

A decade in Kaliwoods 2014-2024

June 16th 2024



Welcome all to Kaliwoods

Before we begin a bit of housekeeping

We will be progressing around the wood, stopping at 10 Stations of the Wood. There are chairs at every station for those who need to rest. You are welcome to peel off and meet us at the Cabin if it becomes too much!

The ground is uneven, take care

There are labels and pencils for you to record any of your memories and hang on the hornbeam at the end. Welcome to pick up a label here.

Toilets - Clive and Clarissa are within the woods, Clive behind the static van, and Clarissa behind the Cabin. Instructions inside.

Suzanne Arnold - will you open open and close our celebration.

10 stations

Station 1 - AUCTION 2014 - IF NOT NOW WHEN

Auction Gavel, Sale Particulars, For Sale sign

Station 2 COPPICE and WOODWORK 10 year

Saw, Billhock, Book Oliver Rackham, Bucket, dumper digger

Station 3 CABIN 2014/5/6/7

Drawknife

Station 4 Visitors and teachers 2015

Exhibition People, photographs, Poems

EXHIBITION - My teachers and wood visitors with gifts

Station 5 Kinda Forest School

KFS 8 Directions, KFS Leon banner, KE banner new,

EXHIBITION: Photographs of Kinda through the years

Station 6 Solar System in the Woods

Each planet story, ISW, Mnemonic,

Station 7 COVID leading to ELDERS, KFFS, Woodsisters

Tapestry, Elder books (Pear Tree), Trees, bunting

EXHIBITION - Images of BENDER making

KALLY/NICKY - Moss, Elements , Oak gall ink, Spurtles, Weaving, Senses, Trees, Sex

It's a wrap! Puppets, Bender opening, Simonne, Squares, shared lunch

EXHIBITION: Family Forest School / Woodsisters

Station 8 - Compassionate Communities - Time in our Life

Posters for each event, costume of fire pixie

EXHIBITION - poster of each event

Station 9 Theatre and events to the wood

Poster of each event

EXHIBITION Images of events/posters / newspaper

Station 10 Wood to Land

Plan for land, photographs of moments

EXHIBITION - a year on the field

Station 1 - AUCTION 2014 - IF NOT NOW WHEN

Auction Gavel, Sale Particulars, For Sale sign

What led up to this moment?

It started some time before:

I'd been in some wilderness years, searching for a home, rootless after India.

Not a family home, I had no family

Not in Metfield or India, that was behind me. So where? and what?

I was adrift, so I see I went further adrift, I went on the road.

Halesworth to Istanbul and almost Syria. 9 months on the road.

I came back in December, and came back with this phrase:

IF NOT NOW, WHEN

I found and lost two woods, then THIS came up at Auction.

I walked around the wood with Kit, a friend: What's the worst that can happen? she asked. Nothing, I said.

Julia, dressed in her cool leather trousers, came with me to the Clark and Simpson auction in Seckford Hall.

LEON /ACTIONEER - AUCTION EVENT

Lot 3. A parcel land. Just over 5 acres. Lovely piece of arable land. Who will start me at 30,000?

30,000

35,000 / 40,000 / 45,000. Any more offers? 45,000 going; 45,000 going; gone.

Name please?

BO Rachel Kellett

28 Days later when the final payment was made, I took a bottle of champagne and with Kali, sat beside the ponds wondering about this adventure. As Kali played with the champagne cork, I wondered where this adventure would lead.

Station 2 COPPICE and WOODWORK 10 year

Saw, Billhock, Book Oliver Rackham, Bucket, dumper digger

Paul Jackson, who I'd known for some years, came to the wood that first winter of 2014 and has come every year since, to work the wood and above all bring back the coppice cycle.

While Paul is my woodland teacher, Oliver Rackham is my book teacher. His book, A History of Countryside published in 1986 is inspiring. He was born in Bungay 1939 and died 2015.

