

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

January 2023 NEWSLETTER



Volunteering Dates 2023

Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

Second Saturday of every month, 10am - 1pm

January 14th	May 13th	September 9th
February 11th	June 10th	October 14th
March 11th	July 8th	November 11th
April 8th	August 12th	December 9th

Weekday Woodlands Conservation Group

Fridays, usually two per month, 10am - 1pm

January 6th, 20th	July 14th, 28th
February 3rd, 17th	August 18th
March 3rd, 17th, 31st	September 1st, 15th, 29th
April 14th, 28th	October 20th
May 19th	November 3rd, 17th
June 2nd, 16th, 30th	December 1st, 15th

Rose Garden Restoration & Maintenance

One Friday 2pm & one weekend 10am per month

January 13th, 22nd	July 1st, 21st
February 10th, 19th	August 11th, 20th
March 10th, 18th	September 8th, 16th
April 16th, 21st	October 13th, 22nd
May 12th, 14th	November 10th, 18th
June 4th, 9th	December 8th, 17th

Litter Picking Group

Fourth Saturday of every month, 10am - 12noon

January 28th	May 20th	September 23rd
February 25th	June 24th	October 28th
March 25th	July 22nd	November 25th
April 22nd	August 19th	December 16th

Hello Friends,

Lets face it, we couldn't do anything without the help of volunteers. Everything we do is completely dependent on people who have the time and inclination to volunteer. Whether it's hands-on manual work of some sort, attending meetings, doing admin stuff, leading walks, helping organise activities, working on a stall at an event...etc etc. All of it helps, and because of the time and effort people give FOW, we are making an impact. Whether it's in terms of woodland conservation, educating and engaging more people (membership is now 593) or protecting the woodland generally.

We are hugely grateful for each and every minute that people give – (last year we clocked 1,600 volunteer hours) but we always need more. As others have commented, volunteering in the woods can be hugely enjoyable too – and beneficial for both mental and physical health. Most people who decide to 'give it a go' become regulars and come back time after time, (regardless of the weather!)

Now THERE's dedication!

Tom Wareham,
FOW Chairperson



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

www.oxleaswoodlands.uk

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands



Rose Garden Volunteers

We meet twice a month to maintain and improve the two formal gardens. Usually we are weeding but we also mulch, prune and plant as required.

I had no knowledge of roses when I started volunteering but I've learnt from others. The gardens are special to many people and we get a lot of thanks from passers-by. **Katie**

Litter Picking Volunteers

Usually the fourth Saturday of the month is when we tackle areas that have litter. *It was casual litter picking on walks that brought me to volunteering with FOW. As well as being an important part of our conservation work it is rather like a strange treasure hunt as we sometimes come across interesting and puzzling finds amongst the bottles & wrappers.* **Sue**



Shooters Hill Woodlands Work Party (SHWWP)

SHWWP has been meeting on second Saturday of each month for many years. We help conserve our local woodland. We build hedges to protect flora and fauna of certain areas, cut down invasive species and those that deter ground flora, clean streams and pools. **Laurie**



Events Coordinator

Handling the bookings for FOWs walks and special events, this role keeps track of who needs to be where and at what time. *Having lived locally for nearly 50 years and thoroughly enjoyed Oxleas Wood; I am keen to help more Friends enjoy its wonders through the many FOW events.* **Mike**
oxleas.events@gmail.com

Winter Family Explorer

We are sorry to announce that we will have to postpone our Winter Family Explorer. We hope we can rearrange this for late February. To be the first to hear about booking a place please email oxleas.events@gmail.com

Pathways Project Coordinator

This role is the FOW liaison between the Council and the Contractors to help the project run smoothly. *I am impressed by the effort that supports the FOW activities and offered my services when the position was created. I help to keep work on the various pathways moving forward.* **Alan**

Members meeting

The meeting on 7th December heard about the progress made on some of FOW projects, many reported in more detail in recent newsletters. Tom (Chair) described what FOW is doing to raise awareness of the Path's project and to raise funds for this. The volunteers taking up the new co-ordinator roles were introduced and thanked for their support. James Hedges, Arboricultural manager for the Royal Borough of Greenwich, gave a talk about the impact of the climate crisis, diseases and other challenges facing trees and suggested some ways of mitigating the consequences of these.

Volunteer Walk Leader

Throughout the year we offer a varied and comprehensive programme of educational walks led by knowledgeable volunteers. *Taking a group of curious people of all ages on a guided walk through the woodlands can be daunting. But after every walk I feel a deep gratitude for the enthusiasm everyone shows and the amount of knowledge exchanged both ways.*

Marketa



Woodland Conservation Volunteers

Meeting on two Fridays per month the group's tasks include improving the paths and verges, removing invasive species, clearing over-dominant holly and fallen trees and the management of seasonal trees. *I enjoy woodland conservation so much I've become a leader! Protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity is key to everyone's health and future, so actually doing something about it is really rewarding.* **Gareth**



Volunteer Coordinator

This role is the point of contact for all new and existing volunteers, ensuring everyone has the information they need. *I am a keen FOW volunteer, and now your new link between volunteers and session leaders, hopefully helping things run smoothly as FOW grows. Looking forward to meeting you!* **Christine**
oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com

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