



Greening Wymondham

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January 2023

Introduction

Whilst Greening Wymondham have been quite busy since March, we have been trying to inform Wymondham-ites of our activities through the Wymondham Magazine - but on writing a piece for this months magazine, there was too much material and it struck us that since our last newsletter was in March 2022, it might be better to do our own Newsletter to share so that more topics were included. One or two of the topics have already been written about in the Wymondham Magazine - so if it looks familiar, feel free to skip over that article.

Some quick one liners, our Litter Pick in September had a similar support to previous ones and we really appreciated being hosted by the Baptist Church. Some of our members have continued supporting the work days at the Lizard (hence we've included their work dates with our list of dates) and we have had various activities where we have linked with other community groups, like Wymondham-in-Bloom, Dementia Cafe and WI. The Vegipod (at the back of the White Hart) may have produce needing harvesting, so please visit this and help yourselves to anything ready.

Rothbury Park

Tony Fielder

Greening Wymondham have been working with a Landscape Architect on a new plan for Rothbury Park, including a path, better disabled access and play opportunities and much more tree planting. There will be a **public consultation with an exhibition in the Rothbury Community Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 11th February 2023, between 2-4 pm.** This will be an opportunity for local residents and those using the park to discuss the draft plan with Greening Wymondham members. The exhibition will then move to Wymondham Library before presentation to the Town Council.

Becketswell Park

Ann Rostron

Following a meeting between Greening Wymondham members and the Mayor at the Park, the Town Council has resolved that Becketswell Park should be assessed by ecology specialists, tree surgeons and landscape designers to draw up detailed proposals for improvements to the Park. The Mayor said that he looks forward to working with Greening Wymondham to produce a master plan on which the public can be consulted.

Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan

The Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan is about to go to a referendum of Wymondham residents, organised by South Norfolk Council. We need the support of all Greening Wymondham sympathisers who live in the town, so please watch out for this, and use your vote! This can be found at www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/emerging-neighbourhood-plans-south-norfolk/wymondham-neighbourhood-plan

Forthcoming Dates

(*Note - there are some events - not organised by GW but which we still thought you may wish to know)

- 21st Jan - Browick Road Orchard Sat 10am - Noon
- 24th Jan - Ketts Park Woodland Day Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 25th Jan - *Energy Efficient Homes Talk Wed 7 - 9pm (Tiffany Room, Central Hall)
- 31st Jan - *Lizard Work Days Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 4th Feb - Browick Road Orchard Sat 10am - Noon
- 7th Feb - Ketts Park Woodland Day Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 11th Feb - *Lizard Work Morning 10:00am - 11:30am
- 11th Feb - Rothbury Park Consultation 2-4pm (Rothbury Community Centre)
- 18th Feb - Browick Road Orchard Sat 10am - Noon - Tree Planting Event
- 18th Feb - *NWT's Wilder Connections (see page 7) Sat 9:30 - 4pm
(Poringland Community Centre)
- 21st Feb - *Lizard Work Days Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 24th Feb - *Climate Change Panel (see page 6) Fri 6:30pm - 8:30pm (Central Hall)
- 28th Feb - *Lizard Work Days Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 4th Mar - Browick Road Orchard Sat 10am - Noon
- 7th Mar - Ketts Park Woodland Day Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 11th Mar - *Lizard Work Morning Sat 10:00am - 11:30am
- 14th Mar - *Lizard Work Days Tues 9:30am - 3pm
- 18th Mar - Browick Road Orchard Sat 10am - Noon
- 15th Apr - Hedgehog Haven Stall at Farmers' Market 9am - 1pm

Tree Fellas

Tony Fielder

Well not actually felling trees but moving them, five volunteers (including three fellows) may have been seen walking trees in wheelbarrows down Market Street.

This unusual sight was not daylight robbery but volunteers replanting the trees from the planting boxes outside the Cross Keys/Mad Hatters - South Norfolk Council has had to remove the planting boxes from outside the Cross Keys/Mad Hatters on the Market Place, as the one-way traffic order made during Covid has now expired.

Wymondham in Bloom and Greening Wymondham volunteers have removed and re-homed the plants - with the two surviving trees having been replanted on the green space next to the Back Lane car park, as agreed with South Norfolk.



Well things have come a long way since the on site public meeting in October 2021. If you are not aware we are creating a community orchard of local heritage variety fruit trees on an area of neglected land to the east side of the Browick Road Recreation Ground, all the work being carried out by an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

The area has two sections - the upper (opposite Gunton Road) and the larger lower section. The upper section had been planted with 12 apple trees along with wildflowers and native daffodils last winter season. The daffodils and wildflowers put on a fantastic spring display and despite the hot summer, with regular watering, the trees coped very well with no casualties.



