



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

## **The Spirit of Skipton Castle Woods Story Book Installation The Woodland Trust**



The Woodland Trust commissioned a medieval story book for Skipton Castle Woods aimed at children aged 4-11. The fiction based story & illustrations were made into an installation (an oversized wooden covered book with waterproof paper) attached to a hand-made oversized storytelling chair installed in Skipton Castle Woods. The story is based around three children that travel back in time down a changing staircase and meet the dying spirit of the woods and a foolish Baron who have been tricked by Terwickety a Tree Witch living in the wood. The children set off on an epic journey to restore the spirit of the woods before Terwickety drains it for her magic spells to become Queen of the woods

The storybook will later become a play that will take place across the woods and be performed by Rusticus a travelling theatre company, it will also feature in the Woodland Trust Book Shop and in Skipton Castle Shop.

## **The Embankment Kids & Tin Bridge Gang Interpretation Boards Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, Goldthorpe**



An old disused railway embankment was turned into a wildlife haven for the local community of Goldthorpe to engage in and enjoy. Nature House was commissioned to create a resource for local schools mainly for fun but with an element of learning to help engage local children drawn from this highly deprived area. Four story interpretation boards were designed as a Story trail that took the Tin Bridge Gang, a group of local children, on an exciting journey of wildlife discovery and adventure where they are rescued by Finch and Robin, two natural residents that live on the Embankment. Local school children contributed their ideas to the story which was then written and illustrated for interpretation use, nature based activities were designed to engage the children within the story, the land and its local history.



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

## **The Rhinoceros Vase and the Changed Pattern Adventure Trail & Resource**

**Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, Rotherham**



Rotherham council commissioned Nature House to create a bespoke fictional story to promote and engage people in the local history of Waterloo Pottery kiln and its site encouraging young families to visit and interact with the site, learn about nature, it's history and its famous Rockingham Pottery that had been made there during the 1800's. A fictional story was created around a young Victorian girl who worked as a painter in one of the pottery painting rooms who after breaking the famous Rhinoceros vase meets the magical griffin of Rockingham who together go on a journey to retrieve pieces of the broken treasure.

This commission also included the outline design of two interpretation panels incorporating the story, story activity design, hand illustrations of a story including wild flowers of the site, the Rockingham Griffin and Rhinoceros vase. An outline design for an online historically accurate pottery making game was also created, to extend the activity and increase knowledge about the site for distant learning purposes for schools and families.

## **Leo & the Dragon's Keep**

### **Leaflet based Trail**

**Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership, Conisbrough**



Dearne Valley Partnership commissioned Nature House to create a fun fictional and but historically relevant medieval themed resource to encourage children to play out in the woodland site of Conisbrough Mill Piece, opposite Conisbrough Castle Keep (an England Heritage site). Nature House created a story based on Leo a young boy knight who was faced with the dilemma of whether to slay a dragon or not and encompassed the moral of 'power with' rather than 'power over' linking with the true history of the Castle Keep opposite the woods. The story resource was interpreted as a leaflet, story boxes and sculptures. The leaflet included designing a hand illustrated story map showing story stops and captions and detailed story linked activities along the route. Story related wooden sculptures were to be made by a local woodsman and installed at a later date.



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

## The Water Babies Story Trail

### The National Trust

The National Trust commissioned Nature House to create a high detail Story Trail based on Charles Kingsley's book 'The Water Babies.'



This well-known story is said to have been inspired by Malham Tarn and the local North Yorkshire countryside and Charles Dickens, whose theory of evolution is woven into the storyline, it was believed that he stayed at the hunting lodge at the Tarn.

This Story Trail, an interpretation of the book the Water Babies, was designed both for families and as a cross curricula resource for primary school visits. The commission required that the story be condensed and interpreted into a Story Trail with key stopping and activity points for all to enjoy along a suitable established route that reflected the storyline. The Trail included a high detail story for reading and storytelling purpose, a lower detail self-led Story Trail booklet and Key Stage 2 Story Activity Sheet, Illustration work, hand illustrated Story Trail map and creation of the published Trail, downloadable and printed versions.

## Clifford & the Mysterious Egg Story Trail

Go Walking, Keighley Healthy Living,

Cliffe Castle Conservation Group



Nature house was commissioned to write a fictional bespoke story and trail by a consortium of clients who wanted to encourage families and children to visit Cliffe Castle park whilst promoting walking and adding interest to the park and museum. It was part of a wider project which included a large redevelopment of the park itself.

