RAINCLIFFE WOOD COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Welcome to the Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise Spring 2022 Newsletter
Find out what we have been up to over the months ahead
Engaging organic community managed woodland

Introducing Ben

Introducing Ben Mackie, The New Forester

Ben recently joined the team at Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise. We asked Ben (pictured above, right) to tell us more about himself and what attracted him to the forest role?

"My career working with trees did started at a tree nursery in Wakefield, North Yorkshire before leaving home for university. Completing a degree in Ecology in Manchester, and stayed in the city to become an arboriculturist and woodland manager for a substantial social enterprise. Two Sisters.

Then I moved back home to Leeds to take up the role of Woodland Manager for the North of England Mets. I worked in planting, felling and woodfuel contracting, although I became a PWS (Practicing Arboriculture Woodland Skills) and Greenspace Manager.

Then I moved to Ireland for a year and a half where I managed a planting contract, having planted roughly 2 million trees, I managed a Greenspace Forestry course, woodland management and consultancy work.

Then I moved back home to the chasing sun!, mainly on the North East coast, where I worked and attending to other Hands Dirty.

Now I am back home and just going as the Forester for Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise. I just all my upcoming contracts to make the team and return to North Yorkshire. It is an honour for me to come back home to do work in Scarborough, having been brought up in Ilkley!

I am very lucky to have inherited a great team, Ranger Jamie and Gibby. So, to be back here, near some of my family and old friends, as well as working the socials closer to my home is very exciting.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone and getting to know the woods and the community and carrying hands. I intend to improve the habitats here by working the woods under a Continuous Cover Forestry system and encourage people to use the woods for recreational purposes, as well as for work.

I look forward to bringing the skills and knowledge I've gained over the years to benefit the woods and community here, please do say hello if you see me knocking around the woods. I'm always happy to discuss the work we're carrying out."

Spring Equinox Retreat with Hayley Seal Yoga

Wednesday 20th March 2022, 8.30am to 12noon
Saturday 23rd March 2024 10.30am to 12noon (£40 £35.0 £5.0T, THEME YOG)
Sunday 24th March 2022 10.30am to 12noon (£40 £35.0 £5.0T, THEME YOG)
Meet at Raincliffe Open Car Park.

Scarborough Homeopaths & Historical Society will meet out on a meandering journey into the past!

The woods hold many secrets and many important features are hidden amongst the trees. It contains over 250 historic environment and built heritage features including ancient charcoal pits, holloways and ceremonial coppice stools, as well as a Victorian Gothic mansion and a Victorian Spa.

We will be joined and accompanied on walks with Historic Hayley Seal Yoga Club March when we'll have a better idea of the weather forecast.

Please take at the last Raincliffe Retreat by Sam Tonkin Instagram @samtonkinpaints and Facebook Samantha Tonkin with thanks.

Walk into The Past

Saturday 23rd March 2024 10.30am to 12noon (£40 £35.0 £5.0T, THEME YOG)
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Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 16th April 2022
1pm to 3pm (free event)

Join us to find the hidden Easter eggs hidden in Raincliffe Woods.
Bring your own basket or bag to collect your eggs in and a short clear grow at home.
Make your own natural bird feeders to take home and enjoy a bird with inspired materials.
This is a chance for children to play and to learn about Spring and the season of rebirth.
Suitable for children of all ages and their family and friends.
Where: Raincliffe Open car park. When: 1pm till 3pm.
This is a drop in so come when you want, no need to book.

Contact Clare Rodgers

Evening Wildlife Discovery Walk

Wednesday 3rd April 2024 6pm to 7.30pm

Join us to discover a quiet time in the woods by a lake.
Listen to birds and watch amazing insects, bats, moths, flies and bugs.
There'll be a chance to listen out for the teeny owls and maybe just maybe we may spot a badger!
Bring your own binoculars, torch, camera, insect/bug/bird/bat/moth/fly/bug identification guides and a pair of wellies.
Find a little walk stick, and a small rough, uneven, and sometimes wet ground. Please dress accordingly.
Sadly, the walk is unsuitable for wheelchair users.
Meet at the Raincliffe Open Car Park, Scarborough.
Walking is explorer and there are a maximum number of attendees.
Due to the nature of the activity, the walk is unsuitable for dogs and young children, sorry.
To book your place please contact contact@raincliffewood.co.uk
Or call Clare on 07867 459917

