

embercombe

inspiring committed action for a truly sustainable world

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Friends Working Weekends

Embercombe Friends Working Weekends happen monthly and we gratefully welcome anyone who would like to come along and volunteer their enthusiasm, expertise, or simply just a willing pair of hands, to help in both seasonal and on-going work at Embercombe. Over a weekend of working on the land, cooking, eating and sharing, we create a community of people who nourish the place and each other.

What you will be a part of

- A community of like-minded people who are affirming their connection to the land and what it holds for us
- Purposeful activity that has personal meaning and benefits both you, our community and the mission of our charity
- An opportunity for families to work together, benefiting from all that Embercombe has to offer
- The sharing of stories around our camp fires
- Shared skills and knowledge
- Creativity and artistic beauty
- Preparing food: from harvesting, chopping, cooking, eating, enjoying, and the washing up!
- The tasks that support day to day living

Dates for 2009

24th and 25th Jan

14th and 15th Feb (C)

14th and 15th Mar

11th and 12th Apr (Sunday: Spring Festival)

13th and 14th Jun

9th and 10th May (C)

11th and 12th Jul (Haymaking weekend*)

21,22,23, 24 Aug (Summer Celebration)

12th and 13th Sep (C)

10th and 11th Oct (Sunday: Apple, Pizza +Pumpkin day)

31st Oct and 1st Nov (Saturday night: Fire Festival)

21st and 22nd Nov (Saturday: Deer Appreciation & Feast) (C)

19th and 20th Dec (Friday night: Winter Party)

*weather dependent. (C) indicates Embercombe Council sit this weekend

Getting here

Embercombe is located just outside Exeter looking towards the Dartmoor National Park. We are a very manageable 2.25 hour train journey from London Paddington. If driving, the M5/A38 passes just 10 minutes from our doors.

We encourage car sharing and if you feel that you could offer someone a lift please leave details of your departure place and time with the office when you book. You can also use: **www.freewheelers.co.uk/Embercombe**

We will arrange a pickup from Exeter St Davids Train Station on the Friday evening, please let the office know so we can book this for you, and there will be a drop off back there on the Sunday evening at a time convenient to the majority, most likely to leave Embercombe a little before 16.00 and reach the station for trains departing after 16.30.

When you enter Embercombe we request that you ensure that the gate is fully latched behind you to ensure that the deer don't enter. The whole site is fenced to protect the crops.

Arriving and departing

You can come for the whole weekend, or drop in for a few hours.

You are welcome to arrive after 5pm on the Friday evening to give yourself time to settle in to Embercombe. On arrival please introduce yourself to one of the weekend coordinators and they will direct you to your yurt. There is usually some breadmaking to participate in and dinner will be available. The weekend starts with a gathering on the Saturday morning at 9am when we introduce ourselves and tasks are discussed and allocated.

For late arrivals there will be a message on the notice board to advise you who and where the weekend coordinators will be on the land. The weekend will finish by 6pm on the Sunday and we ask you to vacate the site then, unless by prior arrangement, to allow the weekend's coordinators to ensure the site is tidy for the next event.

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in yurts, or alternatively you can bring your own tent. The yurts all have wood burning stoves so are very cosy, in all weathers, but in the winter months be aware that if you let the stove go out during the night it will get cold. Bedding is not provided so bring a good sleeping bag, pillow and pillow case or bring a single duvet cover, single sheet and duvet.

If you are unable to bring bedding we can provide bedding for a fee of £10 to cover the cost of laundry. We do ask that any bedding provided is not used on the land.

In order to maintain the yurts in good condition, to encourage safety and adhere to fire regulations, we ask that you

- Remove shoes before entering
- Do not smoke
- No naked flames

Wood burning stoves can be lit at any time and there is plenty of kindling and wood. The stoves can get very hot so please be mindful of children and be sure not to put items on or around the stoves.

On departure do not remove the ash from the stove but please replenish the wood basket and leave the yurt as you would wish to find it.

What else to bring

- Towel
- Equipment - torch (head torches are particularly useful), camera (plenty of opportunities), musical instruments
- Toiletries – we are on a septic tank so please ensure that you use toiletries that are eco-friendly and easily biodegradable.

Please! – Do not bring dogs (except guide dogs). Thank you.

Food

We will ask for volunteers to help prepare the food - and the clearing up!

We provide all of the food, this makes it easier for you and helps keep down the amount of packaging used because we use organic seasonal produce out of our garden and the rest is bought in bulk.

We ask you to contribute per day

- £5 per adult (age 13 and above)
- £3 per child (age 6 to 12)
- £2 per young child (age 2 to 6)

If this is a problem to your pocket there is a concessionary rate, on request, of £3, £2 and £1 respectively

For this we will provide:

Breakfast – Teas/Coffee

Oats

Bread (Wheat/Spelt/Rye)

Butter/Non Dairy Margarine

Marmite/Honey

Muesli/Cornflakes

Lunch – Soup, Bread, Salad

Dinner – Rice Quinoa/Pasta/Potatoes
Vegetables
Seeds/Pulses
Salad
Pudding/Cake

Children and Child Care

Children are integral to the spirit of Embercombe so whilst their primary care lies with their parents or guardians, their wellbeing is also considered the responsibility of all those who are present around the children and we give the utmost consideration to their enjoyment and involvement. At the beginning of the day we will organise those present to ensure that the children are properly supervised and cared for at all times.

Embercombe has a lake on site, with the inherent dangers of deep water and we therefore ask that no children go there unsupervised.

Smoking and Alcohol

All buildings and yurts are designated no smoking areas and we ask that you smoke only around the fire pit located in each yurt village and the one by the dining yurt.

We request that the consumption of alcohol is in moderation and only at evening mealtimes and after tools have been put away and worked ceased. We also ask you not to drink in any of the accommodation provided.

Tools and Machinery

Part of some of the tasks you may be asked to perform may include the use of machinery, for which you will be given full training, though there maybe some machinery that you will only be able to use with the appropriate certificate.

Tools and machinery cannot at any time be used when under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you are taking prescribed medication which might affect your use of these please inform the appointed volunteer representative.

Reporting Accidents

An appointed First Aider will be present at all times during your visit and a comprehensive First Aid kit is available in the dining yurt. All accidents will be recorded in an accident book.

Want to come? Contact us

Please book in plenty of time as yurt space is limited.

Please let the office know your arrival day and approximate time of arrival and also if it is your first visit, so that we can ensure that you have all the details of what you will be required to bring.

**To book: contact Clare at the office:
01647 25298 clare@embercombe.co.uk**

**To find out more about being on our weekends:
contact Johannes Moeller:
01647 25298 Johannes@embercombe.co.uk**