Nature House consulted with broad range of local people and groups including local park users and schools to design and write the bespoke fictional story which was to reflect the mill history, people and multi-cultural nature of Keighley over the Victoria time to present day. A story was created based around Clifford a small adventurous mouse and his family who have lived in the old mill owners castle for as long as they can remember. One day, Clifford decides to venture out of Big Doors into the Park where he is



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

greeted the outdoors and a giant egg resting in the Old Bread Oven. Meeting the creature that is hatched, Clifford helps the friendly dragon find his confidence at the Band Stand and finally come to rest on the roof of the old castle museum.

Outputs included consultation documents, story, trail route, interactive story linked activities, story trail leaflet including illustrations & story map and storytelling at a launch event.

## Lost in the Park

go!walking



## Friends of Devonshire Park, Keighley

Keighley Healthy Living and the Friends of Devonshire Park commissioned Nature House to design and illustrate a story for the Park which holds an arboretum of unusual trees and has a strong local Victorian history. The story was based on a story workshop run with two groups of KS2 children from one of the local primary schools.

Two commissions have evolved from the baseline line story:

- The creation of a highly illustrated children's story with trail aimed at families with children age 5-11 with the aim of increasing visitor numbers to the Park and encourage local families to get outside and walk.
- The creation of an interactive story tree trail for use by teacher's as an engaging and imaginative KS2 resource with the aim of getting local children more active and encouraging cross curriculum learning through nature and trees.

Both of these projects are still in development with the family trail due to be completed by March 2020.



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

## Janet Queen of the Fairies Story Trail

**The National Trust**

**Janet's Foss**

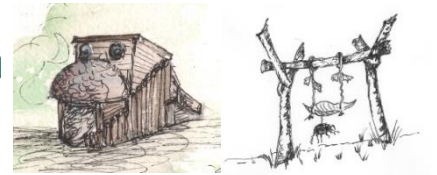


The National Trust commissioned Nature House to write a bespoke fictional story for a well-known route through the National Trust & Yorkshire Dales National Park land, finishing at Janet's Foss waterfall. The story was to evoke the feel and spirit of the fairy kingdom and its link to the land. The story and trail was developed for telling purposes during family events and for primary educational visits. The brief included creating fictional characters and a high detail bespoke fictional story for the route, illustrations relating to the route and the storyline and the creation of story resources.

## The Secret Guardians Story Trail

**Royal Horticultural Society**

**Harlow Carr**



RHS Harlow Carr commissioned Nature House to write a bespoke fictional story that would link to a Big Friendly Giant willow sculpture on show in the gardens. Nature House wrote, designed and developed a fictional story that took visiting children on a magical journey around the garden to explore unvisited places and take part in interactive activities linked to the story. Key outputs included story, simple story illustrations, story icons and activities, establishment of story trail route & design and illustration of the story trail map along with shortened story Information boards.



# Story Resource Portfolio 2019

## The Woolly Bike Trail

### SELFA & Yarndale Festival



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



The Woolly Bike Trail was commissioned by the SELFA (Skipton Extended Learning for All) & the Yarndale Festival and funded by the Arts Council. Nature House designed the low detail Story Trail linking Yarndale (Skipton's Knitting Festival) and Skipton Castle Woods. The Trail evolved from a series of knitting workshops where primary school children knit-bombed bikes that were then installed in a temporary Trail around the Skipton Woods. The outline story of Ragged Robin was developed to encourage the development of an interactive story that those who followed the Trail could contribute to through social media. The brief included, creating key story character, basic storyline and illustrations, creation of the Trail map, installation of the Trail and set up of the interactive Story development.

## Walk N Learn

### Keighley Healthy Living & Go Walking



Keighley Healthy Living commissioned Nature House to write a fictional story that could be used as a walk and learn pocket resource for use in any local green space in Keighley by teachers targeting both KS1 & KS2.

The story line and characters were created through consultation workshops with two groups of children from two local primary schools in Keighley. The outline story and story activities have now been created and additional funding is being secured to develop the full resource.

## Magdalena's Magic Touch Story

### Client: Natural England



A bespoke short fictional story was written for Natural England to incorporate an enchanting fictional character, the natural history and wildflower diversity at Ribbleshead Quarry Nature Reserve. The short story was designed for storytelling purposes only for events and promotions.