend to actively manage the verges encouraging a wider diversity of flora. In turn, this will encourage pollinators and invertebrates, thus improving biodiversity.



## Size Does Matter

You may have forgotten how wide the tarmac path is, leading southwest from Oxleas Café, then North to the council offices. Brambles on one side and turf on the other were heavily encroaching. Woodland Conservation Group Volunteers have restored it to its original width, allowing passage without further erosion of the grass verges and more of this is intended when the bird nesting season starts and our woodland activities are curtailed.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer please contact us on [oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)



# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

FOW CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES – 2023	
<b>January</b> Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Shooters Hill Woodland Work Party (SHWWP) Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking	<b>July</b> Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Litter picking Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group
<b>February</b> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking	<b>August</b> Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Woodland History Walk: pm</b> <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> - Houses in the Woods Walk: pm</b>
<b>March</b> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Members' AGM : 7.30pm</b> Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> - Family Explorer: am</b> <b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Walk: pm</b> Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group	<b>September</b> Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - Autumn Bird Walk: am</b> Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Litter picking <b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - Members' Meeting -7.30pm</b> Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group
<b>April</b> Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Litter picking <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Spring Bird Walk: am</b> Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group <b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> - Spring Flowers Walk: pm</b>	<b>October</b> Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking
<b>May</b> Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking <b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> - Houses in the Woods Walk: pm</b>	<b>November</b> Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking
<b>June</b> Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group <b>Sun 18<sup>th</sup> - Houses in the woods walk: pm</b> <b>Weds 21<sup>st</sup> - Members' Meeting: 7.30pm</b> Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group	<b>December</b> Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Members' Meeting: 7.30pm</b> Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> - SHWWP Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Litter picking Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> - Rose Garden Restoration <b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Winter Bird Walk: am</b>

You can book now for walks in March, April, May and June, additional walks will be added throughout the year. If you would like to join a walk or event please contact us on [oxleas.events@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.events@gmail.com)

Volunteering shifts all start at 10am, except Friday Rose Gardening which starts at 2pm