

Summer Newsletter



We have had a fantastic summer season at Whiteley Woods OAC and it's been wonderful to welcome so many young people to our site for residential and day visits. In fact, since the start of 2026 we've had over 5000 visitors from more than 100 different groups – what a privilege to host so many people!

From camps, evening visits, division campfires and fun days, it's been great to see and hear young people enjoying themselves. We had around 200 people on site over two days for the Girlguiding Sheffield fun days in July. It was a great event and we were pleased to play our part in helping the days go so well.

Our thanks go to Rob, Nat and Alice, not forgetting Bob and our groundsman Steve who keep our site safe and prepared for all our visitors.

Maintaining our grade 2 listed, 300 year old Orchard Wall continues to bring its challenges. The culmination of many years of deterioration has meant that we have had to fence the wall off while we work out a programme of repairs. More details are below. Watch this space for a wall focused fundraising campaign!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to welcoming you for some Autumn fun!

Heritage Open Day

Plans are well underway for our Heritage Open Day. It's on Saturday 19th September, and free tours will take place during the day. You can book your place [here](#). Refreshments will be on sale and you'll be able to buy a copy of the history of Whiteley Woods.

It's been fascinating over the summer to see some of our site's history being revealed. The dry weather has meant the footprint of Whiteley Wood Hall's grand driveway and turning circle, as well as paths and features in the Orchard, are now visible in the grass. You can see some of the drone footage on our [facebook](#) page.



The Orchard Wall

Part of the care and management of our site involves monitoring the condition of our Grade II listed buildings and structures. The safety of our customers is always our priority and we work regularly with qualified experts when advice, inspections or surveys are required.

The latest full survey of the Orchard wall has helped us identify where repair work is needed. We will be implementing further restrictions to access in the coming months so that work can be completed. We'll continue to communicate with groups whose bookings may be affected and we appreciate your patience while we take these necessary measures.

The repairs will require significant funding and we will be launching a fundraising campaign in the Autumn. We hope you will support us as we work to keep our site accessible and available for the enjoyment and benefit of young people.

We still have our regular fundraising campaign open if you wish to [donate now](#).

Introducing our new Centre Assistant, Nat!

Nat joined our team in late spring and has been getting to know the centre and our customers over a busy summer season.



"As a lover of the outdoors and a resident of the local area, I've spent most weekends the past couple of years exploring the Whiteley Woods area (always on the lookout for interesting birds, bugs, bats, and plants!). This part of Sheffield means a great deal to me and I'm very excited to have joined the OAC team, thank you for making me feel so welcome!"

Taking Wide Games into the wider world!

Last month we presented our research on Wide Games at the Children's History Society International Conference. We've been working with researchers Yinka Olusoga and Cath Bannister from the School of Education at the University of Sheffield, on a knowledge exchange project about Wide Games. As part of it we created a wide game about famous Sheffield metal maker Thomas Boulsover who lived at Whiteley Wood Hall in the 1700s. We'll be playing the wide game with different groups in the coming months as the project progresses. During the

conference we challenged historians from across the globe to think of ways they could integrate wide games into their work! We'll also be talking about our research as part of OpenFest 2026 in September.

Charitable Bequests

We know how much the centre means to people who have made happy memories here, and we have been very lucky over the years that some have chosen to leave us a legacy in their will. A gift in your will can make a lasting difference to the work we do and keep our site safe and secure for years to come. We are an independent registered charity (Charity No. 1010074), and any legacy gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated. If you choose to leave a gift in your will, please ensure that your wishes clearly identify Whiteley Woods OAC as the beneficiary to help us receive your generous donation as intended.

Autumn and Winter Adventures

We have a few autumn weekends still available in our residential accommodation but please get in touch as soon as possible if you are hoping to come and stay later this year.

We have lots of fun activities, and our site is a great space for outdoor adventures, even when the weather cools and the evenings get darker, so get in touch if you would like some ideas of things to do for an evening or weekend visit!

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

The Whiteley Woods OAC Team



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