LEON / OLIVER RACKHAM

This wood was planted (around 1900) as an OAK NUTTERY, oak with Hazel. Both are plants of UTILITY: the oak for timber building, the hazel for thatching, stakes, binders, fencing and heating

By coppice, I mean, cut the hazel to its base. The single stem becomes multiple stems, enlarging to what is called the COPPICE STOOL. A nuttury is traditionally re-coppiced every 7 to 10 years.

Coppicing is the oldest form of woodland management and has been practised since the stone age. The ancient trackway, The Sweet Track in the Somerset Levels, dates back to 3,000BC, and was built with coppiced wood. Coppicing died out relatively recently after WW1. Many coppice woods were grubbed out or neglected and are often referred to as 'overstood' in this state.

RK This wood was OVERSOOD when we arrived in 2014. Paul, how did we start?

LEON PAUL JACKSON

Over the 10 years we have bought back the coppice cycle, and this year completed the coppice of the entire wood, along with a bit of hedge laying using a BILLHOCK

In 2014 - we cleared the Southern Boundary, lifted the oaks around the pond, layered the blackthorn hedge. WE LET IN LIGHT

9 PEOPLE

In 2015 we coppiced the NORTHERN boundary, laying the hazel, MAKING THE ROAD SAFE

In 2016 We coppiced the WESTERN boundary, laying a double hedge SECURING THE BOUNDARY

In 2017 We coppiced the WESTERN side around the static van

In 2018 We continued coppicing the WESTERN side around where Kinda Forest School were to start

In 2019 we coppiced around the Cabin area and SOUTHERN boundary

In 2020 we coppiced EAST SIDE working north of the cabin towards the only Yew tree

In 2021 Sam, who was Locked down in the woods, coppiced all the SOUTHERN side

In 2022 we coppiced EAST of the cabin making our way towards the road

2023 we coppiced EAST, we made it to the road

PAUL JACKSON

This year, 2024 we coppiced the whole NORTH WEST, a massive 5 days work, with Jo and Natasha

But we started in the south, not only to let in light, but to open up the ponds. They were dark and almost hidden.

MOVE TO POND

RK/BO This was the oldest part of the wood, on a map of 1600. I called the well known contractor Mark Woolnaugh:

RK: So Mark, what do you think? How much will this cost? How long will it take?

Mark Woolnaugh: How long? I reckon it'll take 2-3 days to frighten these ponds

Child:How do you frighten? Boooooo!

Mark Woolnaugh: Not that easy! First we need to empty them...

Child: I've got a bucket?

Mark Woolnaugh: We'll need something a bit bigger than that! We will need a pump and a generator to make it work. Then I'll send in Tim and Kevin on diggers, to scrap

out the muck and find the blue clay liner. It'll cost a bit. When shall we start? It will take 2-3 days, cost a bit of money.

RK: Ah well IF NOT NOW WHEN? I'd better get it done.

We found all sorts in the ponds, including a frying pan and a spade.

Turn away from pond to CABIN

Station 3 CABIN 2014/5/6/7

Drawknife

RK In 2014 At a party at Graham Elliots

LEVON / GRAHAM: So what have you been up to Paul?

PAUL: Well I've been working in Rachel's wood. Yes, she's just bought a 5 acre wood. Eventually she'd like to build a cabin in it, may be out of the wood from the wood.

LEVON / GRAHAM: I've never built a cabin. This sounds like a perfect new project for me; the Lido is running smoothly as is Beccles Public Hall. I need a new project. I like doing things I've never done before..

PAUL: We neither have I ever built a cabin. Shall we work together?

RK I wasn't planning to build a cabin yet. I didn't have the money. But Paul said: Do it now. IF NOT NOW WHEN. How right he was. I borrowed the money.

PAUL JACKSON

The first stage was to find and fell enough oak trees. We found 12, most of which were dead. We gave them names depending on their situation:

The Awkward/ Unfortunate / Magnificent / Unexpected / The first

JIM DYE arrived with his mobile bansaw setting up where the static van is now, and he cut the oaks to a cutting list, the pieces left to air dry beside the ponds.

