



APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands



## Volunteering Dates

### April

Friday 19th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Saturday 20th, 10am-noon Rose Garden  
Tuesday 23rd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Saturday 27th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

### May

Friday 3rd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Friday 10th, 2-4pm Rose Garden  
Saturday 11th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation\*  
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](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)

## Annual General Meeting

FOW's AGM was held on Tuesday 19th March at Shrewsbury House; 25 members were present. As out-going Chair, Laurie Baker presented the Annual Report, Gareth Evans, Treasurer, reported on the financial situation and the Steering Group nominations were ratified. Katie Barretta shared 2024 plans for Jackwood House Garden

Liz McDermott gave a well-researched and interesting talk on the Blue Cross Pet Cemetery.

Hello Friends,

Usually the newsletter updates you on the big news for the month. On this occasion, we thought it would be good to relay the excellent news that after only 6 years (actually since 2018), the membership has risen to a proud 650 people. This year alone we have 20 new members, which is a monthly increase compared to 2023. As a result of the rising numbers, we have created a dedicated Membership Officer role. Membership enquiries, managing the list of members and sending out the monthly newsletter are already routine jobs, but we will now start to routinely validate the list. This means that at some point everyone will receive a check email asking if they still wish to remain a member. We hope all the answers are a big YES! We will also use this opportunity to correct any members' details - simple housekeeping but important.

Jane, Membership Officer

If you didn't receive this newsletter directly, then you're not a Member. Why not add your voice?  
email [oxleas.members@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.members@gmail.com)

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

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

## April Walks

The Houses in the Woods, Spring Birds and Spring Flower walks are all FULL, with waiting lists. A few places remain for the Family Explorer event on 21st.

## May Walks

*Saturday 4th May, 9:30am.* David is repeating the **Spring Bird Walk** whilst there is the opportunity to see and hear the birds.

*Sunday 5th May, 10am.* Guided walk to **Discover the Woodlands**. Expert botanist Richard has a fantastic depth of knowledge. He will identify a variety of plants and describe their uses, legends and folk-lore.

*Saturday 11th May, 10am.* Alan is repeating the **Pathways, Verges and Scallops walk**. This is a fantastic opportunity for members to see the incredible work the Pathways Team has done to improve access to the woodlands.

Booking is essential for all walks.

Please contact Mike [oxleas.events@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.events@gmail.com) or use the QR code to book directly when they open to all. Walks are free, donations are welcome.



## Benefits of Membership

For FOW, more members means more commitment from the community to preserve and restore Oxleas Woodlands; a wider breadth of knowledge and skills available to help us do so; more people actively enjoying this wonderful space; and the larger the membership, the better chance we have of attracting donor money to continue the restoration work like the Pathways and Garden Projects.

Membership is free to everyone and attracts a monthly newsletter, priority access to guided walks, exclusive talks and practical volunteering opportunities. We welcome donations, of course, all of which will go towards our work protecting and enhancing the woods, meadows and gardens.

Please spread the word that membership helps in lots of ways; send a copy of this newsletter to your friends and family, and tell people what a worthwhile cause this is.

## Can I ride a horse in the woods?

The Kings Troop of horses are a spectacular and somewhat unexpected sight in SE9 & SE18, and you might occasionally see them in the woodlands. However, there is only one bridlepath in Oxleas and it runs from opposite Woodlands Farm to the corner of Oxleas Meadow. This is the only place where it is permitted for the public to ride horses. We ask that riders respect the SSSI status of the woods and do not damage paths by riding fast, nor introduce seeds and chemicals in faeces; please use a manure catcher.



## 1-18 Shepherds Leas Re-development

The proposed development, with the height reduced to a maximum of 7-storeys, is being considered by the Planning Board on 16th April, 6pm at Woolwich Town Hall. FOW will be present and will object to the potential environmental impact.



## Jackwood Roses

The majority of Jackwood's old roses have now been transplanted to a new home on the old terrace where we hope they will enjoy some protection from the elements. Forty others have been adopted by FOW members.



If you'd like to know more about Oxleas Woodlands and the Friends visit [www.oxleaswoodlands.uk](http://www.oxleaswoodlands.uk)