

Dear Young Person!

I am sure you know Oxleas Woods, don't you! When I was a little girl many years ago in the 1950's I lived near the woods and I spent a lot of time there playing with my friends. I loved climbing trees and we used to climb to the top of some quite high ones. It wasn't very long since World War Two and there had been lots of bombs dropped in the area. In the woods there was a large hole where a bomb had dropped, and we used to say "meet you at the bomb crater" to our friends. As there was a big hole, we knew the bomb must have exploded as it would have been dangerous if it was unexploded. We used to meet there and if it had been raining the hole was full of water and we used to try to jump across part of the hole. Sometimes the boys would drive their bikes and try to get across. They sometimes got very wet. I am not sure their Mums would have been very pleased.

As time went on ferns and bushes filled up the hole and it became part of the woods again. We grew up and stopped meeting 'at the bomb crater' as it had disappeared!

Hope you enjoy Oxleas Woods. I have lots of happy memories there.

Be good and be kind.

Gaynor