



## **Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of the Whiteley Woods OAC newsletter**

### **Looking back at a busy summer**

We have welcomed many groups over the summer season.

During May, June and July the centre was very busy and at some times very wet, hosting a variety of groups, and providing opportunities for camping, residential stays and activities. We welcomed Rainbows, Brownies and Guides as well as Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.

The centre was not only used by local Sheffield units, but also by those from Leicester, Norfolk, Nottingham and Oldham.

Girlguiding Sheffield's South West Division camp showed great spirit and grit in the face of adversity, (rain followed by more rain). Credit to all those who were involved.

During this period other youth groups, schools, holiday clubs and a church group came to use our centre, both staying or coming for the day. We've welcomed several school groups during midweek periods, mostly local ones, but the furthest afield this year was from Nottingham.

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### **New Sports Equipment**



We would like to say thank you to Friends of OAC for donating frisbee nets, archery bows (pictured) and new crates for crate stacking. We are sure this equipment will be enjoyed by many of our visitors.

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# Whiteley Winter WEEKEND

**1st to 3rd March 2024**

A jam packed Winter Weekend full of fun, challenges and competitions. A fully catered event - just turn up with your tent.

Open to Guides, Rangers, Scouts and Explorers.

Numbers for booking are:  
16 young people and 4 adults  
or 8 young people and 2 adults.

Cost- **£60** for young people  
**£30** for adults

Activities include; Inflatables,  
Crate stack tree climb,  
Archery. Outdoor skills and  
other challenges. Evening  
entertainment and activities.



**Find out more**  
See us on Facebook - @WhiteleyWoodsOAC  
owoacwinterweekend@gmail.com

Bookings will open on **21st September 2023**.  
No bookings will be deemed confirmed until a  
£10 non-refundable deposit per person is received.

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## Fancy a last-minute residential?

Plimsoll has availability for three weekends in September and October.

Renwick also has availability for one weekend in the coming weeks.

Email [oac@girlguidingsheffield.org.uk](mailto:oac@girlguidingsheffield.org.uk) for more details.

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## **Working Days**

We really couldn't keep our site looking in great shape without our monthly working days. There is always plenty to do. Come along from 9.30am, stay as long as you like and please bring a packed lunch if you can stay into the afternoon. Keep an eye on our social media for more details.

Our next dates are:

October 15th

November 19th

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## **Cave bus**

The cave bus has proved to be very popular this summer, but after just over two years, it is leaving us to go down south.

If you haven't yet been on the bus, please book for your unit during September.

Those of you that have used it and enjoyed it, don't worry, we are having a new, updated cavepod that is currently being built and should be on site towards the end of the year, ready for 2024!

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## **New wood policy**

Whiteley Woods has an abundance of trees, some of which occasionally need to be pruned or cut down, often due to weather damage. This provides quite a large amount of wood which can then be used for fires on site.

We are introducing a wood policy that will enable us to provide groups with dry seasoned wood throughout the year. From October 2023, there will be clear identifiable wood which is ready to burn. This will be stored in the wood store. There will also be stacks of wood at various places throughout the centre that is 'seasoning'. Please don't use this as it is still wet and won't burn.

If you are unsure as to which wood to use, please ask. As usual, there will also be fallen limbs and branches which can be collected by groups using the site.

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## Keeping the OAC tidy

A reminder for all our users, please remember to tidy and check the backwoods area before your group leaves.

We love having our Woodland Kindergarten on site during the week and we need to keep the space looking welcoming for all.

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## Latest on the Youth Investment Fund award

Following the fantastic award of funds by the Youth Investment Fund to redevelop Goodwin Cottage and improve other areas around our site, a preferred contractor has now been appointed.

We hope to start the work in the Autumn.

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Thank you

The Whiteley Woods OAC Team



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HubSpot