

# the wild wood



The Word Hoard was commissioned by Kirklees Countryside Unit to deliver a series of creative workshops aimed at raising people's awareness of T.P. Woods, Gledholt, Huddersfield.

A section from *The Wind In The Willows*, read at the beginning of each session, was followed by a discussion on some of the issues raised i.e. being alone in the wood, what kind of creatures inhabit woods. This gave the opportunity to focus participants on looking and listening, paying attention to the environment in terms of real detail, for example, different birdsong, but also thinking about how a tree might appear to have a face.

Participants were given the choice to work alone or in groups to make something inspired by Mole's, and their own experience, of being in the wood. Participants were allowed to use anything they found on the site, natural or man-made, but they weren't allowed to destroy anything that was alive.



At the end of the sessions, participants came together to view each other's work and talk about what they'd made. What was said formed the basis for text used on the final postcards of their work.

Everyone who took part enjoyed being on-site, even on the coldest and wettest day, and felt there was enough freedom within the structure for them to respond as they wished, and though the age range varied from 2-50+, everyone participated meaningfully.

"I enjoyed it so much I want to come again"

"I liked making the sculptures and looking at what other people had made"

"I liked listening to the story"

"Getting the kids outside learning, using their senses and exploring"

**If you are interested in getting involved in projects similar to this, please contact us at:**

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