

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



FOW Walks & Events

Members' Meeting

Wednesday 6th December, 7:30pm
Shrewsbury House

Winter Bird Walk

Saturday 23rd December, 9:30am

David will lead a walk through the woods looking and listening for birds that over-winter in Oxleas. With the leaves now gone from the trees, our feathered friends should be more visible as they forage for food. Please wear warm clothes and suitable footwear as this walk will naturally involve a lot of standing very still.

2024 Walks

We are very proud of the extensive range of walks we've offered annually since our inception in 2018. All our walks are led by volunteers, who share their time and knowledge freely. Please let us know if you would like to lead a walk, if there's a walk you'd like to see added to the list or to tell us which walks simply must be repeated next year! Please send ideas to oxleas.events@gmail.com

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.



Hello Friends,

This month, a visit to Oxleas Woodlands promises a picturesque display of autumnal colours above and a diverse array of fungi below, creating a delightful experience for your senses on a crisp autumn day.

However, don't forget to don your boots, as the recent rains and storms have transformed many paths into muddy streams. The current conditions provide an excellent opportunity to observe the impact of our Pathways Project in Jack Wood. Along Lower Path, you'll encounter stretches of renovated gravel paths adorned with fallen leaves, providing a solid walking surface. Yet, in other sections, be prepared to navigate through thick mud.

Notably, on the renewed path segments, visitors are adhering to the designated route. But between these areas people avoid the mud; widening the paths, or creating alternative routes. Wherever possible please try to stick to the paths. This will help reduce the erosion of path surrounds and damage to tree roots. Completing the paths project is so important to preserving the wonderful woodland habitat.

We've raised £67,179 for Jack Wood, aiming for £113,000. Despite an unsuccessful £20,000 bid, we're actively seeking donors. Thanks to all who've given generously. Our JustGiving Page is still open for donations. Your help is appreciated.



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

www.oxleaswoodlands.uk

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Volunteering Dates

November

Tuesday 21st, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 25th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

December

Friday 8th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 9th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 15th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 16th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Sunday 17th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Tuesday 19th, 10am-01pm Woodland Conservation TBC

*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

For more information about volunteering

contact oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com

Thinking About volunteering?

Now is a great time to contact Christine to find out more about our volunteer roles. There's no minimum commitment, and no experience is necessary (and you'll almost certainly learn new skills and information). We can even supply the tools you require. To join us in 2024 email oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com now.

Corporate Volunteering

A rewarding Woodland Conservation Session took place when a team of engineers from SKY joined us for a Corporate Volunteering Session. We cleared a large area of holly in Jack Wood, opening the woodland floor to light and encouraging regeneration in our beautiful woods.



Chestnut Paling Fencing

Another step in our Pathways Project started earlier this month in Oxleas Wood, where you will spot that Royal Greenwich has erected some paling fencing. This is to help the regeneration of our woodlands, and once the verges are thriving with flora and fauna again this will be moved to another heavily-eroded area. Please help speed this up by keeping to the pathways.



Wood Chippings

Our volunteers have been working hard in Castle Wood Rose Garden (actually they always work hard) as Royal Borough of Greenwich Parks Department delivered several tonnes of wood chippings for the rose beds.

Last year we nurtured the new roses in Castle Wood Garden with well rotted horse manure. As this rots down, the topping of wood chips will hold in moisture and help reduce the weeds.



Litter Picking

What a lovely morning we had for October's litter picking in Eltham Common Woods. Our eight volunteers collected 25 bags of rubbish, a pile of carpet and several pieces of wood/signage. Time for a bit of fungi spotting too! Then all rounded off with a well-deserved cuppa at Severndroog Castle Tea Room.

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