

The spring season is upon us – hurry! The blossom is out, the trees are bursting into leaf and our preparations for the summer season are all coming together. As we move into our busiest time of the year, we're looking forward to welcoming you all to Whiteley Woods to enjoy our amazing green spaces.

You can read more about our new nature resources below. Do make use of them and get to know the nature of Whiteley Woods more – and don't forget to tag us on social media and use [#wwacnaturespotters](#) to share what you've discovered!

Our activities cupboard is bulging with equipment that you can use for FREE!

Check it out and make the most of what's on offer.



We were delighted to hold our second Outdoor Skills Day back in February. More than 30 leaders came along to try their hand at anything from whittling to firefighting. It was great to see everyone. Thanks to Anna and her brilliant team for organising the day. Same time next year?!

Welcome to Amber, our new Centre Assistant! Amber is getting to know how the Centre works and is a great addition to our team. Do catch up with her when you next visit, and say hello!

Thank you for supporting Whiteley Woods. Enjoy your time with us.

Helen and Jill  
Chairs, Whiteley Woods OAC

## New nature activities!

Our new nature activities will help you explore our beautiful green site and discover the nature and wildlife we share it with. They are perfect for evening visits or to build into your camp/ pack holiday programme!

There are practical, creative and mindful activities and games which have been adapted for different age groups, seasons and weather conditions! We also have some which are suitable for groups who want to explore the surrounding area too.

Our information sheets give simple instructions and suggestions, to help you prepare for, and deliver the activities.

**Check out our [brochure](#) for more information about all our self led activities.**



## Meet Amber, our new Centre Assistant!

Hi, I am Amber, and I have recently started working as the new Centre Assistant.

For the short period of time that I have been working here, I've greatly enjoyed meeting the team and many of the volunteers, and more generally getting to grips with the ropes of the role.

I moved to Sheffield to complete a Geography degree, where I specialised in studying urban nature, and the necessity of access to nature for all. When not at the centre I spend my spare time enjoying various artsy projects, cycling around the city, allotment gardening, and have recently joined the Sheffield masses and have gotten into climbing.



For much of my childhood I enjoyed being a Cub, and then a Scout. Working at the OAC has unlocked many fond memories of weekends away, muddy adventure courses, clambering on crates, and toasting bread on campfires. These experiences, and countless more, allowed me to build confidence, make friends, learn lots, and were a big source of joy and fun in my teen years. Moreover, I really understand the value of places like this centre and am very excited about working somewhere that provides so many young people both in the city and beyond with the opportunity to enjoy Sheffield's gorgeous outdoors.

I look forward to meeting more of you and getting stuck into the job!

## New prices and booking system

Our prices were updated at the start of April and we have also introduced a new bookings management system. This may mean you have received updated information from us if you have made a booking. Please check the information on the booking confirmation is correct (group numbers, activities etc) before making a payment. [Get in touch](#) if you have any questions or see our website for our latest [prices](#) and [terms and conditions](#).

## This is our Whiteley Woods

At our last 'This Is Our Whiteley Woods' takeover day we asked young people what we should put on our walls. 39th Wisewood Guides and Rangers did a fantastic job taking on the suggestions and coming up with information to help keep young people safe and make them feel welcome at the centre.



Artist and Illustrator Kemi Olusoga turned their ideas into these brilliant posters which will be going up in our residential accommodation soon! Thanks to Kemi, 39th Wisewood, and everyone else who took part in the TIOWW takeover!

It's always useful to get ideas from young people who visit us which is why we have a special feedback form where they can share their experiences and even draw us a picture! Please ask if you would like some forms for your young people to fill in when you visit. We have one for leaders too and we welcome your thoughts on how we can make the centre even better!

## Thanks!

It is lovely when we see how special our centre is to people who've made happy memories here, and many of you give back by helping us to continue making a difference to the lives of young people.

We've been able to upgrade the comfy seating in some of our buildings thanks to a donation in memory of Margaret Kaye. We are very grateful to Margaret's family and friends for their kindness and generosity.

We would also like to thank the Friends of Whiteley Woods OAC for their continued support. If you would like to become a 'friend' you can find out more [here](#).

## Outdoor Skills Training Day

More than 30 people came to our second Outdoor Skills training day in February, and had a go at pioneering, backwoods cooking, fire-lighting, archery, whittling, shelter-building, orienteering and planning wide games. Lots of fun was had despite the weather being a bit less kind this time! It's great to see so much enthusiasm for giving young people the chance to experience the benefits of being outdoors and technology-free! We hope to run the event again in future and we're looking forward to hearing how people have been putting their new skills into practice!

**Thanks for your continued support, we hope to see you soon!**  
**The Whiteley Woods OAC Team**