RK I had to get permission to build a cabin. Thanks to LES MADEN, PAUL ENGLAND, and perhaps most surprisingly, East Suffolk Planning Officer, RICHARD ARMOUR. And in 2016 work began under the direction of Graham and Paul. Many helped including TURK, JO, MJ, and RICO. Graham always arrived early, to set up.

LEVON GRAHAM 'Of all the tools I have used to make this cabin, it's the draw knife I like the best

Graham died a year after the Cabin was built in 2018. There is a memorial to him along with a photo story of the building of the cabin inside the CABIN

But before that, in 2017 December 10th, for my 60th Birthday, we had an official opening ceremony for the Cabin. Tess sang for us as we walked with fire flares from the entrance through the wood and around the cabin.

Station 4 Visitors and teachers 2015

Exhibition People, photographs, Poems

As we walk in the opposite direction, towards our next Woodstation, Tess will play for us now.

But just before Tess begins, I'd like to introduce you to Wood Station 4: These are the people who have been my teachers over the 10 years. Some of them are along the path to Wood Station no 5 - our half way point.

First of course is Paul who gave me the confidence to buy the wood in the first place

One of the early wood owners I met was DAVID MITCHELL, who said

DAVID MITCHELL "The best part of owning a wood, is sharing it"

TESS music

EXHIBITION - My teachers and wood visitors with gifts

HALF WAY - FUNERAL ceremony for DAYNA the cat, Jal and Gobi MJ and Jo's dogs

Martin Wolfe - Wakelyns AgroForestry: Biodiversity, a different way of working the land

East Anglian Coppice Network, a loose collection of coppice workers. Eddie and Hugo, two massive horses, came to the wood for one of our meetings

Sid Cooper from the Forestry Commission QUOTE

David Mitchel, ex Forestry Commission, who bought his wood 25 years ago, exactly my age: "The best part of owning a wood, is sharing it"

Photographers

- Bill Jackson
- Stephen Wolfendon
- Pete Smith

Writers, Toms writing group

Nat Bocking installed a Geocache into the hollow of the hornbeams

Alan from Wenhaston who taught me how to lay a hedge using a billhock

Neil Mahler to investigate fungi. He famously found a candlebre fungus at Holton Hall Park not seen since 1896

People died - Bob and David Bowie in 2017. Graham in 2018

Dogs and cats died and were buried in the wood: Dayna the cat, Jal MJ's dog, Gobi, Jo's dog

Dogs arrived - Bobji in 2017, Brow in 2023

Station 5 Kinda Forest School

KFS 8 Directions, KFS Leon banner, KE banner new,

REFRESHMENTS

I always knew I wanted to share the wood, but I wasn't certain how.

I cannot remember how Abi came to the wood, but she did, and started a small Forest School, near the ponds. She left unexpectedly. I missed the children.

On the phone

RK: Hi Mell, you don't know me, but I see you on Facebook, I see you grieving for your friend, and I see you are a forest school teacher. Can we meet?

MELL I arranged to meet Rachel and of course...she was late, so I walked in alone into the wood, the trees whispered welcomes and the sun was warm on my face. Kali arrived first, with Rachel behind. She made me chai in the cabin and we sat on the bench looking into the 'south field' which at the time was full of just one arable plant. We spoke of grief as we had both recently lost people we deeply loved. Bob and Gael. In effect these two deaths brought us together. Rachel is good at making chai and discovering people's dreams, she asked me what my vision was. I said a multi generational nature based community. The words were spoken and as if by magic the dream began to grow. The Missing Kind gave us our seed money, £6,000. We were away.

ELOISE: What is Forest School? Permaculture ????

Forest school has 6 core principles

- It is a long term process
- It takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment,
- It is risky
- It is led by qualified practitioners
- It is holistic
- It is child led

Like Permaculture, we have 3 ethics

People care, fair share, Earth care.

