RAINCLIFFE WOOD
COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Welcome to the Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise
Autumn 2020 Newsletter

Find out what's happening in England's largest community managed woodland.

A Warm Welcome from Chairman Alan Rotherham

We are finally and sadly saying goodbye to what will probably be the hottest summer on record as the nights are definitely drawing in and the rain has returned.

The Woods have thankfully survived unscathed the Kingsdale Hiking rally continue to light fires and barbecues in the woods and unfortunately litter the woods. We are in discussions with learning hub the government conservation volunteer group about the dangers of fires in such dry, hot weather.

So now, having had our Woodland Management Plan approved by the Forestry Commission, we intend to commence a programme of improvements to the Raincliffe Woods. The aspect is under it open up the Woods to more visitors, improve and start using both sides of the woods.

So please look out for and heed any signs regarding the work.

We have consulted with the Council with a view to, if it is felasy know normal Pre and our Woodland Manager, Adam Charlesworth, in the coordination of the work and ensure that it is progressed through the year so that we can minimise forestry operations in as far impact as may as possible.

However, we will need to continue with more 'conservational' methods in the meantime, although we are conscious of our responsibility to ensure that our work necessary work is done as expeditiously as possible.

One of the main aims in our Management Plan is to make the Woods more accessible to walkers and cyclists. To this end we have commenced the work on the Bridle Path. We have also been in discussions with the Council to make a joint application along Lady Cliffe's Drive as far as Thoresby Mere (or we hope is far more than this) the Council has agreed to support our application in principle.

Moreover, we will continue to improve the existing walkways, benches, picnic areas etc. indeed, we would like to introduce facilities such as toilets, shelter etc so that a wider range of activities could be conducted in the Woods, but currently financial and planning constraints are putting such plans on hold.

Finally, we thank you for your patience and understanding.

However, the Woods continue to be a fantastic place, open all hours resource for the people of Scarborough and we hope that you continue to enjoy them through the coming season.

If you want to get more involved with the Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise please contact us via the website.

Thank you and enjoy the new season!

Alan Rotherham
Chairman
Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise

Woodland Ranger's Report by Adam Copeland

Forge Valley Boardwalk

I'm sure many of you will have noticed a somewhat effort in recent weeks to improve the situation regarding the Forge Valley Board Walk.

Whole North York Moors National Park (NYMNP) is responsible for the maintenance of the Boardwalk, we have been actively involved with the operation by removing fallen trees and Himalayan Balsam.

We have, when possible, met with Natural England and teamed up with their volunteers to dint and cutpoor sections of Himalayan Balsam. Natural England have been working on the Forge Valley Woods for some time, adopting relationship as the whole monthly approach and Natural England can help as some of the volunteers.

More recently, sections of the path have been completed with the remaining stone having been removed from the Southern access point of Dean Bottom and used where needed. There are sections of board walk that have been completed. However, we must emphasise that the path remains closed.

Regarding the closure, this will remain in place. An application for the closure notices to "lessen the worries" to Natural England has been made and the closure order will be renewed in due course.

Pine Rows

Given the hot dry weather we have all enjoyed, it is of no surprise that there have been numerous fires throughout Raincliffe Woods and unfortunately, the Pine Rows have been the most disproportionate fire area in recent month which required Fire service teams from Tadcaster and Middlesbrough to attend.

Whilst we at Raincliffe had our fair share of arsons deliberately starting fires in SRQs the fire service were very useful upon a handful of very minor incidents.

To try and make awareness you will notice that we have placed posters in well used areas. However, by far the most successful tool we have in our vicinity. Rainclifer we experimented with potentially dangerous consequences was the use of our Ranger Land Rover. We have been very fortunate to have appointed Rhodri that has landed the fire and remove them and then and bitch the fire brigade meets with the area.

The remote control of operating it in the fire brigade is perhaps the most significant thing you can do to help us.

Volunteer Days

As always, our volunteers have been busy working behind the scenes to help keep our woodland an enjoyable space for all to share.

The construction of a new picnic table and benches at Raincliffe gone last year, to replace a dated piece of furniture, has been well received by the visiting public.

We continue to make the space around the memorial bench at Hunters Bridge with the intention of much-needed and ground cover which we have started to chip in line with our the protection strategy.

Other less thankful tasks include the removal of Himalayan Balsam, litter picks and removing unsound each of the tall pains.

These tasks have all greatly improved our woodland and as always we are extremely grateful for the help of all the volunteers.

Balsam Bashing by Robert Peacock

After 10 weeks of pulling, bashing and cutting, this very successful Balsam control work is coming to an end until Spring 2021.

