



# UNITED FOR NATURE?

# WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

**November 2023**



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**Berkshire  
Buckinghamshire  
& Oxfordshire**  
Wildlife Trust



**Friends of  
the Earth  
Oxford**

# WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

## **Friends of the Earth, Oxford**

- 🌍 25th November to 3rd December: National Tree Week.
- 🌍 Wednesday 13th December, 7.30-9pm: Oxford FoE meeting at Friends Meeting House, OX1 3LW.
- 🌍 Oxford FoE Christmas Party: Dates to be confirmed.
- 🌍 Wednesday 10th January, 7.30-9pm: Oxford FoE meeting at Friends Meeting House, OX1 3LW.

To keep up to date and find more information visit: <https://www.oxfoe.co.uk/>



## **BBOWT**

- 🌍 Sign up to become a BBOWT volunteer: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/volunteering-opportunities>
- 🌍 Become a BBOWT Wildlife Ambassador to campaign for nature and get advice about campaigning and lobbying: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/get-involved/campaigning-wildlife>
- 🌍 Join BBOWT's #teamWILDER to find out what you can do for wildlife where you live or work: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/team-wilder>
- 🌍 Recognise the great things you are already doing for wildlife where you live or work on BBOWT's #teamWILDER action map to help inspire others: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/be-part-of-team-wilder>
- 🌍 Join BBOWT's Community Network to meet like-minded people and gain valuable skills and knowledge. This gives you access to a dedicated Facebook group, monthly online call and training sessions and online toolkit full of resources: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/team-wilder/team-wilder-community-groups>
- 🌍 Join us for BBOWT's Festive winter lecture online, Friday 15 December, 10am - 11am: Hear from BBOWT Wildlife Ambassador, Annabel Christie about her book The Guilty Gardener, the importance of gardening for wildlife and all the benefits this brings: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/special2023>
- 🌍 Consider BBOWT's Consultancy, Future Nature WTC, for professional ecology services covering matters of Development, Planning, Biodiversity Net Gain, Habitat Design, Protected Species Surveys, Land & Farming Advice, Wildlife Garden Design, Community Ecologist services and much more! Future Nature is wholly-owned by BBOWT and profits are reinvested back into the Trust: <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/what-we-do/future-nature-wtc>



## **CAGs**

- 🌍 Friends of Astons Eyot: <http://friendsofastonseyot.org/>  
Join us this month on the last Sunday of the month as a working party. We volunteer on the Eyot, from scything nettles to laying new paths. We meet at the Jackdaw Lane entrance to the eyot at 2.30pm. Or, you can find us a little later on site. As usual wear robust shoes or boots, and dress for nettle protection!
- 🌍 Friends of Raleigh Park: <https://www.raleighpark.org.uk/>  
Support group for Raleigh Park, North Hinksey, organising work parties and wildlife surveys. Events Boxing Day walk and mulled wine, 26 Dec 2.30pm-3.30pm. Monthly Saturday work parties to resume in the New Year. email [raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk](mailto:raleighpark@raleighpark.org.uk). Join mailing list for details of work parties: email Richard Gordon - [mail@classperformance.co.uk](mailto:mail@classperformance.co.uk)









Of course there are many other friends groups people could get involved with - there is an overarching list of the park groups here, that might be useful to direct people to: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20003/parks-and-open-spaces/794/friends-of-parks-groups>

# WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

## CAGs Continued /...

### Oxford Conservation Volunteers

Oxford City Councils Countryside Ranger Service manages just under a 1000 acres of nature reserves throughout the city including Port Meadow, Shotover, Lye Valley, Longbridges, The Kidneys and many more. We are recruiting for more volunteers to join our regular Thursday and weekend volunteer groups which carry out practical conservation tasks across all of our sites. This includes: learning to scythe, meadow and fenland management, coppicing, hedge-laying, scrub control, fence repairs, tree planting, litter-picking and much more.

-  Sunday 3rd Dec 2023 – Blackthorn Bashing at Jubilee Fields and Long Meadow, Wootton, West Oxfordshire.
-  Tuesday 5th Dec 2023 – Committee Meeting at Oxford Town Hall.
-  Saturday 9th Dec 2023 – Hedge-Pruning & Willow Pollarding at North Hinksey Nature Reserve.
-  Sunday 10th Dec 2023 – Bramble Extraction at The Howe, Wheatley.
-  Sunday 17th Dec 2023 – Reserve Maintenance at Aston Rowant NNR, South Oxfordshire.
-  Saturday 30th Dec 2023 – Hedge-Laying & Coppicing at Hogacre Common, Oxford.