When you throw a pebble in the water, these beautiful ripples are created, circles moving outwards getting bigger and bigger until they merge and flow again with the whole. Both Forest school and permaculture are like these ripples. Some days the

water might be calm , other days super choppy and even tsunami-y but all are held by incredible people who have the deepest love for what they do.

KYM: We came to the wood, looking for where to set up. There was a space between the trees here, perfect for a fire, the centre of course. Somewhere near here we found the photograph of Levon, with his back to the camera, looking out into the wood: possibilities.

LOUISA: We started with 4 directors, 3 of were facilitators, and we worked with a dozen Home Educated children, one day, morning, afternoon and evening.

We now have on our books, 40 facilitators, 100 children

Then we had a vision of 8 directions in the wheel of Kinda.

Today we offer Alternative Provision, Home Ed, Flexi Schooling

Elders on a Thursday

Forest Family on a Saturday

Wood Sisters on a Saturday

MARTIN: What it's like being a Director - Interviewing, hearth keeper

BO/RK One of our projects took us to SPACE - follow me.

EXHIBITION: Photographs of Kinda through the years

Station 6 Solar System in the Woods

Each planet story, ISW, Mnemonic,

Ever wish you could visit other planets in our solar system without launching on a deep-space mission? Here in the woodland you can! Space was our 2019 to 2020 project, and culminated in a sol e lumier show, that never quite happened with its full flare, due to an event on 19th March 2020.

We built a scaled size solar system in the woods. By scaled, scaled to size not distance - for Pluto would be in Southwold or Wales. So Earth is 33 centimeters and Jupiter is 3 and a half meters. The full scale size is [HERE](#)

Point to CHART

LEON AS BO

For us to remember the planet order we learned our MONICA's or Mnemonics
Many Very Educated Men Just Screwed Up Nature (Perhaps)
Mells VW Engine Might Just Stoop Us Not Parking

Jupiter has taken a bit of a bashing, and Saturn needs to get up, and Uranus got broken in a storm, but you can read a bit about them beside each one.

That's enough Bo

DON'T STOP ME NOW

As I said the planed sol e lumier show never quite happened, as on 19th March 2020, COVID arrived.....

MOVE TO In front of Summer house

Station 7 COVID leading to ELDERS, KFFS, Woodsisters

Tapestry, Elder books (Pear Tree), Trees, bunting

COVID, yes, we locked down, and like many discovered ZOOMING.
We studied a tree a week.

The first tree to bloom is the wild plum
I cannot hear you. You're on MUTE Press the speaker button

But something great came out of COVID. We received funding to start our
ELDERS project. Another spoke in our WHEEL

We will pass under a hazel bender Elders made. Here, directed by the
magnificent NAOMI ROCHFORD who joined us for a whole year, we
celebrated our bender building with some Shakespear. Images of that event
are pinned around the hazel bender.

MOVE UNDER BENDER TO NEW FOREST SCHOOL SITE

Make me a willow cabin at your gate
And call upon my soul within the house,
Write loyal cantons of contemnèd love,
And sing them loud even in the dead of night;
Hallow your name to the reverberate hills,
And make the babbling gossip of the air
Cry out 'Olivia!' O, you should not rest
Between the elements of air and earth
But you should pity me.

EXHIBITION - Images of BENDER making

FOREST SCHOOL SITE

RK Now it it's 4th year, Elders was started with a core team led by SHONA,
with KALLY and ME. JO and NICKY and LESLEY joined us over the time.

SHONA: What did we get up to? We played games, we wove a tapestry, Twice, we
learned to TAP with NAOMI. We made a poem with DEAN

DEAN READS IT's a CATHEDRAL

SIMONNE -

Kisses Bo, many times and disappears

**KALLY/NICKY - Moss, Elements , Oak gall ink, Spurtles, Weaving, Senses, Trees, Sex
It's a wrap! Puppets, Bender opening, Simonne, Squares, shared lunch**

SONG In Kaliwood by Caroline Gay Way

WOODSISTERS started.....

