

Windsor Hill Wood

- a place of refuge since 2011

Summer Newsletter 2025

Rock House, 'Windsor Hill Wood Refuge' in Google maps! Windsor Hill Lane,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 4JE. UK – Charity No. 1174810

TOGETHER; THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENS, THAT'S HOW THIS PLACE WORKS.

'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!' From the old psalm 133 verse 1.



Many months ago the talented April Pebble, who operates out of Rock Farm down the track, was approached to create one of her stained glass window inspirations for a hole in our Retreat (*now* known as The Woodland Workshop & Studio). Our Dutch friend Floor was managing the workshop & studio build at the time and she, and Hez, approached April with the brief.

'Can you create a window that reflects the vast and varied nature of the guests and visitors that come to Windsor Hill Wood? Something that would reflect (or refract) the colourful character and diversity of the community but also the brokenness and the healing centre at the heart of WHW?'

And so April turned to her bucket of rejected pieces of glass, the broken, the unwanted, the

cast out and the outcast; the rough, the splintered, the prickly shards, and she began to bring them together. She gathered, she joined the obscure, the wibbly, the unsure. Slowly, steadily; for this process cannot be rushed, she trimmed and tinkered; scored and cut, and the liminal began to be formed into a circle that worked, a circle of trust and faith, given a new life. And the light shone through.

When this beautiful piece was finished and celebrated it was then up to other skilful volunteers to WHW to put it in place. The hole was irregular to say the least but soon Richard the cunning and clever spied an old broken bucket that would fit the hole and house the window. Once again, the broken was becoming useful again – the wounded healer¹ but more than that, it was simply loved back into place.

That is how WHW works by people pulling together selflessly, with grace, peace and love. The Woodland Workshop and Studio is ready and available for hire please email us at contact@windorhillwood.co.uk for details.

¹ See the Dutch priest Henry Nouwen <https://henrinouwen.org/>

WHW WARDEN DIAGNOSED WITH LEUKAEMIA

And we need to work together like never before. Windsor Hill Wood needs your help like it's not been needed to date. One of the WHW Wardens, Toby is working through the news of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), which is understood to be the reason for the fatigue, migraines and other symptoms over the past year. Now on chemotherapy his symptoms have lessened. CML is an incurable cancer of the blood, but thankfully, due to modern medicines and research the prognosis is that it is possible to live a fairly normal and healthy life for many years.

Usually Toby, being the sole worker with a license for a chainsaw, is preparing the 40 tonnes of wood required for the winter and beyond – we try to work on being two years ahead. In the current situation it has been impossible to manage the woodland for firewood. As a result WHW is looking at autumn and winter with no hot water or central heating powered by the biomass boiler. **Can you help or know anyone that can give us the wood the community needs - for free? e: contact@windsorhillwood.co.uk or contact m: 07305217150 Alternatively: Do you have a valid ticket for chainsawing and can give the time to assist in the woodland? Our insurance requires a valid licence. Please let us know and we can take you through our Health and Safety procedures.**



ASSISTANT WARDEN REQUIRED The most amazing warden, Helen, is holding the woods at this time. We have a number of folks helping but this does still not amount to having an assistant warden. Please contact Helen (or Becks may pick up too!) or any of the trustees for further information about this role – Could it be you, for such a time as this? You will be joining a dedicated team at WHW that truly makes a difference – over the last 22 months four guests have said: **'This place has saved my life. Simply that.'** Sometimes it's just about putting the kettle on and making a brew, but a 'deep magic' happens in this place².

VOLUNTEERS We have been blessed with so many volunteers... Revamping, fixing, sorting, refreshing and replenishing the poly tunnel, the raised beds and the bee shed – roof and window, **lawn cutting**, weeding, **log throwing**, organising the compost, **shifting earth**... You get the picture! Can you help volunteer your time and enthusiasm?! Because we still need more hands! Wednesdays 2.00pm - 4.30pm If so please do contact us at the usual email: contact@windsorhillwood.co.uk

FURTHER HAPPENINGS – A look back through recent months...



Two mighty guests rid the polytunnel of energy sapping tree roots!



Another guest has a well-being session with Douglas the dog

² CS Lewis – The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. Chapt. 15.



