RAINCLIFFE WOOD COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Welcome to the Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise
Spring 2021 Newsletter
Find out what happened in the last three months in England's largest community managed woodland

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Looking to the Future at Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise
By Robert Peacock, Chair

After 10 years as a member of RWCE, 5 years as Vice Chair and the last 3 years as Chair of the organisation I have informed the board that I will be stepping down at our next board meeting and the forthcoming Trustee Recruitment.

The Board were really aware of my plans for retirement and with its family orientated ethos it was important for our ASM in June where the new appointments will be confirmed.

Over the last 12 months, as we have all been navigating operational issues, the Board have only challenging opposition to the start of the restoration and to the very present issues of Lynch and Beech. We have come to a very long very short this!

As a Board we have overcome difficulties within and personalities.

I feel that RWCE is now in a very good place, I feel that it is time to step down to give a Management Sub Committee to the Board a new profile, take forward the future and liaise with the numerous organisations with an interest in our project and develop our relationships with our neighbours.

Our first success was not here in Pearse in Change which enabled us to approach our first Community Woodland Manager Paul Hyde who has been instrumental in the success of the Pearse in Change Project and Community Woodland.

Paul Hyde much more than a Management Sub Committee has to play with around forestry operations, community engagement, volunteering and risk assessments.

Paul has developed a very good relationship with the Supervisor, Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) which enabled us to run hedgelaying weekend and volunteer days and Paul has developed a support those outside operations. Quite frankly without Paul we would be in dense Karalu and Children's woodland activities and our summer Secret Woods events, Christmas crafts and activities in the Woodland would not happen.

We also participated in a national project on Rewilding the NHS for Green Space Prescribing (GSP) which had strength lines to many who would be normally cared for into the woodlands on their doorstep. We are hopeful that Kirklee Kindling will start again post Covid and we have a very good relationship with the Kirklee Kindling Leader and Kirklee Primary School.

Paul has developed a very good relationship with the Forestry Commission and Forestry Commission England and we have developed a very good relationship with the Forestry Commission Scotland and Paul has developed a very good relationship with the Forestry Commission Wales.

Another area of building cover from Anglo American is our schools.

We have developed a very good relationship with Anglo American and Forestry Commission to develop our Forester and Forestry operations. They proved that they understand our vision and our values and our ethos. The Stewardship funding we could break down. What it could not foresee was the problems climate change hashtagged upon us with the last years of wet ground conditions and the unprecedented amount of Storm and Hurricane Damage.

They have participated, important because much of the timber that will remain thriving in the woods will be used in our future projects.

Many previous team companions would not work up to the extreme we have matched and left the more difficult ones.

A valid using Lotto Website Page will show you the best will material up.

The storms have also created an enormous amount of work and clearing the Public Rights of Way from fallen trees. We have cleared the Public Rights of Way and Paul has developed a very good relationship with the Ranger Service and Ranger Service Volunteers and access is limited to the Small Ranger Forge Valley which cover at least 10,000 in some ways day to closed for forestry operations and safety.

I would like to thank Paul Taylor, our Site Forester and Ben Walker who believed in for their invaluable professional insight into our woodland management.

The second funding stream from the Anglo American workshop: Youth and Local Community Benefit Investment in the Amazon and Central Africa around nature and ecology.

Our Ecological Restoration and Ecological Function Biodiversity Outcomes which focussed on studying red list species such as Hawthorn Hoverfly, water voles, European eels, Common Rosebay, Willow Tit and Pugnacious.

We have seen some success with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on the project and it has confirmed the presence of rusyfish Hoverfly and Pugnacious Bee in our woodland and we have seen the Water Vole.

The funding will be relying on with most recent promises of the science that has been provided the footage of one of our Pugnacious Bees.

The funding also came from Yorkshire Water, Natural England, Yorkshire Sculpture in Business, Eastgate Solar Farm and Cumbrian Woodlands for our Community Woodland.

Covid has hit us very hard and the cost of all the Beartrack replacement is £500 which had the funding withdrawn by the Treasury due to the COVID outbreak and we now see the consequences with the closure one of the southern section and the Beartrack Bridge.

The other is a very sound bid to the Heritage Lottery around the interpretation of the physical geology, geography, archaeology, history and ecology of the woodlands where from over 3000 years ago humans have left their mark with tumuli, barrows, enclosures, quarries, cultivation terraces and ancient field systems.

This hopefully will be covered and a number of match funding found. We have the support of the Pennine Geology Group, Scarborough Archaeology & History Society, Scarborough Field Naturalists as well as support from the National Park in Yorkshire Dales National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

We are still working on many other projects and sources of funding and through our Community Woodland Manager Kirk Hyde we are working with the Ranger Service and working together. Kirk must be his self dealing with the Rangers Service and we are very thankful for this.

We are also hopeful that the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust will be successful in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Pearse in Change Project and Ecological Restoration Biodiversity Outcomes which focussed on studying red list species such as Hawthorn Hoverfly, water voles, European eels, Common Rosebay, Willow Tit and Pugnacious.

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- Create a healthy, thriving woodland resilient to pests and diseases
- Protect and enhance a mosaic of wildlife habitats
- Keep the site safe and manage dangerous trees
- Make repairs to bridges, fences and footpaths
- Deliver events and activities
- Keep the site clean, and deal with fly tipping
- Manage invasive, non-native species that threaten our woodland

Visit Our Website To Find Out More

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!

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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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