

# Friends of Woodlarks



You are invited to become a Friend of Woodlarks!

We are writing to you as we believe you are one of our valued '*Friends of Woodlarks*'. As such, we would love to share updates about what's happening at Woodlarks and invite you to become an official member of *Friends of Woodlarks* (FoW) association..

First and foremost, let's talk about Woodlarks! Established in 1930, Woodlarks provides accessible camping for people living with disabilities. Children and adults alike join us each summer for a camping activity holiday at Woodlarks Campsite, enjoying on site facilities and entertainment provided by our incredible volunteers.

Our groups include specialist schools, closed groups, and our larger 'Open Camps' that provide for people based on needs and preferences. Every camp is completely volunteer-run, alongside our management and fundraising committees.

We are a community of people whose journeys began over the past 95 years, all drawn to Woodlarks in different ways. It captured our hearts and inspired us to return, dedicating ourselves to helping others enjoy unforgettable holidays ever since.

We are a small charity reliant entirely on donations and volunteers. To continue our work, we're kindly asking for your support, and that starts with just spreading our message.

## **What is *Friends of Woodlarks*?**

- FoW is a community of supporters enabling us to continue growing and developing our small but impactful charity.
- A platform to share updates and information about our charity, campsite, and community.
- A way to stay connected with those who may not be able to join us in person.
- An opportunity to deepen our relationships with those who know a little about Woodlarks, but not yet the full story of who we are and what we do.
- A means to reach new audiences, spreading awareness of Woodlarks' mission and the support we offer.

In this newsletter, we'll give you a glimpse of what you can look forward to by joining Friends of Woodlarks (FoW). Most importantly, we'll share some of the fun and excitement that keep our community coming back year after year!

Please enjoy this, our first FoW newsletter, and continue reading for details about joining the FoW association..

Kind regards,

*Woodlarks Trustees x*



## Friend of Woodlarks Membership

### What we ask for...

FoW is a growing community that enables us to increase our reach and help people understand what we do and where we might need some help.

By subscribing to FoW on our website (Link below) or replying to this newsletter, you let us know that you want us to keep in touch and be part of this growing initiative.

For those who can, there is an additional option to set up a monthly donation.

### What you get...

- Three annual newsletters to keep you updated on what is happening with Woodlarks, our camps and the site.
- An annual Christmas card and digital copy of our yearbook.
- A Woodlarks gift as a small token to say thank you for the commitment (monthly subscribers only).



## Site Update

In February a group of our helpers braved the cold to join us for the first working party of 2025. We come together for group working parties at least four times a year, where we conduct vital site maintenance, conservation and sustainability work to preserve and prepare the campsite and grounds for the camping season.

This February the theme was very much leaves, leaves, leaves! With huge portions of our site constructed from wood, including the tent bases and fences all round site, it was critical we picked up all the leaves from these areas to reduce the risk to the structures as the leaves decompose over time. Other jobs included maintenance of the pool, tents and to the elephant fences as well as site improvements such as additional shelving, and rejuvenating existing fixtures and fittings.

Our next group working party will be over the Easter weekend where we hope for a bit more sunshine to make those long working days a bit nicer!

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## History of FoW?

**1963** - Friends of Woodlarks begins, replacing the 'Birthday Club'

**1964** - FoW had groups in Beckenham, Farnham and a pack of Cubs in Lancashire. Members visited Woodlarker's in hospital, provided transport and ran raffles

**1965** - FoW badges were produced (these are currently unsighted by anyone we have spoken with).

**1972** - Membership included the yearbook and cost 25p.

**1984 - 1992** - Last mention of FoW in the archives. Various types of machinery and equipment for the campsite were purchased, including canoes, spin dryers, electrical bench grinder, roller blinds and other items. Activity continues until 2023.

**2025** - FoW Initiative REFRESHED!

Although our formal archives are slightly limited with detail on FoW, it is bolstered by memories of our volunteers that reiterate its importance through the years. For this and so many more reasons we want to reinvigorate FoW and we want as many people to be a part of it as possible.



## What's next?

Future content of FoW newsletters are set to include:

- Updates from our committees.
- Updates on the site.
- Initiatives and ways you can get involved.
- Interesting updates from our open camps.
- Some stories detailing all the fun we get up to throughout the year.

## Get in touch...

To sign up for FoW, please email us at:  
[friendsof@woodlarks.org.uk](mailto:friendsof@woodlarks.org.uk)

Or visit:

<https://woodlarks.org.uk/friends/>

To get involved with our camps, working parties or to offer your support, please email:  
[secretary@woodlarks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@woodlarks.org.uk)

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## Important Dates

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18th - 21st April  
Easter Working  
Party

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24th May  
Open Camps begin

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24th - 26th October  
Autumn Working  
Party

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