Contact Clare Rodgers

Poetry Meander

Thursday 11th April
1pm till 1.30pm

Where: Raincliffe Open Car Park.
Meeting you with pen Clare for this walk.
Walking through the woods and meadows of Raincliffe, pause and read nourishing poems.
Let's grow poems again.
Take a little walk and poetry to connect with our surroundings and enjoy the views and wildlife. Bringing us some calm and relaxation poetry.
Please bring your own favourite poetry that relates to woods or the environment and we will share them in the woods.
Walking is explorer and there are a maximum number of attendees. Due to the nature of the activity, the walk is unsuitable for dogs and young children, sorry.
We will have a chance for a cuppa (please bring your own) and a chance to share our love of poetry.
Suitable for children of all ages (preferably reasonable). Which group might have to be broken down.
No need to book.
For more information contact: contact@raincliffewood.co.uk or telephone: 07867459917

Contact Clare Rodgers

Walk into Spring

Saturday 4th May 2024
10am to 12noon

Join us to discover a magical time in the woods. Spring has sprung!
Wander gently while the stunning spring blooming and hear the wonders of the natural world.
Flowers will be unfurling and carpets of wild garlic and bluebells will be on the woodland floor.
Bring your own binoculars.
The walk is kindly hosted by the Scarborough Field Naturalists Society. Avid experts in the woodland.
Parts of the walk are steep, and some rough, uneven, and sometimes wet ground. Please dress accordingly.
Sadly, the walk is unsuitable for wheelchair users.
Walking is explorer and there are a maximum number of attendees. Due to the nature of the activity, the walk is unsuitable for dogs where they are an awareness dog.
To book please contact Clare Rodgers contact@raincliffewood.co.uk or call Clare on 07867 459917

Other Events This Spring

Sunday 3rd March 2024, 10am to 12noon - Mass Scarborough Tree is conjunction with Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise and Scarborough Field Naturalists Society. Meet at the Open Car Park. Bring your Scarborough FOOD STS (second car park on the left after Tremadog Street when coming from Scarborough. What's Grows, wear something sensibly.

Saturday 16th May 2pm to 4pm - Fishing Workshop with Rebecca Norris Designs - come make a cotton mug rug and learn about the fishing industry in Scarborough.

June - Gardening Walk with Scarborough Mums - more details coming soon on our website and Facebook page.

Contact Clare Rodgers

Introduction to Nature Journaling Workshops

10am to 12.30pm - Introduction to Nature Journaling with Anna from Wild Creatives
Introduction to Nature Journaling with Anna from Wild Creatives
Join us for an hour of nature journal, an activity book and learn how to engage and observe nature in new ways. Full details to follow.

There is a full itinerary of the Spring and Summer Workshopps, below which can be booked via Eventbrite.

Details also on our website.

Supporting our Community Woodland

As a not-for-profit social enterprise, all revenue generated from our guided walks, memorial trees, firewood and dog sales are reinvested back into the management of the site to:

- Create a healthy, thriving woodland resilient to pests and diseases
- Create a diverse woodland for people and wildlife
- Keep the site safe and manage dangerous trees
- Make repairs to bridges, fences and footpaths
- Improve access and facilities
- Keep the site clean, and free with fly tipping
- Manage invasive, non-native species that threaten our woodland

Contact Ben Mackie To Find Out More

Volunteer Conservation Days

Without our wonderful group of volunteers, we would not be able to do all the tasks we have in the woodland to help it thrive.

We are looking to recruit more volunteers to our conservation days.

We do a variety of tasks such as clearing along the Nonesuch boardwalk maintenance, coppicing, ride management, and litter picks.

We do everything under a supervised and sound breaks are very seriously! It is a similarly day out in beautiful woodlands with a sense of purpose.

Come join me (Sam) on our website, taking place on a Thursday every fortnight.

We meet at various car parks in the woods to set off on the day from 10am to 2pm but you can just come for a few hours.

