

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

August 2023 NEWSLETTER



Hello Friends,

This time last year our woodlands were suffering from the long dry summer. We had large fires in both Hotel Field and Shepherdleas Woods, the effects of which can still be seen today. There've been a few reports of fires this year, but fortunately, as the ground is cooler and wetter, they've been more contained. Remember that BBQs and fires are not permitted anywhere in Oxleas Woodlands - nor any Greenwich Borough park.

This year's weather may have reduced the fires, but as you can see in Liz's picture above, the sixth wettest July on record brought with it other problems. Strong winds, trees in full leaf and wet soil have meant we have had a number of trees and branches falling. This tree, which fell across the new eastern steps in Jack Wood, is thought to be about 200 years old. Despite looking healthy, there is evidence of disease in the roots - a reminder to stay aware when walking in the woods.

If you're looking to get out and about in the woodlands, why not follow one of our three self-guided walks? They are available to download from our website www.oxleaswoodlands.uk/explore-the-woodlands. Should you notice a problem in the woods you can report it to us Oxleas.friends@gmail.com and to the council using friendsofparks@royalgreenwich.gov.uk or use www.fixmystreet.com which can be downloaded as an app. To identify exactly where the problem is use What3Words.com.

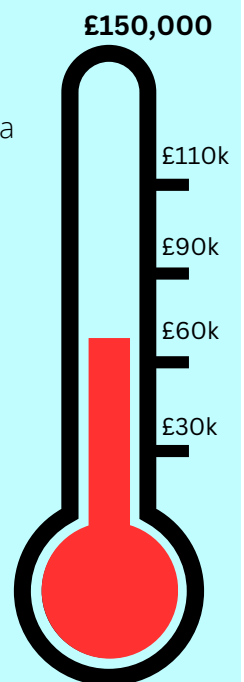
Katie Barretta
Steering Group Member

Lower Path Fundraising

At the time of writing we've received £1,799 in donations via JustGiving and £1,500 from people who have donated in other ways. This brings our current total to **£66,320**.

In July we submitted a bid for £20,000 to National Grid. If successful this will pay for a further 200 meters of path repairs.

Feedback for the work done to date has been really positive and our new posters seem to be catching the attention of visitors.



If you're able to make a donation please use [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friends-of-oxleas-woodlands-1](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/friends-of-oxleas-woodlands-1) or email Sue for alternative ways to donate oxleas.members@gmail.com

To become a member of the Friends of Oxleas Woodland please complete the membership application form www.oxleaswoodlands.uk/contact-us

www.oxleaswoodlands.uk

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Volunteering Dates

August

Friday 11th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 12th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 18th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 19th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Sunday 20th, 10am-noon Rose Garden

September

Friday 1st, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Friday 8th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 9th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 15th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 16th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Saturday 23rd, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Friday 29th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation

*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

For all the volunteer sessions and events planned for 2023 please see the calendar issued with June's newsletter. oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com

Oxleas Café

Oxleas Café has been under new management this year and regulars to the woods will have spotted some changes. They are now welcoming dogs on leads to the outside area, accepting card payments, and have a new look frontage. We're pleased to report that they've kept the Sunday afternoon live music events.



FOW Walks & Events

Woodland History Walk

Sunday 20th August, 3pm FULL

Ever wondered why the Oxleas Woodlands are still there? Come and join historian and FOW Chair Tom Wareham on a ramble around the woodlands as he outlines their history and some of the historical features that remain. Discover sculptures of nature and the impacts by man against a backdrop of changing scenery.

Houses in the Woods Walk

Sunday 27th August, 3pm FULL

Join Tom Wareham and explore the locations of six of the great houses which once stood in the woodlands. Using images and anecdotes, Tom will tell the story of the houses and introduce you to some of the fascinating people who once lived in them.

Autumn Bird Walk

Sunday 17th September, 9:30am

By Autumn parent birds in the woods will be joined by their offspring; all will be busy feeding to prepare for migration or the oncoming winter. Most birds are not so vocal or visible as in the spring but are still here to be seen. Join David Jones to discover them in Oxleas Woodlands.



Jack Wood Terrace

Visitors to the woods will soon be able to take a seat in the lower alcove of Jack Wood Terrace. The walls and ceiling have been repaired and painted and the old wooden seat replaced.



Severndroog Castle Tearoom

The tearoom at Severndroog Castle is also under new management, as it is now run by Castle staff and volunteers. They've got a monthly Producers Market, Summer Music evenings, and Street Food nights. Follow them on social media for details.

FOW Noticeboard

Our noticeboard, where we advertise events & opportunities, now has an eye-catching new header promoting the Friends of Oxleas Woodlands.



Booking is essential for all walks. Please contact Mike oxleas.events@gmail.com or use the QR code to book directly. Walks are free, donations are welcome.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer please contact us on oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com