



# JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Happy New Year from the FOW Steering Group



### Volunteering Dates

#### January

Friday 19th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Sunday 21st, 10am-noon Rose Garden  
Tuesday 23rd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Saturday 27th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

#### February

Friday 2nd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Friday 9th, 2-4pm Rose Garden  
Saturday 10th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation\*  
Friday 16th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Sunday 18th, 10am-noon Rose Garden  
Tuesday 20th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation  
Saturday 24th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

\*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

**For more information about volunteering contact** [oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)



Hi, I'm Christine!

A year ago I began a new volunteer role, Volunteers' Coordinator for the Friends of Oxleas Woodlands.

Starting a new activity, I was a little anxious, but was assured by friends it was an ideal fit – and they were right!

I love being a first point of contact - providing and collecting information, meeting people at various sessions, and I've developed new friendships with so many people from all walks of life! It has been an exciting year, seeing new volunteers join us, and sad when volunteers can no longer help, but it is so fulfilling to feel I am involved in making a difference to our woodlands.

As FOW grows, there are so many ways you too can help, so if you have any free time, a skill, or just want to be part of something, don't hesitate - come and join one of our friendly groups.

Christine, FOW Volunteer Coordinator

To become a volunteer with the Friends of Oxleas Woodlands, please email Christine [oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.volunteers@gmail.com)

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

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## In 2023 FOW Volunteers worked:

A magnificent **1988** combined volunteering hours!

An amazing **834** hours more than 2022!

That's:

Litter Picking – **278 hrs**  
Rose Gardening – **250 hrs**  
Woodland Conservation – **1,460 hrs**

Additionally, we held:

## 12 Walks

Enjoyed by over **180** people.

Raising donations of **£391.52** to support our work.

## Volunteering is fun!

If you have any spare time, we want you!

Every volunteering hour helps improve our woodlands! You don't need any skills to help, come along and we'll show you what to do.

**There is something for everyone.**

### Litter Picking

There is one session each month, on the last Saturday morning.

This is another activity that the whole family can get involved in and, as our regular volunteers will tell you, it is very satisfying!

There are many ways that you can help, including: helping at events; communications; supporting or leading walks or activities; giving a talk at a Members' Meeting.

### Gardening

Two sessions a month – one on a Friday afternoon and one on either a weekend morning.

This is a friendly and relaxing activity for all ages. Come and enjoy the peace and quiet of the woodlands or chat to other volunteers while helping restore the flower beds and their surroundings.

### Woodland Conservation

Four sessions each month, one Saturday, two Fridays and one Tuesday – all mornings.

Friendly sessions where you can help improve the ecology of the woodlands, while getting fit and socialising! You could be trimming branches, brambling, clearing pathways, building dead hedges, and removing invasive species.

For this activity you must be over 18.

# Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

## News from the Meadows



A new tree has been planted on Castle Wood Meadow, near the Crookston Road entrance. It is an *Ulmus Lobel*, known as Lobel Elm. This is a Dutch variety that has been cultivated to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. It was planted by RBG during a small ceremony in December with Councillors present.

## FOW Walks & Events

### Winter Family Explorer

Sunday 28th January, 10:15am-noon

Our first walk will be a Family Explorer on Sunday 28th January for families with 5-10 year olds.

The winter woodlands might be muddy, but they are still great to explore! Through fun sensory games and activities, the colours, smells and sounds will be brought to life, helping us to discover the amazing variety of plants and animals that over-winter in Oxleas Woodlands.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/winter-family-explorer-2024-tickets-781922791117>

### 2024 Walks

We will soon be announcing more walks, repeating many of our popular walks from last year and adding new ones like *Paths, Verges and Scallops*. All our walks are led by volunteers. If you've a special interest that you'd like to share, or that you'd like to learn more about, please share these with [oxleas.events@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.events@gmail.com)

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. Walks are free, donations are welcome.



## News from the Gardens

Volunteers have been working on the two formal flower gardens in Oxleas Woodlands since FOW started in 2018. Our greatest achievement was fundraising for, and replacing, all the roses in one-side of Castle Wood garden and encouraging the Council to install picnic benches on the other side. In 2023 we were still battling the legacy of Covid restrictions; the weeds in Jack Wood were stronger than ever. But as the year came to an end we finally had both gardens weed-free, and a layer of wood chippings to help keep them that way.



## News from the Woods

During 2023 our woodland conservation volunteers were clearing the dry streams and building 'leaky' dams. It was hard to imagine the hard compacted clay soil ever needing water management measures but as you can see from the picture below, the very wet winter we are experiencing is thoroughly



testing our new defences. Leaky Dams, barriers of natural deadwood, slow down the flow of the water. This reduces the amount of erosion and creates a variety of pools and streams for maximizing diverse environments.

**Happy New Year to all our friends, volunteers and supporters.**  
[oxleas.friends@gmail.com](mailto:oxleas.friends@gmail.com)