

news



Buy your Westonbirt Christmas cards now

Too early to start thinking about Christmas? Never!

This time of year should be about giving, so please help support the arboretum that you love by ordering some Friends of Westonbirt Christmas cards. There are three designs to choose from, and the money you spend helps support Westonbirt today and for generations to come.

To purchase head to fowa.org.uk/gift-a-card

The buzz on bees

You may have noticed a couple of beehives have popped up in the arboretum this summer.

Bees are very much at home amongst the trees, so it's been wonderful to host these superstar pollinators, whilst bee keeping courses were run over the summer.

Some of the team went out and learnt from our expert resident bee keeper. Check out fowa.org.uk/blog to find out some of the fascinating bee facts we discovered.

Reducing our magazine's carbon footprint

Our environmental principles are at the heart of everything we do, and as the digital era presents the fantastic opportunity to increase our engagement with you in a more carbon neutral approach using channels such as the Friends' eNews, our website fowa.org.uk, online blogs and social media channels, we are taking steps to further reduce our carbon footprint.

Following considerable feedback from our members, we have decided to reduce our printed magazine to two editions per year – Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter. As Winter is a quieter period in the arboretum, the next edition of the Friend's magazine will be published early Spring 2019.

We are all responsible for our impacts on the environment so in addition, if you would like to reduce your carbon footprint further, we invite you to opt out of receiving the printed magazine and switch completely to our monthly eNews with a link to a digital version of the current Friends' magazine. If you would like to opt-out of receiving a printed version of the magazine, please let us know by contacting membership@fowa.org.uk and we will ensure your communication profile is updated.



Stay in touch with eNews

As part of your membership, we send out monthly Friends' eNews updating you on the latest events, activities and projects here at Westonbirt Arboretum.

If you don't receive this email and would like to, please let us know by emailing fowaapps@fowa.org.uk



#Westonbirtwalkies

Share your Westonbirt experiences with us on Instagram with #westonbirtwalkies

Check out our other social media channels

 **Online** fowa.org.uk

 **Facebook** /FriendsOfWestonbirt

 **Instagram** @FriendsOfWestonbirt

 **Twitter** @WestonbirtFOWA

Members' comments and feedback

“ On a recent walk around Silk Wood, Westonbirt with my young girls, my attention was drawn by the name labels attached to each tree. Given to prominence of public concern about the use of plastics at the moment I was somewhat saddened to see that they were all attached to the trees using plastic screws.

I appreciate that metal screws cannot be used and that these are not exactly 'single use' plastics as they are not regularly replaced. However I did wonder, could these labels not be attached using wooden pegs – would this not be more in keeping with the natural environment of the beloved woodlands at Westonbirt? ”

Chris Priddy, Friend

Our response: The issue of how to label trees is one we keep under constant review as there is no perfect method. We are very conscious of the environmental impact of plastics and would certainly consider other options if we felt they could do the job. We use plastic screws in preference to metal, mostly as we believe they are kinder to the tree but also because if a tree has to come down the plastic screws could not damage a chainsaw and by extension the chainsaw operator. Some of our trees have very hard dense wood, others are very soft. A wooden peg would need some form of thread to keep it in place in the tree and a head to secure the label, in other words it would need to be of quite intricate design. It would also need to be strong, long lasting, weather/animal proof, and readily available. We think therefore that wood is probably not a viable alternative at this time, however we will certainly keep an open mind on this if alternatives to plastic become available.

“ I just read the 'May email' you sent out today. With regard to usage of the membership card – could you settle an argument between colleagues, that one cannot use the membership card in your partner's name in his absence, to take in your own children over 18, even if you accompany them with your own membership card?

I say no – the colleagues beg to differ! ”

Mrs Williams, Friend

Our response: Please note that as membership is non-transferable, you are not permitted to use another person's membership card in their absence, even if they are family.

To help you settle the argument, simply show them the text written on the front of the card 'this card is non-transferable'

Therefore you are correct!

Our shuttle options for less mobile visitors



Our new volunteer run shuttle is now up and running and we've some exciting new developments this autumn to encourage visitors who may need a little extra help getting around to use the shuttle.

Firstly, we've updated the shuttle route so it runs around the edge of the Old Arboretum, giving users easy access to some of the most beautiful areas of Westonbirt. The shuttle service will run until Sunday 4 November, when the trial period will end. The shuttle will then take a break over the winter period, but will return in spring next year.

We've also introduced some short walking routes from the shuttle stops, so less mobile visitors can hop off the shuttle, enjoy a short stroll in the arboretum before jumping back on the shuttle and heading for the restaurant or exit. Ask a shuttle driver for your free 'short walks' map! The shuttle runs on Tuesdays, Thursdays and weekends.

Let us know what you think of the shuttle by filling in a comments card at the Welcome Building!