Please come along and join a friendly informal group and play a part in tackling the biodiversity crisis and helping nature throughout the city. No experience required! Come along for exercise or just a cup of tea and biscuits. Email Tom on [oldginger16@gmail.com](mailto:oldginger16@gmail.com) if interested.

**Oxford Urban Wildlife Group** at Boundary Brook Nature Reserve, with quite a few dates on their website. <https://www.ouwg.org.uk/events/>

**Shotover Wildlife** who meet on the second Sunday of every month: <http://www.shotover-wildlife.org.uk/conservation.htm>

**An Urban Orchard in Banbury.** Banbury Town Council in collaboration with local community groups Banbury Trees and others, are excited to be planting an Urban Orchard, as a contribution to the nationwide project to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. The aim is to plant 60 fruit trees in parks and on routes around Banbury, which will contain a mix of apples, pears and others edible seasonal fruits. If you are interested in helping the town by planting and looking after fruit trees in public areas please sign up as a tree warden here [https://www.banbury.gov.uk/Banburys\\_Urban\\_Orchard\\_45987.aspx](https://www.banbury.gov.uk/Banburys_Urban_Orchard_45987.aspx)

### **Oxford City Council Conservation**

-  Thursday 30th November: Learn about wildflowers at Milham Ford Nature Park, New Marston
-  Thursday 7th Dec: Installing benches at Trap Grounds, Jericho
-  Thursday 14th Dec: Cutting back an old footpath at Lye Valley, Headington
-  Sunday 17th: Pollarding Willows at Longbridges Nature Park, Cowley

**Join local artist Hayley Stevenson for a free experimental art and wellbeing workshop.** The workshop will take place on Monday 4th December from 11am - 1pm at Bridge Street Community Garden. We will draw, paint and create botanical collages inspired by our green urban space. The workshop is open to people of all ages. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. All necessary materials and refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you soon!

For more Oxfordshire Community Action Groups events & information see:






<https://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/events-1>

# WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE?

## Wild Oxfordshire



All of the events and activities in Oxfordshire related to nature conservation are published each month in our email Bulletin – people can sign up to receive it on our website here: <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news>. In addition to the standard social media accounts, we also have a Facebook group for Community Groups <https://www.facebook.com/groups/518610002963247> and a Linked-In group for Businesses <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12779055/>. The most important things people can do to help nature recovery are listed below. Lots more information and guidance to help you support nature in your area is available at <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/>

-  You can create space for nature in your own land, garden, patio, or windowsill.
-  You can join your local community group.
-  You can join your local Town or Parish Council and encourage them to think of nature.
-  Ask your employer how they are helping nature and encourage them to act.
-  You could ask your local GP if they need information on green prescribing.

## International Tree Foundation



Have a community tree nursery on the Marston Community Allotments which they would love to recruit some volunteers for. See: <https://marstoncommunitygardening.wordpress.com/>

This is the 4th year of The Burford Environmental Action Group's Tree Initiative. We've got a variety of planting dates and sites in the Burford area so please sign up and come along! Here's the link to the google sign up sheet. <https://tinyurl.com/Burford-Tree-Planting-2023>

## Thames 21

**Monitor your local rivers and streams for pollution.** We're looking for volunteers who are willing to head out once a month and monitor nutrients in their local rivers. The results help us fill in data gaps, find out how healthy our rivers are and where pollution is coming from. We are especially looking for people who want to sample the Rivers Cherwell & Ray, and their tributaries, upriver of Oxford City Centre. Full equipment and training provided. Contact [claire.roberson@thames21.org.uk](mailto:claire.roberson@thames21.org.uk) for more information.

**Bathing Water Status in Oxford 2 years on: what have we learnt and what next?** 11th January, 7pm - 9pm, Wolvercote Mill Community Centre OX2 8FF. In April 2022, the River Thames at Wolvercote, Port Meadow was designated as a "bathing water area" - one of only three such areas on rivers in the whole of the UK. The designation came after an 18 month campaign to clean up sewage pollution into the rivers around Oxford. Nearly 2 years on from the designation, we review what the status has achieved and what more needs to be done for a clean healthy river at our local bathing site. Representatives from the Environment Agency and Thames Water will be present. Reserve a space on eventbrite here: <https://shorturl.at/bjJSX>

For more river-related events across the whole Thames basin, check out <https://www.thames21.org.uk/events/>. To keep up to date with river news and events across Oxfordshire, sign up to our mailing list <http://eepurl.com/humN1f>

