

Rockingham Forest Vision

Newsletter February 2025

To everyone on the Rockingham Forest Vision mailing list

Hello from the four of us who make up the [Rockingham Forest Vision core team](#). We hope this newsletter will explain what's been going on and what's coming up in 2025. You will see that with [the departure of Corinne and Sophie](#) in December we've been very busy indeed and the year ahead has all sorts of possibilities. That means that now, more than ever, we feel we need more support – and we hope that you can help with that.

Community Orchards

Last week 720 fruit trees arrived in Corby and we sorted them out so that 21 local groups would have the trees and equipment they need to create 21 new community orchards. That's right, twenty-one local groups – school, parish councils and community orchards – will be planting fruit and other trees across Rockingham Forest this week. [Read more about it here](#)

Guided walks and events

Many of you will have been on our walks to little-known parts of the Forest since Trish and Barrie started organising them three years ago. There are five more coming up this spring: Prior's Hall quarried area on 21st Feb, Cottingham Village on 11th Mar, the re-wiggled Willow Brook near King's Cliffe on 4th Apr, a tour of a site where willow is grown for basket making on 2nd May and Bulwick Estate's environmental improvements on 28th May. Please [book to come](#) and bring your friends and family too! Perhaps you could lead a walk for us or help with the organisation? Or perhaps you'd like to organise a regular walking group? Or an art group? or a nature appreciation group? or....?

Parish Nature Recovery Plans

Twelve parishes and towns are actively engaged in creating plans to improve current green spaces and to look for other opportunities for nature recovery in creative ways that work for their communities. We've been involved, along with our partners in supporting these groups and, with the County Council now taking a lead, that work continues in 2025. You can [read more about that here](#). A meeting to share progress and plot the way ahead is planned for April and there will be lots for Rockingham Forest Vision to do in the build up to that event. If you are not actually involved with any of the Recovery Plans could you help us out with organising and support?

Engaging with landowners and quarries

For the last three years we've been meeting regularly with staff from the Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Forestry Commission and others to coordinate approaches to landowners who wish to improve their land for conservation. This has resulted in some promising proposals which are beginning to be carried out right across the Forest Area. We've also been in contact with quarry owners and operators discussing ways in which the quarries, once they are worked out, can be restored more sympathetically for nature conservation. Because details concerning private land are necessarily outside the public domain and ongoing, we cannot give precise details as yet, but this has certainly been one of the most

rewarding parts of our work because we are seeing plans for landscapes to become connected across the forest.

Another bid for lottery funding

You will recall that the “Building the Links for Rockingham Forest” project which employed Corinne and Sophie was funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to the tune of nearly a quarter of a million pounds. That project was led by the Nene Rivers Trust (NRT), working with nine partner organisations and ourselves. In 2025 NRT is putting together a much bigger bid for a project that will extend across the Nene Valley and Rockingham Forest. Five working groups are coming up with ideas and we are very actively involved in helping to frame that bid which, if successful will be key to moving Rockingham Forest Vision forward in future years.

Facebook

We are delighted to report that Jamie March has volunteered to take a lead on [our Facebook account](#). Jamie is a member of the RSPB’s Youth Council and learnt of Rockingham Forest Vision whilst visiting the area as a WWOOF volunteer last Autumn. Inspired by the vision, she has taken to regularly posting on our Facebook page, despite not living in the area. If you are a Facebook user we’d be very grateful if you are able to support Jamie by liking, sharing or commenting on her Rockingham Forest Vision posts. And/or how about helping with other social media – Bluesky anyone?

The website

In 2022, using Community Funding from North Northants Council, the website for Rockingham Forest Vision was built and has since become the go-to location for information about Rockingham Forest. In order for a website to be really useful it needs to be refreshed very regularly and kept up to date – we aim to add new content 2 or 3 times a week. There are currently 38 blog articles written by those who live, work or play in the forest – have we published an article from you yet? Could you send us news items or pictures? Could you help us publicise the website? Would you have time to help with the site’s maintenance and writing?

We’re recruiting!

With all this going on you can see that we, the core team, are at full stretch and are looking for one or two more people to join us. You have been kind enough to show an interest in Rockingham Forest Vision by joining the mailing list. Are you now able to support us more actively? Do you share the vision and have ideas to bring it to fruition? And, crucially, do you have the time and energy to work with us and put your ideas into practice?

If you are at all interested in any of the possibilities outlined above please send an email to us via info@rockinghamforest.org.uk. Then one of us will contact you to have a chat and we can discuss how best to take things forward.

We very much look forward to hearing from you

Adam, Barrie, Jeremy and Phil

We think you have previously asked to receive occasional newsletters like this. If this is incorrect or you wish to leave our mailing list please [send an email with the simple subject Unsubscribe](#)