



Highlights -What's been happening this Summer?



Traditional charcoal making workshop

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES - One particular highlight was the **day time flying moth courses** run by Susannah O' Riordan of Butterfly Conservation at Ring Haw Nature Reserve and Weldon Woodland Park. Those attending were lucky enough to find Liquorice Piercer moths, a rare micro-moth and since the workshops, have used their new skills to find two more sites where this rare moth can be found.

Another outstanding and memorable day took place in Rawhaw Wood where Hugh Ross and Carolyn Church of Hazel Woodland Products treated us to a **masterclass** in how to make the very **best charcoal!** Carolyn and Hugh led us through the process from start to finish and many of the participants plan to use these new skills to produce their own charcoal and manage their woodlands appropriately.

In addition, Katie Field of the East Mercia Rivers Trust ran a **fresh water training course** for 15 volunteer river wardens at Barnwell Country Park. Those volunteers are now out and about once a month surveying eight different sites, helping us to gather much needed data on the state of our rivers, streams, brooks etc.

Community Grant Scheme launched

Do YOU have a community based project that is looking to improve local habitats and/or connects a wide range of people to nature?

If the answer is YES - then our Community Grant Scheme could help fund your project.

Thanks to our funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund we are able to offer grants of between £2,000-£6,000. Contact us for smaller projects too, we may still be able to help.

For more details and how to apply - click on the link - [communitygrantscheme](#)

Please note the closing day for applications is 30th September 2023.



Day time flying moth course



Highlights continued ...

Royal Forestry Society Trainee appointed -

We are pleased to announce that Paul Humphries has been appointed as a trainee parks ranger for the Corby Parks and Woodlands. Paul is now in post and can be seen out and about in the parks and woodlands, helping to make sure they are in tip top condition for all to enjoy. Congratulations Paul.



North Northants Council have appointed a new woodland ranger -

Hannah Dunstan has been appointed and is in post helping the Project's Parish Nature Recovery Plans with any relevant tree planting projects and training up tree wardens. Congratulations Hannah. To find out more about Hannah's role see her blog - [Hannah's blog](#) -



Guided walks continued to the hidden gems of the Forest -

Thanks to the hard work and organisation of volunteers Barrie and Trish Galpin we have been treated to three fabulous walks this Summer, focusing on trees, a working willow bed and a heritage and wildlife walk around Ring Haw Nature Reserve. Thanks go also to Chuck Cuthbert, Sue and Kirk and Ian Hilbert for giving their time and expertise to lead these fascinating walks.

Northants Biodiversity Records Centre held a BioBlitz in Hazel and Thoroughsale woods -

This event attracted a good number of people keen to learn how to identify species including plants, fungi, birds and insects in their local area. Particularly popular were the photography workshop and the tank containing local moth species!



The Wildlife Trust BCN delivered three fabulous workshops and more -

Local people were in for a treat this Summer with workshops on woodland wild flowers, an introduction to butterflies and a basic ecology skills day. In addition, volunteers were also out and about in the Project area surveying bats and dormice.

And last but not means least work continues with the parishes and friend groups to develop Parish Nature Recovery Plans. The Project is currently working with no less than eighteen different parishes and friends groups to help plan for nature recovery.

FOREST SCHOOL ...

Our Forest School trainees have now completed their first training week. The course covered both the theory and pedagogy of Forest School as well as necessary practical skills such as fire lighting, tool use, ecology skills and plenty of games too! Once this group have completed their year long training they will have all the necessary skills to set up Forest Schools in the local communities and schools of the Rockingham Forest.

Sophie van den Bergh and Corinne Muir of the Nene Rivers Trust along with Claire and Jo from Root and Branch out CIC delivered a free drop in Forest School taster day for Corby families in Hazel and Thoroughsale woods. It was a wonderful day with a fantastic turnout of over 200 people! To read more about the event click on the link below to read Sophie's blog - [Corby Taster day](#).

Sophie is also working with Home Start Corby to deliver Forest school activities. Our first session was in the ground of Rockingham Castle!





Autumn 2023 in the Rockingham Forest ... What's to look forward to and how to get involved?

UP-COMING EVENTS

We have a fantastic Autumn programme of events and courses for YOU

Bat detecting in Corby - Friday 8th September 7.30p.m. -9.00p.m.

Have a go with a bat detector and learn more about these fascinating animals.

Visit the landfill site at Thornhaugh - Thursday 21st September 10a.m.- 12:00p.m.

Come and see how waste is disposed of and how this necessity can drive habitat creation.

Introduction to Forestry course - Tues 3rd October and 18th Nov 9.30a.m. -4.00p.m. at Ring Haw Wood.

Learn some woodland ecology and management techniques.

Guided walk along Nassington back channel - Wed 11th October 10am.-12p.m.

A walk to discover this refuge for juvenile fish and invertebrates.

Coppicing workshop - Saturday 14th October 9.30a.m- 4.40p.m. Rawhaw Wood, Pipewell

A hands on practical course and discussion of the practice of coppicing for production, along side the environmental benefits of managing a woodland this way.

Identifying and surveying small mammals -Saturday and Sunday 21st and 22nd October, Old Sulehay Nature Reserve - evening and morning workshops.

Learn more about British mammals - methods of study and surveying using traps.

Introduction to coppicing - Sunday 19th November, 10a.m.-4p.m. Short Wood and Southwick Wood

This is a practical introduction to coppicing and the benefits of it.

MORE DETAILS AND HOW TO BOOK CAN BE FOUND ON THE ROCKINGHAM VISION WEBSITE. Booking is essential.

Click on the link to read more and book yourself a place - [Rockingham Forest Vision Events](#)

PARISH NATURE RECOVERY

Work will be continuing with the parishes and friends groups to develop nature recovery plans making a difference to local people, habitats and wildlife!

If you would like to find out more and get involved please click on the link - [Parish Nature Recovery Plans](#)

BECOME A TREE WARDEN - You don't need experience just a passion for trees!

A fantastic opportunity to train to become a much needed Tree warden in your local area. Training starts on Thursday 21st September. To read more about the training/role and how to book click in the link below - [Become a Tree Warden](#)

BECOME A RIVER WARDEN- For just an hour a month you could help nature!

We are looking for more volunteers to become River wardens in the Corby and surrounding areas particularly. All training provided, and surveying of your stretch of waterway can be done when suits you!

For more information on how to get involved please click on the link - [Become a River Warden](#)

A fan of social media with a few hours to spare?

We are looking for a volunteer who likes getting out and about in the RFV area to help us with our social media content. If interested please email either Corinne or Sophie as per our email address below.

And finally ...

Thank you from all the Rockingham Forest Vision team for all of your on-going support to date.

Any questions or queries please get in contact with either Dr. Corinne Muir at corinne@neneriverstrust.org or Sophie van den Bergh at sophie@neneriverstrust.org

All the best from Sophie van den Bergh and the RFV Team.