Guidelines for events in the woods

*--*

The four general types of events that take place in the wood are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event type** | **Wood management** | **Co-op events** | **Small member bookings** | **Larger member bookings** |
| **Description** | Gatherings at the wood related to managing the wood and the co-op | Celebratory events that are open to all co-op members | Events arranged by members for small numbers of people, inviting non-members | Events arranged by members for larger groups, inviting non-members, and potentially including a financial contribution |
| **Examples** | Workdays, co-op meetings | AGM, solstice celebrations, nature surveys | Camping or small gatherings around the fire | Forest School, choirs, birthday parties, ceremonies |
| **Possible numbers** | Usually 10-20 people | Open to all co-op members, usually 20-40 people | 1-10 people (including children) | Up to 30 people |
| **Number of times per year** | 8 (4 quarterly meetings + 4 work days) | 6 (4 solstice celebrations, AGM, others) | 30 | 10 |

**General guidelines**

**Booking:**

To make a booking, check the Folly Woods calendar (here), and if the date and time is free please email Dom Shead (secretary) on dshead@btinternet.com with your request, providing the following information:

* Type of event or activity
* Date and time
* Anticipated number of people
* Is the invitation open to the rest of the co-op membership?

Bookings will be made on a first come first served basis, and generally events should not happen on consecutive days or nights.

Events in the wood are generally non-commercial, but for larger events donations are invited from organisers. If you have an idea for a commercial event then feel free to bring it to the directors for discussion. As a guide, a non-commercial half day event for a group of 10 people might donate £20.

**Risk assessments:**

We want events in the wood to be free, creative and safe. To help with this we have prepared template risk assessments, which we will ask you to complete or adapt for your event only if your event requires it.

**Camping:**

Please see the separate camping guidelines on the website.

**Parking & access:**

There is no parking along the road boundary of the wood, you can drop off items (or people), but cars should be parked elsewhere (e.g. Peghouse Rise, GL5 1UZ, about 10 mins walk from the woods).

**Areas of the wood for events:**

Whilst the whole wood is open and accessible, events should generally be focussed around the main fire pit or the meditation circle to minimise disruption to the other inhabitants of the wood.

**Facilities:**

The composting loo is available, though please bring your own loo paper and hand sanitiser if possible. If you’re having a large event then please make sure there are enough supplies. There is a first aid kit in the compost loo, and if you use any of the supplies, please replace them.

**Firewood:**

Please only use dead and dry wood, or bring your own firewood.

**Other thoughts**

**Asking permission:**

Being in the wood can be a wonderful experience. Taking a moment to meet the wood as you enter can deepen your connection to the place, and provide that moment of transition from whatever else is going on in your life to a gentle time amongst the trees.

**Drying wood:**

Dry wood burns much better, produces less CO2, and is much easier to light. We try and dry wood next to the compost loo, and if you take wood from here please do replace it.

**General maintenance:**

If you visit the woods regularly you may find bits of path getting overgrown, or fallen branches. Please feel free to cut these back or move them. Through the year various updates will be posted on the website recording small works that would help the wood, so do check in and see if there is anything you can do as part of your general enjoyment of the wood.

Guidelines for the woods to share with visitors

If you are inviting non-member friends and family to the wood for an event then please do pass on the following:

Stroudwoods is collectively owned by 70 shareholders and their families, they manage the wood as a community resource and a haven for nature. As part of their membership, members can host events in the woods for small groups.

We love being able to share the woodland, and there are a few simple guidelines that we have to keep it beautiful for everyone:

**Access:**

You can walk into the woods from two points along Folly Lane. Unfortunately there is no car parking on the lane, and so you will need to walk up from Peghouse Rise.

**Facilities:**

We have a composting loo next to the main firepit, though you may want to bring your own loo roll and hand sanitiser, as we don’t keep a regular stock. There is a first aid kit in the compost loo too.

**Fires:**

We encourage fires at the main firepit, but please only burn dead, split and dried wood, or wood that you bring yourself.