

# Friends of Sheaf Valley Park

## NEW VOLUNTEER PROJECT! EVERYONE WELCOME

### Woodland Management 2017 (Jervis Lum, Norfolk Park)

#### 2017 Dates\*

|                |              |   |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| Sunday 15 Jan  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management work  |
| Sunday 29 Jan  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management work  |
| Sunday 26 Feb  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management work  |
| Sunday 30 Apr  | 11.00 - 1.00 | Guided spring time woodland walk                                |
| Sunday 24 Sept | 11.00 - 1.00 | Guided fungi walk   |
| Sunday 29 Oct  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management work  |
| Sunday 26 Nov  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management work  |
| Sunday 17 Dec  | 11.00 - 2.30 | Woodland management and making holly wreaths/Christmas greenery |



**MEETING POINT:** We'll meet you at the top of the steps that lead down to Jervis Lum wood, which is within Norfolk Heritage Park (it's at the top of the park, near to the metal bridge)

#### Woodland Management

The objective of this project is to tackle the growth of holly, brambles and other young trees which are overpowering the diverse woodland ground flora in Jervis Lum. Management is needed to protect the important conservation value of the site. FoSVP volunteers and Sheffield City Council Rangers will be present to guide you through the process of thinning and cutting back growth which would otherwise begin to dominate the Wood. We will also ensure the resulting brash (the cut offs) is placed correctly to best benefit the Wood.

#### Equipment

You do not need any specialist equipment. However, warm weather-proof clothes and robust footwear are important as conditions may be cold, wet and slippery. Hard wearing work or gardening gloves are very important and a warm hat may also be of benefit. We will be using bow saws and loppers, so if you do have your own you could bring them along (let us know if this is the case) – but they will be available on site also.

#### Packed lunch

We also suggest that you bring a small packed lunch and hot drink in a thermos. Working in the cold and wet is surprisingly tiring and a steaming hot cup of tea and a sandwich can make a big difference.

# FAQS

## Can my kids come along?

Yes, but they must remain strictly under parental guidance whilst they are in the wood. Depending on the conditions, it is a 3-4 hour session in potentially challenging weather so you need to be prepared to keep them engaged for that period – of course it is also fine to come along for a shorter period. We are unable to issue tools to anyone under 18.

## Why can't we continue to do this work all year?

It is against the law to undertake this type of work in woodlands between March and September because it is the nesting season for birds. Instead during this time, we will organise some escorted walks with naturalists and woodland experts (see planned dates above).



## What is the terrain like?

There are flat and steep areas and care needs to be taken as the ground can be uneven with old stumps, logs and roots. Vigilance is needed when handling tools or removing small trees. We will not expect anyone to work in areas close to the metal bridge at the top of Jervis Lum (which are very steep) or any part of the Lum where they do not feel confident. If in doubt, ask (rather than carry on regardless).

## Why doesn't the Council do this work anymore?

Like all local authorities, Sheffield City Council has had severe budget cuts imposed by Whitehall. This has resulted in many non-core services being restricted to the bare minimum. There are still Rangers with the know-how and enthusiasm to undertake the work but not enough capacity to actually deliver everything that is required on the ground. We have worked closely with SCC to ensure that that they are happy with our work and that it contributes to the long term management of Jervis Lum.

## What are the benefits of getting involved?

This is an opportunity to undertake woodland management work that might normally only be accessible in rural or semi-rural areas, rather than close to the centre of a city. It's an opportunity to learn new skills, meet members of your community and to contribute directly to the maintenance of this fantastic wood. Undertaking seasonal work has many health benefits and is an enjoyable way to get out in the long dark days of January and February.

## If I am disabled can I participate?

Unfortunately, Jervis Lum is inaccessible to wheelchair users. But we would say that it is accessible to those with some limited mobility – it is possible to access the wood via the Norfolk Park Rd entrance side, thus avoiding the steep steps down the valley. Once in the wood it is possible to stick to relatively flat areas. We are keen to encourage the widest possible participation - please contact us in advance if you have any access concerns, so we can discuss this with you.

**PLEASE DO JOIN US – A FRIENDLY VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY GROUP WORKING TOGETHER**

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\*Dates – particularly those late in the year - may be subject to change