

Welcome to our SPRING 2024 newsletter!



Spring is finally here and it's lovely to see the daffodils brightening our driveway!

It's been a busy few months here at Whiteley Woods. Our first Winter Weekend went with a bang. Yes, the weather at times was challenging and I think we've all just about brushed the last bit of mud from our boots and tents, but overall the weekend was a great success. Thank you to Callum and all our staff and volunteers for your hard work in preparing and delivering the event.

At our Outdoor Skills Day, nearly 40 leaders came to brush up their knowledge and equip themselves with skills to deliver great sessions to their own groups. Another awesome team effort and thanks go to Anna, our lead volunteer and all the team for putting on a great day.

Running alongside all of this has been the redevelopment of Goodwin Cottage. More details are below. We can't wait to get the keys and show everyone round on our Open Day. Get those bookings in!

We said goodbye to our manager Rob, and his wife Joy, last month. We are extremely grateful to Rob for all his hard work and contribution to running the centre. We will miss him! Recruitment for Rob's replacement is underway. More news soon.

Once again, to all the volunteers who are at the centre of Whiteley Woods, thank you! The centre couldn't run without you. If you want to be part of the team, giving whatever skills and time you can, we would love to see you. Please [email](#) us!

Here's to an amazing summer season!

Helen and Jill

Joint Chairs of Trustees

Goodwin Cottage

The **Goodwin Cottage** transformation is due to be finished in the next few weeks and the building team from RLX are doing a fantastic job. Our new accommodation will sleep 12 in 4 en-suite rooms, and downstairs there's a kitchen, toilet and activity room. We're grateful the Youth Investment Fund has given us the opportunity to bring another of our lovely old buildings into use so we can welcome even more young people to Whiteley Woods. We're really excited that we'll be able to show you around soon and hope you can join us at our **Open Day on May 11th**. If you haven't yet let us know you're coming please [RSVP](#) by May 4th.



Goodwin Cottage will be available for groups to stay in from **Friday May 17th** (see our [website](#) for more details or please [get in touch](#) if you have any questions).

We're also looking for people with great furniture building skills to help put together the new bunks beds. If you are available on **Sunday 28th April** from 9.30 and would be willing to help then please [email](#) us.

New Shower Rooms

We've got a **brand new accessible shower room facility** thanks to our Youth Investment Fund grant. It arrived on site early March and getting it into place was a challenge to say the least ([see the full story on our social media](#)). As well as 4 shower/toilet rooms, it's got a mini-kitchen/drying room and will be great for campers and groups using our outdoor spaces.



Goodbye from Rob and Joy

Having now moved on to a new chapter in our lives, with a new house and a new job, both Joy and I would like to thank everyone for helping make our stay at Whiteley Woods so enjoyable. Special thanks to all the committee members and volunteers. We were warmly welcomed having crossed the border from Lancashire nearly 3 years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the OAC being used by so many groups enjoying the fantastic facilities. We wish the new manager and their

partner all the best in their new role and are sure the OAC will continue to thrive under the new management. We hope they will be as happy there as we have been. We will keep in touch (you can't get rid of us so easily). Thanks again to everyone, see you all soon.

Winter Weekend 2024

At the beginning of March we had the Whiteley Winter Weekend, with over 80 young people on site. They made memories, did crafts together, challenged each other, danced, smiled through the rain and much much more. As promised it proved to be a weekend not to be missed. Crates were stacked, arrows shot, pillowcases dyed, bracelets made, and a LOT of hot chocolate was drunk. Check out our [Facebook](#) for more photos and videos.

Thank you to all who volunteered to make the event happen, without you it wouldn't have been possible. It's given us lots of ideas for future events so keep an eye out for details of our next Whiteley Weekend!



Outdoor Skills Day

We had nearly 40 guiders and scout leaders join us for an Outdoor Skills training day in February. They had a wonderful action-packed day learning and developing skills including fire lighting, backwoods cooking, shelter building, knotting and whittling. It was helped by the lovely weather! Many of the leaders left the day with a real feeling of having accomplished something and it was so lovely to meet so many new faces who will be able to go back to their units and put their skills into action.

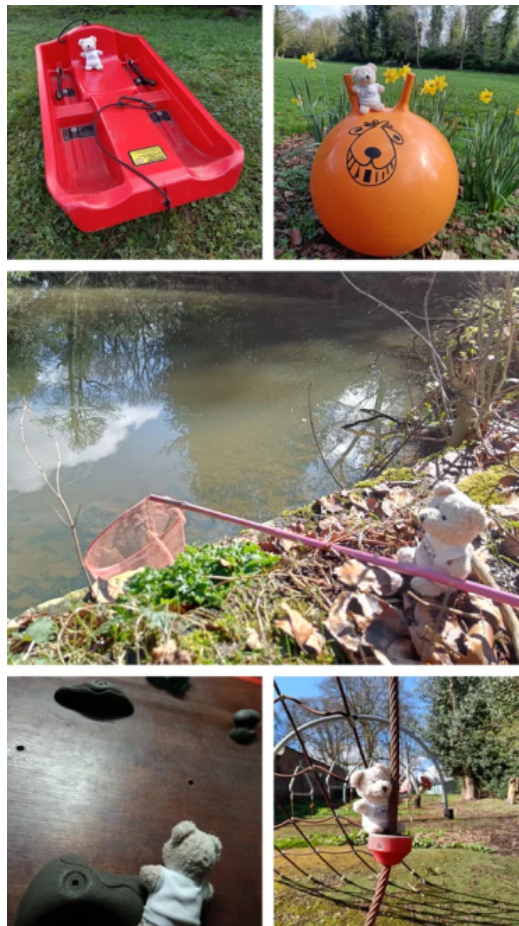
We hope to run a similar day next year so look out for details!

Come and stay!

If you're just coming out of hibernation and have the urge to spend as much time as possible outside, then this is the perfect time to [make a booking for the Spring/Summer!](#)

Don't forget we've got a great range of [fun activities](#) on site that you can do without an instructor. Have you tried the **cave pod**, **obstacle course**, **sucker archery**, **traversing wall** or **grass sledges** yet?

You can find lots of information about our accommodation, activities and facilities, and book your visit, at our [website](#).



Thanks for your continued support, we hope to see you soon!

The Whiteley Woods OAC Team



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

HubSpot