

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

October 2023 NEWSLETTER



from the
FOW Steering Group

Hello Friends,

We start by saying a huge Thank You to Tom Wareham for being an excellent and inspiring Chair to FOW. Some of you may already be aware that, for personal reasons, Tom has recently resigned his position.

Tom, a founding member since FOW's 2018 inception, steered our growth, fostering a community of over 600 members, active volunteers, and a network of supporters In Greenwich and beyond.

Under his guidance, we achieved significant milestones: restoring Castle Wood Rose Garden, identifying the ecological need for, and launching of, the Pathways Project, and installing Friends' and Interpretation Boards by Oxleas Café. Tom's efforts forged a credible partnership with Greenwich Council, and local woodland and green network advocates.

The Steering Group is very grateful to Tom for his commitment, hard work, and leadership. His passion for nature and woodlands has inspired many to understand the importance of respecting, protecting and enjoying Oxleas Woodlands. The good news is that Tom will continue to volunteer and to lead his popular Houses in the Woods Walks.

Laurie Baker, who leads the Shooters Hill Woodland Working Party and has been a Steering Group member since its inception, becomes our interim Chair until the March AGM when a new Chair will be elected.

We also extend our thanks to Sue Reeve, another founding member. Sue decided earlier this year that she will not be standing for the Secretary and Membership Officer roles at the AGM in March. Her dedication has fuelled our growth, organized events, and kept the Steering Group on track. Sue also manages the Litter Picking Group, which she will continue to lead.

Information about these voluntary roles are available later in this newsletter. For details of the responsibilities, please contact oxleas.friends@gmail.com.



Sue Reeve & Tom Wareham



Laurie Baker

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

October

Friday 20th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Sunday 22nd, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Tuesday 24th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 28th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

November

Friday 3rd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Friday 10th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 11th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 17th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 18th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Tuesday 21st, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Saturday 25th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

For more information about volunteering contact oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com

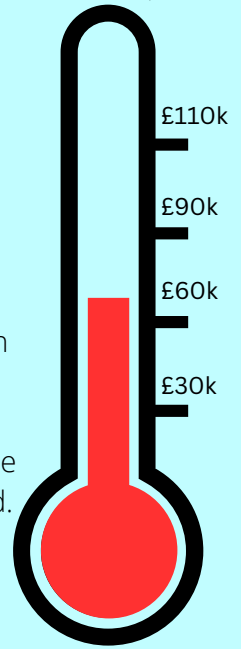
Pathways Project Update

Thanks to £2,623 already raised through our crowdfunding appeal on Just Giving, plus donations made into our bank account, a new 40-metre section of path began last month. This new section will join two recently laid sections that were funded by Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Following on from this, work will begin on the renewal of two bridges, and the replacement of a dilapidated flight of steps, funded by our successful bid to the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund.

The Council are also funding some work in Oxleas Wood. Fencing will be erected around a badly eroded area of woodland to prevent further deterioration. Once the area has recovered, the fencing will be relocated to a different location.

£150,000



FOW Walks & Events Members' Meeting

Wednesday 6th December, 7:30pm

Winter Bird Walk

Saturday 23rd December, 9:30am

David will lead a walk through the woods looking and listening for birds who 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.

Events for families

We had to cancel our Family Explorer for families with primary-aged children due to insufficient demand. We remain aware that our other walks and talks are not particularly family-friendly. So we would really love to hear from those of you with children about activities that would help make Oxleas Woodlands a more accessible learning environment for you. 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.



New Tuesday Volunteering

The Woodland Conservation Group has grown significantly since we started and, consequently, about 18-months ago, we added a second Friday group each month. The groups have continued to go from strength to strength and we are making significant inroads in managing the woodland. We are now trialling a third weekday session (Tuesdays) which will be led by Alan Jarrett. Together with the Saturday Conservation Group (SHWWP), we can now offer volunteers a weekly opportunity to get involved with woodland conservation. Initially, this group will concentrate on habitat improvement in Shepherdleas Wood, which is also ancient woodland and a SSSI. Our first trial group will take place on Tuesday, 24th October. If you would like to join us message: oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com

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

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands



CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023.

September.	October.
Friday 1st - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 8th - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 9th - SHWWP Friday 15th - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 16th - Rose Garden Restoration Sunday 17th - Autumn Bird Walk: am. Tuesday 19th - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 23rd - Litter picking Tuesday 26th - Members' Meeting -7.30pm Friday 29th - Woodland Conservation Group.	Friday 13th - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 14th – SHWWP Saturday 14th – Fungi Walk - AM Sunday 15th – Autumn Family Explorer: am. Friday 20th - Woodland Conservation Group Sunday 22nd - Rose Garden Restoration Tuesday 24th - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 28th - Litter picking
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Friday 3rd - Woodland Conservation Group Friday 10th - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 11th - SHWWP Friday 17th - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 18th - Rose Garden Restoration. Tuesday 21st - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 25th - Litter picking.	Friday 1st - Woodland Conservation Group Wednesday 6th - Members' Meeting: 7.30pm Friday 8th - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 9th - SHWWP Friday 15th - Woodland Conservation Group Saturday 16th - Litter picking Sunday 17th - Rose Garden Restoration Saturday 23rd - Winter Bird Walk: am.
Contacts.	
For more info about FOW, membership, volunteer sessions and walks. oxleas.friends@gmail.com oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com oxleas.events@gmail.com www.oxleaswoodlands.uk @Oxleasfriends	

*SHWWP = Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

All weekend volunteering and Woodland Conservation Group sessions start at 10am. Friday rose garden sessions start at 2pm but may be subject to change when the temperature is high.

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

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Would you like to make a difference to our local woodlands?

The Friends of Oxleas Woodlands is a dynamic, and growing conservation group, formed in 2018.

It aims to ensure the long-term survival of The Woodlands through protecting and enhancing the eco-systems, encouraging responsible use, and promoting and celebrating its cultural heritage.

We are an ambitious organisation which has grown, both in numbers and in its activities.

How Are We Organised?

The Steering Group is responsible for the operation of The Friends of Oxleas Woodlands (FOW) on behalf of its members and it is accountable to them. It is made up of five elected Members:

- Chair
- Secretary/Membership Officer
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Members (2)
- Co-ordinator of the Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

The role of the Chair

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed person with an interest in conservation and ecology to join our Steering Group as Chair, where you will help promote our organisation and lead our drive in improving this precious habitat, consisting of 130 hectares of woodland and meadow. Much of it is designated ancient woodland and it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Local Nature Reserve.

As the figurehead, the Chair is responsible for conducting Steering Group and Member Meetings, as well as representing The Friends of Oxleas Woodlands at a variety of external meetings.

The role of Secretary/Membership Officer

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed person with an interest in conservation and ecology to join our Steering Group as Secretary/Membership Officer. As the first point of contact and the main link with the Steering Group, you will be responsible for both welcoming prospective Members and informing them of the progress we are making in our drive to improve this precious habitat, consisting of 130 hectares of woodland and meadow. Much of it is designated ancient woodland and it is a site of Special Scientific Interest and a Local Nature Reserve.

The Secretary/Membership Officer is an administrative role, and is responsible for convening meetings, taking and distributing minutes, and the management of the Membership.

If you are interested in either of these roles, please email oxleas.friends@gmail.com and we will send further information about them.