Card policy

Over the last few months we've been reminding our members to bring a valid membership card when visiting Westonbirt Arboretum. By doing this, you help us to protect the scheme's great value and assist with an improved visitor experience for all.

We'd like to thank all of you who consistently bring your cards every time you visit. This saves on significant administration costs for our small charity. The savings we make go towards the invaluable conservation work conducted by the Forestry Commission at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Just a friendly reminder that if you are unable to show a valid card when visiting the arboretum and still wish to enter, you will be required to pay a non-refundable admission fee. Please note that if you have lost your card or require a replacement card at any stage, you can contact the Membership Team between Monday to Friday for a free replacement on **0300 067 3300** or by emailing membership@fowa.org.uk. An optional donation of £3 to cover the cost of replacing your card would be gratefully received. Please ensure you give us a minimum of 24 hours' notice ahead of visiting to make these arrangements. Thank you for your support!

▲ Credit: @ian4029, @baileythejrt13



Get active in the arboretum

Those of you who have visited recently may have spotted a new addition to the arboretum near the restaurant – our ping pong table! Head up to the restaurant, challenge your friends and family and get active in the arboretum.

You can also now pick up a sports bag, filled with your favourite outdoor games. Get the whole family involved in a game of rounders, cricket or boules on the Downs. Sports bags are available for hire from the Welcome Building for a small fee of £3 for half a day.

Community Access Scheme

Here at Westonbirt, we are committed to connecting people with trees.

Over the past four years, our Community team has worked tirelessly to bring 5,508 participants, 591 groups and 151 organisations to connect with nature through a diverse programme of onsite and outreach activities. But there is still more to do!

We are proud announce the launch of our new Community Access Scheme, which will offer discounted rates for community groups and organisations within 15 miles of Westonbirt Arboretum.



If you are a part of an organisation or group that supports:

- people with learning or physical disabilities
- people experiencing mental health issues
- people living with dementia, or
- organisations supporting excluded, vulnerable or isolated members of society.

Then you could be eligible for the scheme.

Contact karen.price@forestryengland.uk to find out more.

Hello to some new members of the team!

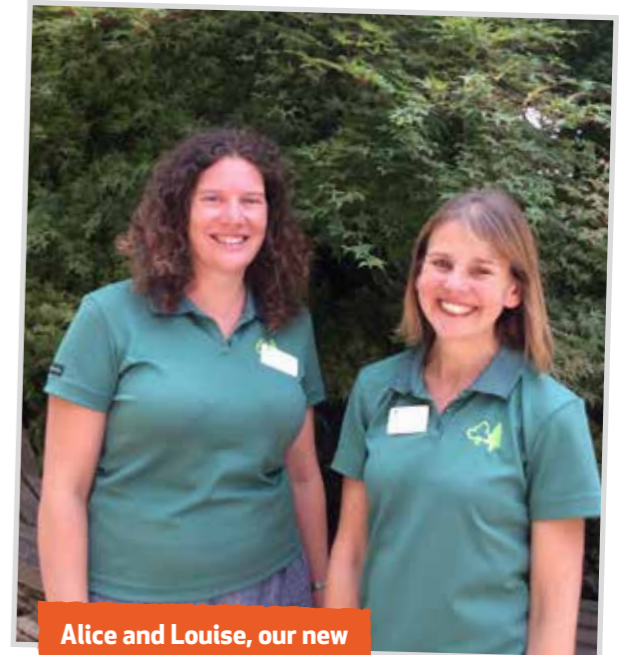
A huge welcome to Chloe Gilbert, our new Project Officer.

Chloe has joined the Project team, and will be helping us to improve the visitor experience at the arboretum. Her first big project will be working on the construction of the new Westonbirt Woodworks, giving visitors the opportunity to see traditional woodcraft skills in action, and discover what happens to our trees when they have reached the end of their lives.

Her favourite place in the arboretum is Palmer Ride in Silk Wood. She's been really excited to learn more about the amazing trees we care for.

Our new Volunteer team

Louise Amato and Alice Chedwick. These guys look after our team of 260 volunteers, without whom we would not be able to do so many fantastic activities here at the arboretum. Louise and Alice do everything from recruiting new volunteers to buying the biscuits for the volunteer common room!



Alice and Louise, our new Volunteer team members.

If you are interested in joining our amazing team of volunteers, or would just like to find out a bit more about what our volunteers get up to please email louise.amato@forestryengland.uk

Early closure notification during Enchanted Christmas

Please note...

...our Enchanted Christmas event will take place at Westonbirt Arboretum on 1, 2, 7-9, 14-17 and 21-23 December. On these dates, last entry for members and general admission will be at 2pm and the site will close at 3pm in preparation for our Enchanted Christmas event.

Don't miss our Christmas wonderland. See page 32 for details of the Enchanted Christmas event!