In total we have undertaken nearly 300 hours of Volunteer time this year to cleare control of the Himalayan Balsam in the Forge Valley Woods. Without the help and commitment of the volunteers the extent and spread of balsam would have become over pacing.

As a pretty long bare in used as the Balsam that we pulled the contrast of the roadside and spread for the very sensitive and boggy areas on the east side of the road. The Bluebells provides a useful barrier and stepped as well as the Balsam and Bluebells are both very attractive and flowering at the same time. Unfortunately, the Bluebell only flowers for a short time so most of the woodland anemone. The seed is made more difficult where it is a distance of bleachfort, brambles, nettles and cranberr. Back to this numerous fallen trees or piles of brush and the carry hot summer. the volunteers deserve campaign medal!

On the road side of the river it has been about stopping it flowering and seeding next to the road. Winch and the tyres of passing traffic will spread the seed further and faster than anywhere else in the woodland. Over the years of over bank was cleared over 50 times between the large chicanes there at the southern end, Old Mans Mouth carpets and Hazel Head. We were able to pull balsam on the northern riverbank through back scaffolding with the kind permission of the landowner. Thanks to the Raincliffe Community Enterprise.

The issue of the northern riverbank from Gilfoot towards the bypass is spread contaminated and rank with the southern bracklands towards the volunteers have has happened here. If you ever now, you will see large stands of standing balsam alongside the river and these seeds will be a priority next year when hopefully the southern bracklands will be no issue.

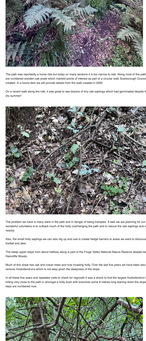
In our last newsletter we had the photo of the young born hidden amongst the undergrowth. These chance moments are what we are hoping for, and we did find a young family of Roe Deer in the woods this year, which was a fantastic chance catching to see. It was in an area nobody would normally come to in get to from the single-lanyard plain flowering nearby.

Next year the key is eradicating all the large stands to get a hold in the volunteer time from the end of May and into June before it gets a chance to seed. Hopefully after that weekly chores should be sufficient to spot the late germinating balsam and keep the woods free from the invasive species.

If you would like to get involved next year email Rainclifferwood@yahoo.co.uk or message 07871 369040.

Our thanks to Yorkshire Water for supporting this project in 2020.

Lady Mildred's Walk by Robert Peacock



This Public Right of Way runs among the steep contours of Raincliffe Woods and provides fascinating insights in to the woodland beyond.

It is a pleasant walk to be accessed from the track from Thoresby Park to Rose Rose Lodge or Cue Cliff Hollow and the more many know as Muddy Pool.

At the western end quite accessible use the metal from Green Gate caused, about 200 metres up the track from the right side metal gate and there a steep left turn up some steps which need some repair.

There are many more paths which join from our car parks and the Middle Track using the holloways. Cursey Gate car park gets its name from the ancient dressing track which is recorded in records from Scarrier Church as used by farmers in Hartsness to get to Seamer market.

You can make any walk as long or short as you like using these connecting paths which continue up the top where Raincliffe Woods meet the Deer Park Wall. Along the Bridle Path boundary is the Shell Cross, the path to Bridge Hill and Scoresby.

The Bridleway then crosses the field to Cleburne Lodge where the public Right of Way takes you all the way to Wells Grave and Dale Farm.

Alternatively you can keep to the field boundary and walk over the Bronze Age round barrow, then towards Cleburne Lodge and then turn left at the Bridleway which crosses the Scarborough Golf Course and then left to Scoresby Toothpick and the old stone quarry before picking up Lady Mildred Rise – a walk for our Girls Auxiliary.

Whichever route you choose you will walk towards created from the last ice age and by humans driving their animals up and down to pastures and markets.

The diagonal gullies are called Holloways and are numerous, these now originally have been cut by melting ice water from the North Sea and where which are against the steep slopes and also cut by of Dance and Nuns Moors.

This area of land is now wide open fields of hedry and where with superb expansive views over the Vale of Pickering.

Water channels under the ice are known as sub glacial channels. The largest locally is Peasholm Glen down to Peasholm Lake.

When modern humans arrived what better way to traverse a steep slope than a gully running diagonally down at an angle which your animals and carts can cope with.

These are also not especially where moldmaer calculated down the steep escarpment over 1000 years ago. Now only on the redeed days do we get a trickle of water. The most significant one can be found at Ancombe from Bogandy Farmhouse to Ancombe Farm.

The path was reportedly a horse ride but today on many sections it is too narrow to ride. Along most of the path there are confined wooden sub poles which restrict points of retreat as part of a course with Scarborough Council created. It is future item we will provide details from the cold created in 2003.

