



Deep Roots Tall Trees

music, arts and song



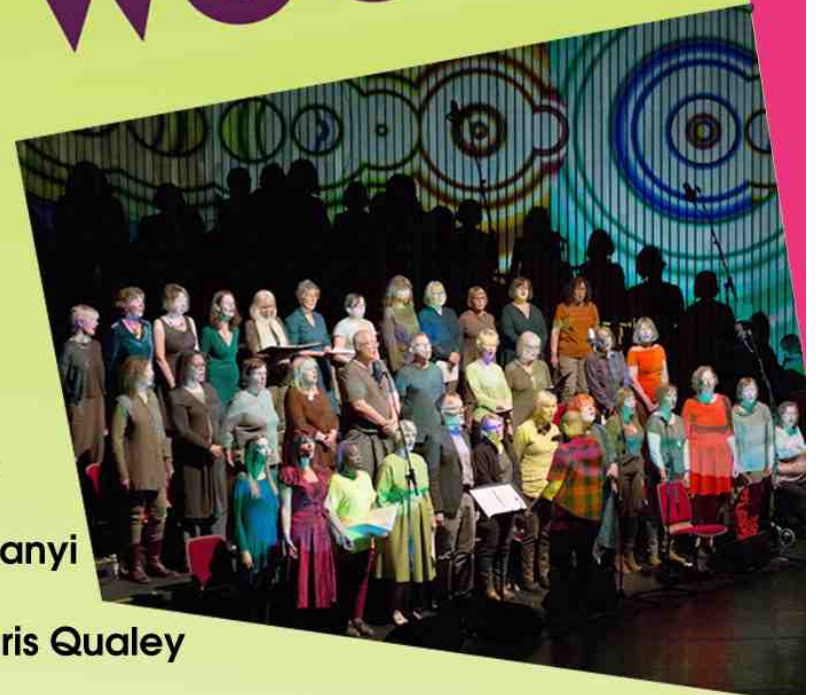
OUR WOODS

HLF Evaluation Report

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Local Historian Dr. Peter Hill took a group of 29 walkers on a walk to discover how the people of Corby, past and present have interacted with their landscape. Along the walk he regaled the group with stories of local myth and legend, imparted some amazing facts and even related a few historical dramas of a headless horseman and a Charles Dickens connection with Rockingham Castle.

Some feedback comments:

“wonderful walk, beautiful scenery, very interesting”

“wonderfully informative and invigorating walk. Thankyou to Peter Hill and all the organisers”

“thoroughly enjoyed the event. Peter is a wealth of knowledge. Having grown up in this area of Corby it was really interesting how the area has developed. Thank you – lovely afternoon”

“enjoyed the walk very much. Found the history very interesting. I grew up on Rockingham Road and have learnt a lot that I didn’t know about”

“interesting stories being told about the area ... would do it again ... would have liked to get to know a bit more about the castle”

“have lived in Corby 52 years and was surprised by the things I didn’t know. It was well organised and conducted”

“excellent walk and talk – more of the same please”



**Sunday 2nd October 2016 – The Lost Art of Mushrooming & Framing Fungi
– Summary Sheet for evaluation and web-posting**



This event in Corby's King's Wood, led by John Haughton was booked to capacity – in fact we had originally set a limit of 8 people per session but extended this to 10 and still had to turn many away. However, we were able to put the people we were unable to accommodate in touch with John who runs regular walking sessions in the woods. Even though they are not specifically 'mushrooming' based he would be happy to point out the various species and answer questions.



There was some cross over 4 people who did both the morning session – 'the lost art of mushrooming' and the 'framing fungi' event in the afternoon. Two members of the group mentioned that the walk was a bit too slow paced for their taste but others said they would have liked to spend more time at each place we stopped either to identify a species or to take photos – comes under the heading of you can't please all of the people all of the time!



All feedback cards were complimentary towards the event as you will see below. John gave each participant a really informative folder with great information about the King's Wood, maps, a list of species of mushroom and fungi in the woods and recommended reading. Additionally, we collected edible 'ear fungi' and had this on toast for lunch. A truly delightful day.