If you are interested and to get more details contact: contact@raincliffewood.co.uk
You'll be very welcome to join us

Contact Clare

Raincliffe Woods Sea Population

Have you seen the deer at Raincliffe Woods? Do you know what species they are? And do you know what part of Raincliffe Woods they are most commonly seen?

Across the UK, we have 6 species of deer, but only 2 species are native. These are the Red deer and Roe deer. In Raincliffe, Roe Deer and Fallow Deer are more than likely the most common deer depending on the time of year, due to very small groups.

Roe are a beautiful medium sized deer, ranging between 10-20kg. Males are called Bucks, females are Does, and babies are called Kids. Roe deer are shy, and live in small family groups, and are most active at dawn and dusk, especially during the mating season, and during rutting. You may have seen bucks with a set of the antlers.

In January we were very privileged to have a visit from RH Wildlife Consultancy, who through trusting on the Forestry Commission, as well as a Thermal Imaging Deer Survey carried out on a survey the deer population in our woodland. RH Wildlife Consultancy also also recently on Countryfile (17th February at 19:00, BBC1) for their work with Roe Deer.

The survey took place at night, and the 6 hrs was long, very exciting and very exhausting. We were able to spot the woodland from above the canopy, pick out heat signatures and then zoom in on the camera to identify the deer species, and count the number of deer. The survey found 12 Roe Deer, 2 Fallow Deer, and 1 Muntjac Deer. Roe Deer only seldom from woodland Deer due to scrubs and suitable bale off points was a section of the Roe.

This survey was very insightful as we were unsure how many deer we had, but due to Roe deer ecology and behaviour, it would be easy to assume there weren't many in the woodland.

Why Did We Have The Survey?

Many years ago, fallow bucks were released protectors from our estate, which sometimes can cause conflict between part of a historical ecosystem with the deer, keeping populations at a healthy balance. Over many years, the fallow population increased, and we started to see the impact of the deer on the woodland, and the local farmer. The deer population is the highest recorded in UKB years. We are unsuitable to carry out a cull of deer as we don't wanted to work around and around woodland sites, local involvements and preserve our woodland for future generations. It is important for us to know how many deer we have.

What Does That Mean For Woodland Conservation?

High deer numbers can have a negative effect on biodiversity as it means they heavily browse on the natural regeneration of trees, planted trees and the woodland flora. Reducing the number of new young trees coming through, and the diversity of the woodland flora, which in turn affects the wildlife. This also affects the number of trees and flora that have reached the point of young and old trees to survive.

If you walk around the wood, you may see the signs of the damage from the over-browsing. Keep an eye out for the signs of over-browsing, such as bark stripping, and trees with a lot of side shoots. Bark stripping is a sign that the bark and sapwood such and bit and sometimes, cuts out the weather that does see bacterial infect anywhere from a deer's head height down and also keep an eye out or where we have coppiced for new shoots getting browsed. Do not release obvious but there is plenty of evidence around the wood.

What Are Our Plans?

We are working closely with experts from the Forestry Commission and other organisations on the different types of fringe we can do to continue monitoring our deer population and minimise the impact of high deer populations.

As our monitoring advances and plans develop, we will keep you up to date via our Website and Newsletter. If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please let us know or contact us via our website for up to date. Also, if you would like to discuss the with us, please email me on: ceo@raincliffewood.co.uk

Sue Weatherby, Community Woodland Manager

Future Plans

One of the key issues highlighted by the business plan are the financial challenges faced by the community enterprise. This is primarily due to the significant land management responsibilities and liabilities associated with managing a freely accessible public green space containing 3 miles of highways and over 10 miles of public rights of way against extreme weather and with the increased threat from tree pests and diseases.

Read Our Business Plan Here

Become a Member of Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise!

If you are interested in Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise why not become a member?
Membership is free, for life, and means you own the Enterprise equally with every other member.
Once a member, you can also become a volunteer and be practically involved in the project.
You will get regular updates on what is happening, be able to vote at meetings and the AGM, and stand for election to the management board if you wish.

Become a member here.

So why not plan your visit and immerse yourself in nature!

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Our mailing address is:
enquiries@raincliffewoods.co.uk

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