



Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of the Whiteley Woods OAC newsletter

Welcome

A very Happy New Year to you all! 2024 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for Whiteley Woods OAC.

We have started the renovation of Goodwin Cottage, which will be completed in the late Spring, and we have a number of very exciting events coming up soon.

First, we have our Outdoor Skills Training Day, followed by our Whiteley Woods Winter Weekend, and then, in the summer, Girlguiding Sheffield's Brownie Adventures County Camp.

We are also very pleased to welcome Alice Olusoga as our new Marketing and Development Officer. You can learn more about her later in the newsletter.

Please keep shouting about Whiteley Woods OAC. Thank you for your continued support.

Helen and Jill

Joint Chairs of Trustees

Welcome, Alice!



Alice Olusoga is our new Marketing and Development Officer. Here, she tells us a little bit more about herself:

"The memory that stands out most for me from being a Brownie, was dancing as a gnome to "It ain't what you do it's the way that you do it" on the stage of St David's Hall in Cardiff for the 75th anniversary. It's hard to say whether that experience has given me all the skills I'll need for my new role at Whiteley Woods?! I suppose the fact I still remember it so vividly is proof, if I needed any, of the value of young people having opportunities to have fun and experience new things together. It's great that the centre is in a position to create more of those opportunities for more young people in the coming months and I am really happy to have the chance to be a part of that.

"So apart from the highlight of my dance career, what else can I share about myself? I'm Welsh (this will become more evident during the Six Nations) but I've been in Sheffield for 25 years now so it definitely feels like home. For most of that time I've been a radio producer and broadcast journalist. I'm a 2nd Dan black belt in traditional Okinawan karate. I love sunshine and the sea (in that respect, Sheffield

probably wasn't the wisest choice), I value kindness, and I'm a big fan of cake!

"I've had a lovely warm welcome from everyone I've met at the centre so far and I'm looking forward to becoming part of the team."

Renovation of Goodwin Cottage



We received a Youth Investment Fund grant earlier this year from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This will allow us to develop Goodwin Cottage into small group accommodation and install a new back toilet and shower block.

The cottage will sleep 12 with bunk beds and ensuite bathrooms. The cottage will be developed sympathetically with the need to keep our 300-year-old, Grade 2 listed building in great shape, so we will have the latest underfloor heating, breathable flooring and an air source heat pump.

The work will also see the delivery of a new back toilet and shower block.

RLX Builders are now on site and started preparing the cottage for the refit before Christmas. These photos show the work that has been done. The building work means we have a few less car parking spaces and we have moved our office into the shop. But don't worry, the shop will still be open for business when you visit.

We can't wait to update you on progress!

Outdoor Skills Training Day

From beginners' fire-lighting to advanced backwoods cooking, whittling and shelter building, having a go at archery and much more, this is a training day that caters for all Scout and Girlguiding leaders who want to facilitate fun in the outdoors!

We are pleased to be working alongside Simon Denton of Rivelin Woodland Skills to offer some amazing sessions.

Open to all leaders/young leaders 16+ (some sessions 18+ only)

Cost: £15 full day (includes a hot lunch) or £5 half day. Drinks provided throughout the day.

Costs can be claimed from your unit (Girlguiding) or Scouting District.

[More information and details of how to apply are available here.](#)

And keep an eye on our [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#) and [Instagram](#) channels.

Winter Weekend



Planning is in full swing for our Whiteley Winter Weekend. We can't wait to welcome everyone to our site to experience an amazing weekend of activities based on the themes of colour, water and up high.

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the organising and delivery team. Come and join us for the adventure, it promises to be a weekend you don't want to miss.

This would be a great volunteering opportunity for anyone completing their Queen's Guide or King's Scout Award, or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

[Please email Callum for more information.](#)

Working Days

We hold regular working days throughout the year where volunteers help to keep our site looking great for our visitors. The days start around 9.30am and finish in the afternoon.

You are welcome to join for some or all of the day. Hot drinks are available, and bring a packed lunch if you are staying all day. Thank you to everyone who joined us last year and made a real difference. Why not offer it to your group as part of their community service or a team building event?

We also welcome groups from local businesses to spend a day helping around the site. Do get in touch if you think your workplace might be interested.

Join us on the 3rd Sunday of the month:

21 January

18 February

17 March

21 April

19 May

Would you like to volunteer at the OAC?

If you would be interested in becoming part of our volunteer team and finding out more about the work of the centre, please get in touch.

Perhaps you have brought your group to visit or have happy memories of visiting as a young person? Now is the perfect time to give back to a much loved place.

Why not come along to one of our working days to have a chat or get in touch with Jill and Helen by emailing oacchair@girlguidingsheffield.org.uk.

Fundraising

We are so delighted to have been awarded £2,378.84 from the Co-op Community Fund. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising.

The funds will go towards maintaining and improving our amazing site. This is Helen, our Joint Chair of Trustees, saying thank you at our local Fulwood Co-op store.



Bookings for the New Year

Have you booked your next adventure with us?

We have lots of options for you for indoor and outdoor stays, day and evening visits.

We have limited space for residential bookings up to the Easter Holidays.

Don't miss out. Check our website for availability and complete our online booking form.

Not visited before? Why not book a visit to have a look round and see what we have to offer. Contact our office [by emailing us](#) or by calling 07789 282353.

We can't wait to welcome you!

Thank you

The Whiteley Woods OAC Team



Whiteley Woods Outdoor Activity Centre, Common Lane, Sheffield S11 7TG, Sheffield, South Yorkshire

HubSpot