

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER



from the
FOW Steering Group

Volunteering Dates

August

Wednesday 17th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Friday 19th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Sunday 21st, 10am-noon Rose Garden**
Saturday 27th, 10am-noon Litter Picking

September

Friday 2nd, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Friday 9th, 2-4pm Rose Garden
Saturday 10th, 10am-1pm SHWWP*
Friday 16th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation
Sunday 17th, 10am-noon Rose Garden
Wednesday 21st, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Saturday 24th, 10am-noon Litter Picking
Friday 30th, 10am-1pm Woodland Conservation

For all the Volunteer sessions and events planned for 2022 please see the calendar.

*Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Party

**Time subject to change if temperatures are high

Members' Meeting

Wednesday 28th September, 7:30pm

Please join us at Shrewsbury House for our next members' meeting. You will have the chance to tell us what you think about family activities, hear about some new volunteering roles and have an update on the pathways project.

Hello Friends

As I write this, once again, the temperature outside is climbing towards record breaking levels.

It seems bizarre now that only a few years ago some senior politicians were loudly poo-pooing the concept of climate change, claiming it was either a case of scientific panic or an eco-anarchist plot to overthrow free-market capitalism.

The voices of most of those nay-sayers have now withered away, rather like the grass in our meadows. Climate change is upon us and its effects are hurtling towards us quicker than the scientists previously predicted. Still doubt it? Take a walk in the woods.

On the next page we share some of the signs that the changing climate is impacting Oxleas Woodlands.

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

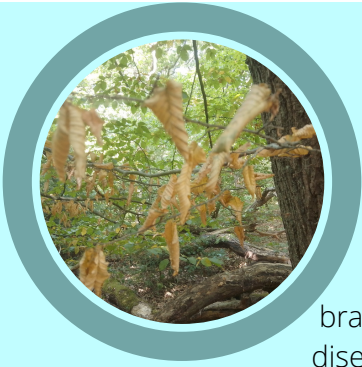
www.oxleaswoodlands.uk

For More Information

@OxleasFriends

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

Trees



You may have noticed that the leaves on many of our trees are changing colour and falling earlier than usual. This is the tree's first line of defence when there is a shortage of water available, as it reduces evaporation. Loss of leaf means that the tree's ability to photosynthesise sunlight decreases and its ability to feed itself declines. The tree will economise energy by firstly dropping its fruits, nuts and seeds (which are vital for regrowth and feeding wildlife) and then may also drop whole branches - a good reason not to swing from them. A stressed tree is more susceptible to disease especially where there are cracks or breaks where parasites can enter. Oaks and beech are particularly susceptible to drought, whilst pine are the most resistant. Equally worrying, as the health of a woodland declines, its ability to capture and store carbon declines - which has wider effects for the climate.

Soil

As the canopy of the woodland thins, more sun reaches the woodland floor and dries it out. This situation isn't helped by the local clay soil. As the soil dries out, the micro-fibres on the tree roots are damaged or broken and the ability of the tree to drink is reduced. Even when the rains come it can take four years for a tree to recover from a single drought year.



September Walks

All the walks below are led by volunteers who share their time and knowledge for free. We have lots of spaces available for walks in September and will keep a waiting list if we reach capacity. Walks may be cancelled if interest is low.



Walk dates

Friday 26th August, Bats
Sunday 28th August, Houses
Saturday 3rd September, Birds
Sunday 4th September, Houses
Sunday 18th September, Conservation
Sunday 25th September, Fungi
Sunday 25th September, Woodland
Sunday 9th October, Family explorer
Saturday 15th October, Fungi
Sunday 4th December, Woodland
Saturday 17th December, Birds

Booking is essential for all walks. If you would like to join a walk please contact our secretary suereeve@virginmedia.com

Walks are free, donations are welcome.

Fire

Fire poses a serious threat at times like this. With the woodlands so dry we have had fires that started from barbeques & campfires, abandoned glass bottles and possibly cigarette ends. Once a fire ignites it can devastate both the flora and fauna of the woodlands. Tree saplings, essential for the future of the woodland are destroyed, mature trees are damaged and animals such as hedgehogs are unable to escape.



What can individuals do?

- Guard Against Fire!
- Join a volunteer woodland conservation session and help us promote a healthy woodland with new growth and species diversity.
- Put out water for insects and amphibians.
- Make your garden accessible to hedgehogs with a 12x12cm hole, cat food and water (not bread & milk).



If you would like to join us occasionally, on a regular basis or simply to find out more please contact us at oxleas.friends@virginmedia.com

Friends of Oxleas Woodlands

FWO ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS CALENDAR 2022.

AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Litter Pick Wednesday 17th	WWCG Friday 2nd	Rose Gardening Friday 7th	Rose Gardening Friday 11th	WWCG Friday 2nd
WWCG Friday 19th	Bird Walk Saturday 3rd am	SHWWP Saturday 8th	SHWWP - Saturday 12th	Woodland Walk - Sunday 4th am
Rose Gardening Sunday 21st	Houses in the Woods Walk - Sunday 4th pm	Family Explorer Sunday 19th am	Litter Pick Wednesday 16th	MEMBERS' MEETING & TALK. Wednesday 7th at 7.30pm
Bat Walk – Friday 26th pm	Rose Gardening Friday 9th	WWCG Friday 14th	WWCG Friday 18th	Rose Gardening - Friday 9th
Litter Pick Saturday 27th	SHWWP Saturday 10th	Fungi Walk Saturday 15th	Rose Gardening Saturday 19th	SHWWP - Saturday 10th
Houses in the Woods Walk - Sunday 28th pm	WWCG Friday 16th	Rose Gardening Sunday 16th	Litter Pick Saturday 26th	Bird Walk Saturday 17th am
	Rose Gardening Saturday 17th	Litter Pick Wednesday 19th		Rose Gardening Sunday 18th
	Conservation Walk Sunday 18th pm	Litter Pick Saturday 22nd		
	Litter Pick Wednesday 21st	WWCG Friday 28th		
	Litter Pick Saturday 24th			
	Fungi Walk Sunday 25th am			
	Woodland Walk Sunday 25th am			
	MEMBERS' MEETING & TALK - Wednesday 28th at 7.30pm			
	WWCG Friday 30th			

Litter picking, Weekday Woodland Conservation Group (WWCG) and Shooters Hill Woodland Working Party (SHWWP) sessions all start at 10am.

We will be organising walks, talks and other activities throughout the year and will update this calendar to include these.