We fixed it! Thanks to Rock Farm providing us with the glass, we cut twelve new panes of varying sizes. Toby taught one of our guests how to be a Master Glazer (possibly an exaggeration, but close) clips and fixings replaced and the greenhouse is now housing: tomato plants, **basil**, a chilli plant, **marigolds**, other marvellous things, **even an orange tree** that is now very happy and healthy!



The chickens are laying loads – massive omelettes required!



Douglas overseas the clearing by the Woodland Workshop and Studio on a cool freshly turned patch of earth

As you can see from all these photos the guests, volunteers, folks from the local community continue to benefit from gathering around the table, fixing, being, laughing; perhaps most importantly **learning** how to be brave enough to face some of the issues head-on for why refuge is needed in the first place. Everyone who comes here has a story. This healing can take many years – a lifetime even. Our heartfelt prayer of love, adventure and pilgrimage is the same as the United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) radio crew that goes out over the airwaves – we speak this blessing over you all now taken from Nite Blessings UCB on Instagram.

Blessing

May you be given the ability
To trace the hand of grace
Across your story
May you see the fingerprints of Father God
In the moments of your life
Where you may have thought you were alone
May you be able to notice the ways
In which your Heavenly Father was present as you look back
He is the same yesterday, today and forever
+ Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen

THE FUTURE

A great deal has been accomplished as you can see - some projects yet to be finished, but lots to celebrate – can you help to:

- Provide firewood for the biomass boiler?
- **Provide compost – required 365**
- Provide fencing for the goat field
- **Chop and stack wood**
- Plant some trees
- **Lay a hedge**
- Fell a tree
- **Provide corrugated plastic (or metal) roofing for log stores and out-houses**

To reiterate: The team at WHW is so grateful to all the many volunteers that come on a Wednesday afternoon that have made, baked, cooked full meals, shifted, sorted, lifted, chopped wood, drank tea, eaten biscuits – and been a total integral part of the fabric of so much that is helpful, thank you for all that you give – you give us a great boost!

Giving to the 100 WHW Target – Still scouting for **100 donors to give £10 every month** – thank you we are so grateful – maybe it shouldn't be a surprise that so many guests say that **'This place has saved my life.'** And let's get the word out - **'I didn't even know places like this existed – I'm so glad to be here.'** People coming from off the streets or vulnerable housing are loving being warm and cared for. **Can you join in the giving?** It's equivalent to about two coffees and a cookie a month. Or two large hot chocolates! But it's worth the while.

If you can help, give or volunteer please email: contact@windsorhillwood.co.uk or of course you can find out how to give on our website. <https://www.windsorhillwood.co.uk/support-us>

Hope to see you soon!

Tobes & Hez, and all at Windsor Hill Wood

PS If this time could be summed up in one piece of music it would be this: 'Good Plans' [Live version] 2023 Red Rocks Worship, Album 'Ascend' buy and/or watch here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6Zipfa6B0> Play loud.



Kettle's always on at WHW – contact us for a visit...

Windsor Hill Wood, Sort code: 30-99-29 Acc.No: 24939960 //
Overseas BIC: LOYDGB21398 IBAN: GB97 LOYD 3099 2924 9399 60

Donations go towards: Guest therapy, hospitality, renovations – exciting plans coming up for 2025-2026 - give here or please ask us for more information. We are happy to arrange a visit and a tour with a cup of welcome.

<https://www.windsorhillwood.co.uk/support-us>
<https://www.facebook.com/windsorhillwoodrefugesomerset/>
<https://www.instagram.com/windsorhillwoodrefuge/>



Suggested Action points:

This is how I can help and support WHW...

- **Pray**
- Like and share all our posts from Instagram to everywhere
- **and Facebook too – send to friends and any interested party.**
- Tell your friends
- **Invite us to come and talk to your business / charity / project**
- Offer time on a Wednesday to fix, tidy, sort, clean... 2–4.30 (Break at 3pm with biscuits and often cake!)
- **Keep praying**
- Raise monies for us
- **Do a sponsored hike to John O’Groats for WHW – and back?!**
- Give monthly...
- **Gift Aid it...**
- Brain storm it – Mind Map it... ☺
- **And...**