Since the summer our focus has been on the lower area, which borders the main recreational field and the industrial estate car park. This has been hard graft as it required a lot of clearance both of vegetation and dumped waste including building materials. I'm glad to say we are now on top of it and are at the stage of starting to construct the various planned areas. These include an activity area, raised beds and of course more fruit trees. Sustainability is important to us, as such all our work so far has been achieved with manual effort and hand tools and our goal is to use as few mechanical tools as possible. To the same end we are using as many recycled items as is reasonably possible, for example, our recently constructed compost and leaf mould area is made up of unwanted pallets.

We will be planting about another 20 fruit trees in January/February including apple, pear, mulberry, plum, quince and medlar, but due to the nature of the poor soil and on advice sought from the Royal Horticultural Society we are having to dig planting pits with improved soil to give them their best chance.

A few thanks are also in order; George and David at Clements Ironmongers for the pallets, David at Wymondham Tree Services for the wood chip; Steve at Alderfen Marsh for the compost and of course all the volunteers who have given their time and effort over the last year and a half.



In the near future, we have a planting event on the 18th Feb between 10am & Noon to plant a number of trees which have been sourced utilising grants obtained. We would welcome a good turnout of local people to help plant the trees but also to come and look at the work that has been undertaken.

There is still plenty more work to do and jobs for all ages, so if you want to be part of this great community project, everyone is welcome and no skill or experience is necessary, just turn up. Volunteer sessions are normally on every other Saturday, 10am to 12noon with a tea break at 11.

With the weather set fair, members of Greening Wymondham led an early evening wildlife walk for the 5th Wymondham Brownies at Kett's Park & Wood early in May last year.

For fun and interest, Greening Wymondham produced a simple tick box handout for plants, for trees and a blank section for any birds/insects/ animals.

The blank section because plants and trees don't move whereas birds, insects & animals do.

Underestimate Brownies at your peril! Plants and trees do move - in the wind!

Before setting off, Susie, the Brownie leader, asked what sorts of plants they might see.

The clever Brownies correctly named more than half the plants and trees on the handout.

A fun time was had by all. Lots of intelligent questions, lots of noise, lots of excitement. Greening Wymondham were very impressed by how clued up and aware of our environment all these young girls were.

The walk (and talk) went from the park playground, via the south side footpath (at its best in early May with Cow Parsley in full bloom), followed the hardcore path in Kett's wood, deviated to look at the hidden gem which is Gristlewood before finishing at the northern exit of the wood.

What did we talk about? Here's the list - how many do you know? Cow Parsley, Oak grove, Ground Ivy, Herb Robert, Cherry, Forget-Me-Not, Field Maple, Honesty, Dandelion, Buttercup, Plantain, Daisies, Hawthorn, Rose, Orchids, Ramsoms & Horse Chestnut.

What else did we see? Squirrel, Caterpillar, woodlouse, Rabbits and a whole lot more!

Greening Wymondham says thank you to Wymondham for taking part in their week of events as part of the Great Big Green Week 2022. This was the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

A fine evening enticed over 40 people to come out to see and hear bats around the Abbey and along Becketswell. With the help of bat detectors from Norfolk Bat Group, we were able to detect common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bats. 26 bags of litter were collected at the litter pick

(unfortunately!). A series of walks explored our local nature hotspots at The Lizard and Toll's Meadow and there was a chance to find out more about Browick Road Community Orchard.

Many of the businesses in town made a pledge to take action including reducing and recycling their waste, shopping locally, cutting their use of fossil fuels and using renewable energy suppliers. Kett's Books joined in by providing an environmentally-themed window display and Wymondham Library arranged for a really excellent selection of relevant and interesting books to be available. This year we amalgamated Great Big Green Week with Totally Locally, encouraging people to spend their money in town to make Wymondham a stronger, more vibrant and resilient place.

Local playwrights, Four by Four staged a poignant play explaining the issue of how recycling cannot be the whole solution to our waste problem, recognising that consuming less 'stuff' and reusing what you have is a better use of resources than recycling them. Information was displayed at the Baptist Church including their work towards becoming an 'eco-church' as well as Greening Wymondham's own display.

For the second year, Greening Wymondham wanted to gift to each Y6 child a tree root for them to plant. This involved a group of Greening Wymondham volunteers spending 2 hours in the freezing cold weather at the time ensuring the tree roots were suitably prepared for the children to take home. This had to be done outside as if the trees were taken inside, the roots would dehydrate and the chances that the tree would not survive would increase.