Some feedback comments from the cards:

"2 wonderful courses to witness the secret life of mushrooms! A really informative and pleasurable day – definitely would be interested in more ... will look at all local woodland with different eyes!"

"Could have spent all day on this wonderful mushroom hunt"

"A thoroughly interesting walk through Kingswood. Brilliant identification of the many fungi that are found in the wood. My first trip to Kingswood but definitely not the last. A really good learning experience"

"Could have spent all day on this wonderful mushroom hunt"

"It really opened my eyes to what can be seen within a very short distance – such variety. Certainly going to explore more mushrooming"

"Loved my fungi walk in the woods - very instructive and excellent lunch [of foraged fungi] & company"



"Excellent walk – didn't realise how large the wood is and how diverse the findings there. Like the idea of a health walk too. Very informative"

"I had some basic knowledge of mushrooms but learnt much more this morning. I also discovered King's Wood for the first time, having driven by it without a second glance many times. The lesson learned today is to use my eyes far more"

"Enjoyable stroll and informative. Nice to go foraging in a new area with someone with local knowledge. May visit the area again in the near future"



Wednesday and Thursday 16th and 17th November 2016
– Coppicing of Ancient Woodland in the Old King's Wood
– Summary Sheet for evaluation and web-posting



This event, run by Ian Wilson of the Wildlife Trust proved very popular. 10 people he'd not seen at coppicing events in the Old King's Wood attended and said they would both a) like to do it again and b) get involved in other 'Our Woods' and Wildlife Trust events in the area.

Ian demonstrated the tools used for Coppicing and then the group split off into groups to undertake the various tasks. All appeared to have a good time and the group seemed to quickly establish a great sense of comradery brought about no doubt by strangers happily working together to achieve a common goal carrying out all the manual tasks that coppicing involves.

Whilst the main reason for this event was to learn about why and how to coppice wood we were lucky enough on the second day to have some examples of what can be made with coppiced wood both Hazel and willow (although the event was only hazel coppicing) and Hugh Ross and Carolyn Church from Hazel Woodland Products in Pipewell joined us to demonstrate what coppiced hazel can be used for and how to make charcoal.

Several participants said they would have liked Hugh and Carolyn to have given more talks during the course of the day. However, there is only so much that can be done and these were very much an additional activity and not the main focus of the day. The talks they did do on fence building and charcoal burning were very much appreciated.

Some feedback comments:

"We're both volunteers at country parks and this has all added to our experience that we can bring back to our parks."

"It was really phenomenal to see two craftsmen at work, showing us how to make things such as charcoal and chairs"

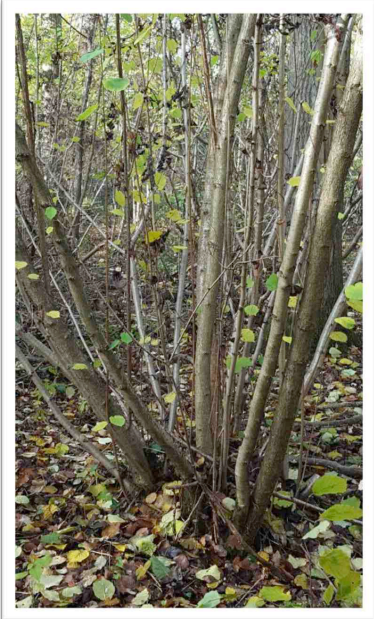
"We've learned a lot which is what we came to do. It's been incredibly beneficial for plenty of reasons."

"The reason I like doing coppice work is that there's so much history. People have been using the same coppicing tools for hundreds of years. It's conservation and culture."

"It's been great because a lot of people who come into the woods have a lot of energy and just want to get stuck in and do some work."

"It's great, you get a sense of community; people from different backgrounds came with a common interest to us together. I've learned a lot and enjoyed it a lot."

"It might have been nice to have a bit more guidance from Hugh and Caroline. But what lessons they did give were great."



**Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November 2016 – To the Trees
– Summary Sheet for evaluation and web-posting**



Sadly, due to very cold weather we only had a handful of people on the 19th. A better turnout on the 20th with a couple of people from 19th opting to come then instead as really felt it was too cold on the Saturday and went home.

However, despite the weather, renowned Northamptonshire story-teller Jo Blake Cave gave us all a magical event that will remain in the minds of all who attended for a very long time.

It is safe to say the spirit of the blitz took over, we wrapped up warm and, spurred on by the thought of hot chocolate round the camp-fire at the end of the walk, followed Jo on a wonderful story-tour through the ages. Jo wove a wonderful tapestry of local legend for us to enjoy and even told us why, according to folklore the trees lose their leaves in winter.

Some feedback comments:

“Jo is so talented! Her stories are magical and carefully crafted. The environment was perfect - a well prepared trail leading at last to a fire in a clearing for final story. This experience took us all to another place and time.”

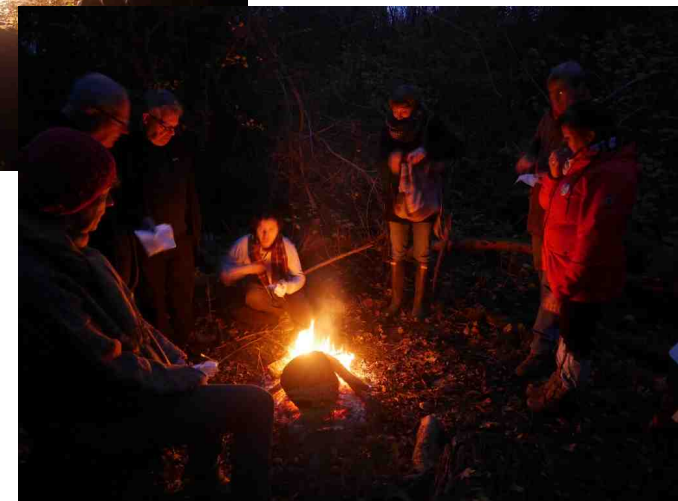
“Spellbinding stories that made me smile & shiver and wonder.”

“Made me remember why I so liked having a bedtime story as a child. So relaxing.”

“An excellent walk in the woods with magical stories. It has given me a new way to look at King’s Wood.”

“A magical evening in the woods.”

“Jo Blake is a fabulous storyteller and I really enjoyed her choices of stories, mix of folklore, history + locally rooted tales. Brilliant to have our cake and tea at the end and chance to meet fellow travelers.”



Saturday 1st April - Woods for the Trees – Peter Hill
– Summary Sheet for evaluation and web-posting



This was the second of Peter Hill's events as part of the Our Woods Festival. His first walk in September culminating at Rockingham Castle was a huge success and several people came back because of such an enjoyable time the first-time round.

This walk was right in the centre of Corby in Thoroughsale Wood and again was full of interesting anecdote and history. We had a full house and a perfect day for walking.

Some feedback comments:

"A very enjoyable walk and talk – it went at a nice pace, to be recommended."

"Great walk, interesting facts, very enjoyable."

"One of the best events we've been on – lovely knowledgeable leader and a well-paced walk."

"The woodlands around Corby are our ancient living relics of our past, our present and our future. Our

ancestors from Corby have lived, used, hunted, poached, hid, sheltered, travelled and worshipped our woods. The woodlands and ourselves are ever changing."

"An informative and gentle walk with an interesting mix of people. A good follow-on from his previous walk to Rockingham."

"I once again thoroughly enjoyed my trip around the woods. Only disappointment was to see a random camp site with rather menacing men and lots of empty beer cans. Otherwise congratulations."

"What wonderful trees there are in Corby. Especially using our imagination to make faces out of the trees."



"Very enjoyable and enlightening. I live near the Thoroughsale Wood and walk them every day. It was nice to hear the history of them."

"A lovely walk and so good to hear some history of the woods – a very informed talk from Peter."

"Very informative, stuff I never knew. Great couple of hours, luckily too the rain held off."

"Excellent walk and talk – more of the same please – interesting history of Corby."