FOREST SCHOOL FAMILY started

EXHIBITION: Family Forest School / Woodsisters

Station 8 - Compassionate Communities - Time in our Life

Posters for each event, costume of fire pixie

2023 was our Compassionate Communities year. Kinda worked with the Pear Tree at the time run by the great Kevin Vaughan

KEVIN VAUGHAN The Pear Tree Fund and Kinda Education, through the umbrella of Compassionate Communities, ran a year long project inviting people to Kaliwoods and the Pear Tree Centre to talk and walk around the ideas of love, life and end of life. Called 'Time in our Life'

embraced death and dying, aptly starting at Samhain, the time to recall on our ancestors, when the veil between life and the death thin.

We welcomed in Phillip Carr Gomm, founder of The Order of Bards Ovates and Druids, who opened our first Samhain ceremony for us

PHILLIP: Lets sense in to the earth here. We sense the healing power of the earth. How the trees roots are all connected, this wonderful mycellium network beneath our feet, this community of life. We sense the moisture in the earth, being drawn up through the trunks of the trees. So we sense the presence of the trees around us, the guardian spirits, in particular the oaks that are here. Like the trees, we breath in the energy of the sky. The energy of the sky meets the energy of the earth.

We have come here on a pilgrimage, to Kaliwoods, to be among the trees, the stories they have witnessed and will witness. To be among each other, who seemingly randomly have rocked up here, at this time in this place.

We welcome in our ancestors and give to the fire: Salt, honey, bread and wine
Our ancestors – human and animal – are welcomed in.

KEVIN

With events throughout the year, both in the woods and in the Pear Tree, we had a blast, and opened up these often sticky feelings

At SOLSTICE - we toured the solar system led by Sir Patrick Moore - Michael Imison

At EQUINOX - we chose our Woodland Island Discs

At BELTANE - we danced around the Maypole

We had a Socratic Dialogue asking and exploring the question why do we find it difficult to talk about death

At Equinox we had the Funeral of a Fire Pixie

At SAMHAIN - Suzanne came and closed our year long celebration

EXHIBITION - poster of each event

Station 9 Theatre and events to the wood

Poster of each event

Thorington is not the only place for woodland theatre

EXHIBITION Images of events/posters / newspaper

In 2019 Becky bought Edgar Sewter children to the woods for a day of wood exploration

In 2020 Alys K, The Wonderful Beast, performed the The Last Woodwose

In 2021 Upshoot Theatre performed the aptly named INTO THE WOODS and in 2022, they returned with the GARDEN THEATRE

In 2021 Mini Mouth Theatre performed MID SUMMES NIGHTS DREAM

Halesworth dining club came for dinner to the woods. I prepared a long table, candles, white table cloth, best silver etc. Feeling enthusiastic, I said, let me walk you around the pond.

SPASH

Armoral fell in. She was rescued by John. She went home, changed, and came straight back to enjoy the evening meal.

In Cosmo and Lucky, the Indian Runners, arrived and survived for about 10 days in the wood

Let's follow them to the final station, Station no 10

Station 10 Wood to Land

Plan for land, photographs of moments

The land was born out of loss. I wasn't brave enough to buy Valley View, it would have stretched me, I the risk taker, dithered.

So I walked passed my regret every day on my way to the wood.

Until one day, I called the farmer, Alan and asked him if he had any land to sell.

I asked the advice of 4 people who all came to the land:

They said

LEON: Bite of his hand

IF NOT NOW WHEN!

When I was young, I wanted to marry a farmer. As it happens, all of men I had a relationship with tended to be intellectual, very few had wellington boots.

I realised I had become the farmer I wanted to marry.

There is an exhibition of some moments over the last 2 years of the field

SUZANNE, will you lead us in a blessing of the land and to the end of our progression.

EXHIBITION - a year on the field

Planting the hedgerow with Elders and children

Sowing seeds

Pond made by Crispin and SWT

MJ and RK on a tractor

Plan for the land

The END