On a recent walk along the ride, it was great to see dozens of tiny oak saplings which had germinated despite the hot dry summer!

This photo was taken looking down to the path and is a length of Hedge Laying Project. Again we are planning for the wonderful volunteers to be outback much of the hotly overhanging the path and to rouse the oak saplings and replant nearby.

Also, the small holly saplings can soon also dig up and use to create hedge barriers to erase we want to discourage football and also.

This steep upper slope from about halfway along is part of the Forge Valley National Nature Reserve despite being in Raincliffe Woods.

Much of this slope has oak and maple trees and now breeding holly. Over the last five years we have been also trying to encourage the growth of Hazel and Holly by cutting back the Bracken.

In all these first years old bracken tends to stretch for sequence of trees a stone in the the copper Anemonetrees cover holding very close to the path in amongst a holly bush with brancheo some in trees long leaving down the slope. No ideas are numbered now.

On the lower slopes several charcoal burning platforms can be made out and Scarborough History & Archaeology Society surveyed the whole of this slope and found many more of these features.

You will also come across several mountain bike tracks which drop across the path. The erosion and destruction clear to see. No matter how we try to explain the problem to those bikers who will discuss with us, the desire to dig and create new tracks does not stop.

Hopefully by the time you have read this Newsletter our volunteers will have cleared the holly and several fallen trees.

Fly Tipping / BBQ's and Wild Camping by Robert Peacock

Once again someone is so pathetic that they can find the time and energy to travel to one of our car parks and fly tip garden waste but not the time and energy to either go to Burniston or Seamer Recycling Centres.

Anyone who is choosing a low-cost gardening service to sort out their garden waste think twice. We are carrying out surveillance of our car park areas and when we catch the culprit the Council enforcement team will also be looking for where the waste originally came from. If it's your garden waste you can be fined.

Always ask for the gardeners Environment Agency Registered Waste Registration and their Recycling Registration or you may well regret not doing so.

If it is your partner, neighbour or friend taking such waste, make sure they know it must go to the Recycling Centre, not a car park, field gate or layby.

This time it is Wallis Quarry car park. A boot load of grass, privet, twisted hazel and more besides dumped.

There are two problems here.
1. Fly tipping is illegal
2. Garden waste including soil and rubble can introduce non-native plants in to the National Nature Reserve as well as diseases.

This problem has got far worse since North Yorkshire Council introduced the registration of vehicles to use the Recycling Centres.

Every time they introduce a method to reduce the waste they handle they just pass the problem on to others who are less well-resourced to deal with fly tipping.

The same has happened over banning camper vans overnight, they just find somewhere else less supervised. Someone else has the problem.

They banned BBQ's and wild camping around the Scarborough Town area in June and guess what, numerous BBQ's and wild camping problems for ourselves at Throwenby Mere, Raincliffe Woods and Forge Valley this summer. The Fire Service had to carry their heavy water packs and fire equipment all the way up to the top of Raincliffe Woods to put out an abandoned camp fire which had caught hold deep in to the peat and leaf mould.

If you spot any such incidents send us an email to enquiries@raincliffewoods.co.uk with the date, time and location you became aware. Also vehicle registration if suspicious.

We are still finding Christmas trees dumped and soon it will be Christmas again.

Archery A Traditional Sport the Whole Family Can Enjoy Together

This is a family group enjoying time together learning the traditional English skill of archery in a glorious woodland setting.

Row Brow Field Archery provides single session 'taster' courses, special events and beginners' classes leading to membership of our amateur non-profit making community club.

Row Brow Woods has been the home of the club since 2018.

There is a carefully maintained course which meanders through the woods taking full advantage of this wonderful environment where the club have set up wildlife cameras, bird boxes, and a pond.

Recorded are roe deer, muntjac deer, badgers, foxes and squirrels and possibly a marten.

Footprints in the mud prove the local wildlife are taking advantage of our pathways.

Interactive Map

We are very proud of our virtual tour of the woods that has been put together by the amazing help of our volunteers.
A big thank you to Nick Granville-Fall of Ideasound and David Ruston of Your360, Kate Stancombe from The Sounding Space and Bridget Cousins and Phil Bennett from the Blow- In's for all their hard work putting this together.
Ideasound The Sounding Space Your360, Immersive Virtual Tours Bennett/Cousins Music
We hope many more people will now feel part of these beautiful woods.
Kindly funded by the The National Lottery Community Fund
See our New interactive map.

Supporting our Community Woodland

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

- 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

To make a donation, scan our QR code:
Or you can make a donation via this link.

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 mainly 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!

Copyright © 2021 Raincliffe Wood Community Enterprise, All rights reserved.

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.