On the 12th December the Y6 children at Ashleigh, Browick Road & Robert Kett Primary schools all received a tree whip which they were advised to keep outside in cold and plant once the particularly cold snap weather was over and the ground was soft enough for the tree roots to survive in. The children were given a talk on monoculture vs diversity (essential by planting only one kind thing this reduces biodiversity - not only of plants or trees themselves, but what lives in them around them, under them). Children were able to see the roots of one tree, and each tree would support the lives of birds, insects, wildlife above the ground and in the ground, in the soil itself.



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All three schools gave Greening Wymondham a great reception and all the children showed a great understanding of climate change and global warming and explained to us what part trees played in this i.e. storing of carbon dioxide.

Comments from the children

'Ooh, I love trees'

'I would like a crab apple so I can have the fruits from it' (Little do they know!)

'I'll have the nutty one'

'I'm going to eat the hazel nuts'

Thanks for the Feedback

The following comment was sent into us which cheered us enormously

"Hi there, I just felt I would like to pass on a huge thank you for all the hard work that Greening Wymondham have carried out to improve the woodland area at Ketts park. I strolled through this morning in the drizzle, only to be treated to the most beautiful variety of birds including long tailed tits, blue tits, great tits, Hawfinches, gold finches, black birds and to top it all one of the spotted woodpeckers. Amazing and I feel truly blessed to see so much wildlife when the correct environment is cared for and nurtured. WELL DONE GREENING WYMONDHAM,
Kind regards Marie



CHAIN presents:

Climate change is here – what now?

Public meeting with cross-party panel including George Freeman MP – all welcome!

Friday 24th February, 6.30pm-8.30pm, Wymondham Central Hall

Local MP George Freeman and representatives from Labour, Liberal Democrats and Greens discuss climate change, how to fight it and how we need to change

Panel includes: Panel includes: **George Freeman MP** Conservative; **Michael Rosen** Labour; **Catherine Rowett** Green Party; Liberal Democrat representative to be confirmed + presentation from **Dr Hayley Pinto** of CHAIN + **questions from the audience**

This is a free event with seats available on a first-come first-served basis
Wine and refreshments served from 8pm onwards

Quote:

Nicola Maunders, Wymondham resident and CHAIN Committee member, said: "With 2022 the UK's warmest year on record, and 2023 looking set to bring ever more extreme weather around the world, climate change is becoming increasingly central to the political debate. Campaigners on many fronts have all helped to raise the profile of the issue, but perhaps the biggest factor is that, more and more, people can see the evidence and effects of climate change with their own eyes.

"This is why this debate at this time and in a part of the world like mid Norfolk, so crucial agriculturally and yet, like the rest of the county, particularly prone to drought, is so important. We need to find ways to drastically cut carbon pollution and adapt to the new realities of our changing climate. Everything, from the food we eat to how we get around, will need to change. In all this, politicians need to take a lead and time is rapidly running out.

"The event will give local residents the chance to hear how each political party aims to meet the challenge of the climate crisis, and the opportunity to put their own questions to our invited panel members. It promises to be a stimulating evening, helping to find a way forward in tackling this greatest of issues which will increasingly affect us all."

For more information go to climatechain.org

So if this is of interest to you, as it states, it is first come first served - so you may wish to get there early.

Advertisement for an event we think might be of interest to you

Upcoming Norfolk Wildlife Trust Claylands Wilder Connections Conference on Saturday 18th February 2023 in Poringland - This will be a chance to learn about and celebrate this successful NWT project. To book a place, please visit the NWT website www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk



Wilder Connections

Conference

2023

Saturday 18 February, 9:30am – 4pm
Join us to celebrate the successes of the Wilder Connections project!
Listen to stories of communities taking action for nature in their local area. Learn how landowners are creating connections across the landscape so nature can thrive. Discover how important habitat connectivity is for key species in south Norfolk and find out our plans for landscape scale conservation in the future.

Cost: Free. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Venue: Poringland Community Centre, Overtons Way, Poringland, NR14 7WB
Booking essential: online via the NWT website www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk



 **The Wildlife Trusts**

Saving Norfolk's Wildlife for the Future

Image: David Tipling

Green Recovery Challenge Fund



Advertisement for an event we think might be of interest to you

An event we have been made aware of which might be of interest to you - to make you aware this has been supported by a political party and Greening Wymondham aim to be a-political - we think the text might be a giveaway but.... Its a free event but to ensure your place, reserve a spot through Eventbrite on the link below

[How to achieve energy efficient homes, saving money and the planet Tickets, Wed 25 Jan 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Achieve energy efficient homes



A GUIDE TO RETROFITTING

Wednesday 25th January
7pm - 9pm

The Tiffey Room
Wymondham Central Hall

Architectural technologist Simeon Jackson will talk about why we need retrofit, explaining the practical, technical and financial challenges, followed by Q & A and some light refreshments