



Greening Wymondham

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Wymondham

Spring 2018

Chair's report

Ann Rostron

Welcome to Greening Wymondham! We are a group of volunteers who meet every few weeks to plan and carry out environmental and sustainable projects in our town. Since our first meeting in 2016, we have carried out several projects including: Litter picking in town locations, tree planting at the Fairland Church and Standley Court, a new hedge at King's Head Meadow, and clearing footpaths.

Our latest and biggest project is management at Kett's Park Wood (see article below). The footpath through the wood is impassible in winter and we are working with the Town Council to raise funds to provide an all-weather surface, at an estimated cost of £30.000. We hope to carry out this work in Spring 2019, subject to raising the funds. If you would like to make a donation please go to our Facebook page or contact us at our email address.



Moot Hill, Gristlewood, Kett's Park



Moot Hill is in Gristlewood, between Kett's Park and the railway line. It is hidden amongst trees on the south side of Gristlewood. It is a County Wildlife Site (but please note: **there is no public access to Moot Hill at present**). Currently, it is very overgrown with dead wood littering both the ditches and the interior.

Moot Hill is a scheduled ancient monument. It is a large ring motte over 160m by 120m, with a magnificent circular bank over 3 m high and a surrounding water-filled ditch. The internal area is filled with irregular water-filled pits or ponds and lots of trees - some of which are massive!

Soon after the Conquest in 1066 AD, many motte-and-bailey castles were built by the invading Normans. Wymondham's Moot Hill might be such a motte, built by the D'Albini family between 1088 and 1139. If so, then the castle was probably built of wood as, so far, excavations have not revealed any trace of buildings (reference: Wymondham Old and New, p83.)

Greening Wymondham are helping to improve public awareness of this historic site. Discussions have started to see

if the site can be passed to the Norfolk Archaeological Trust and we would like to work with them to see Moot Hill opened to the public. Would you like to help take care of Moot Hill?

Woodland management project, Gristlewood, Kett's Park

In 2017, we started a new project at Kett's Park restoring the neglected woodland called Gristlewood at the south side of Kett's Park. This work is being done in conjunction with the Town Council and Norwich Fringe Project. We have been felling trees, coppicing and brush-clearing. Our aim is to increase biodiversity and remove dead and diseased trees. We have had several work days already as well as a Community Day in January, which have been well-attended (and great fun!).

Our future plans include:

Planting wild flowers and shrubs at the edge of the woodland, planting suitable flowers/trees in the open areas within the wood, and raising money to build a pathway through the woods to improve public access. See the Norwich Fringe Project website for a Blog of our work days at Kett's Park:



<https://norwichfringeproject.wordpress.com/blog/>



If you are interested in helping us, our regular work days will resume in September and we will be there between 9:30 am and 3:00 pm but any amount of time you can manage will be fantastic! We have worked through all kinds of weather so far although we might stop work early if it's excessively wet or cold. As usual, we will be sawing and lopping the small trees (that the experts with chain saws have felled for us) into small pieces that we then burn; clearing excessive bramble patches, and planting new tree-saplings. Some of the felled and coppiced timber is used for habitat and log piles and some sawn up for volunteers to take away. The Fringe Project supply the tools and gardening gloves just wear stout boots and clothes that you don't mind rending, dirtying or singeing! We plan to have another Community Day in the summer, so look out for the date on our Facebook page and local adverts.

It is a great way to gain insight into woodland management, keep active and help to enhance this lovely green space in Wymondham. And if you are good, you may get a nice warm cuppa (but you will need to bring your own lunch)!

Forthcoming events/activities

- 21st April: Litter Pick, 10am to 1pm, Wymondham Town Football Club, Back Lane.
- Landscaping the roundabout near Waitrose with a contemporary planting design.