

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

April 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Volunteering Dates

### April

Friday 14th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Sunday 16th, 10am-noon Rose Garden  
Friday 21st, 2-4pm Rose Garden  
Saturday 22nd, 10am-noon Litter Picking  
Friday 28th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation

### May

Saturday 13th, 10am-1pm SHWWP\*  
Friday 19th, 10am-noon Woodland Conservation  
Friday 12th, 2-4pm Rose Garden  
Sunday 14th, 10am-noon Rose Garden  
Saturday 20th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

\*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

**For all the Volunteer sessions and events planned for 2022 please see the calendar circulated in February's newsletter.**

[oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)



Hello Friends,

Thank you to the Members who joined the AGM on 21st March. The meeting was well attended and Tom gave an overview of the past year's work, challenges and achievements. The main thrust of the conservation work had been improving the pathways, where significant progress has been made. Issues raised by members included the proliferation of mainly Council notices in the woodlands, the poor condition of the seating in the lower alcove in Jack Wood, and level access to the Terrace being blocked by a tree trunk. These issues and suggested improvements will be discussed with the Council. Unfortunately, Steve Bolton from the Butterfly Conservation Trust was not able to speak at the meeting due to illness but will be joining us at a forthcoming Members' meeting.

The meeting approved the Steering Group membership for 2023/24 as Tom Wareham (Chair), Sue Reeve (Secretary/ Membership Secretary), Gareth Evans (Treasurer), Katie Barretta (Ordinary member) and Laurie Baker (Shooters Hill Woodland Working Party). In addition, we are pleased to welcome Jane Hughes to the group; replacing Marketa Koskova who has been a member of the group since the end of 2020. We are grateful to Marketa for her work on the Steering group and look forward to her future Fungi walks.

Sue Reeve,  
FOW Secretary

## 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](mailto:oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com)

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

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

## FOW Walks

### Spring Bird Walk

Sunday 23rd April, 9am

In spring, we can see resident species and summer visitors as they look for partners & defend their territories.

### Spring Flowers Walk

Sunday 30th April, 2pm **FULL**

The spring flowers should be at their peak, from the cuckoo flower to the bluebell and many others.

### Family Explorer

Sunday 30th April, 10:15am

Families with primary-aged children are invited to join Sue Houghton to explore the woods around the Castle.

### Houses in the Woods Walk

Sunday 21st May, 6pm **FULL**

Sunday 18th June, (Limited space)

Tom will explore the locations of six great houses which once stood in the Woodlands - with images and anecdotes.

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



## Litter Picking

Litter picking was the focus of last month's newsletter and we are pleased to report that at our March session we had good attendance and collected 48 bags of litter from the woods adjacent to Shooters Hill Road.

We were also joined by volunteers from Balfour Beatty, who collected litter from alongside Rochester Way and Welling Way, where they are currently working. We hope they will join us for more activities.



## Castle Wood Rose Garden

Last month we under-planted one bed with *London Pride*. Our hope is that these will provide ground cover and act as a natural weed suppressant. We collected these plants from Eltham Palace where they were being thinned from existing beds.

We were delighted to spot that the 'new' picnic benches have been finished with a base of wood chippings by the Parks Department.



## City Nature Challenge 2023

Cities around the world are collaborating to share observations of nature in this annual four-day global bioblitz!

You can participate by making observations of wildlife in London. From April 28th to May 1st take pictures of wild plants and animals. Then submit your images between the 2nd and 7th May using [iNaturalistUK](https://www.inaturalist.org) app (the app will help you to identify the species). Results will be announced on 8th May.

More information is available on [www.citynaturechallenge.org](http://www.citynaturechallenge.org)

## Shepherd Leas Development

In addition to the appeal that we reported last month a further planning application was received by Greenwich Council on Tuesday 21st March. The new proposal has a maximum height of seven floors, providing a total of 62 new affordable residential dwellings.

The planning application can be seen [planning.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/online-applications](https://planning.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/online-applications) The consultation period ends on 26th April. We will be reviewing the proposals and their environmental impact on Shepherdleas Woods.

If you would like to join us as a volunteer please contact us on [oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)