



Greening Wymondham

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Introduction

Nicola Maunders

Greening Wymondham have been getting out and about over the last few months with three outdoor projects on the go. We have been doing some more work at Kett's Park managing the woodland but, in addition, some of our members have been linking up with the Lizard Trust to help them with work days at the Lizard - laying hedges to partition the Lizard from the new build planned up Rightup Lane, to provide wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity. We have planted bulbs, wildflower seeds and apple trees at Browick Road Community Orchard, where we continue to work to clear the scrub. Do consider joining us at any of our activities. We welcome new volunteers as well as those who come along just to see what we are doing.

This year we plan to continue to offer every Y6 pupil in the schools in Wymondham the opportunity to plant a tree, as well as further bulb planting and the commencement of the Wymondham Growing Together project. We are in the early stages of organising the Town Litter Pick and a wetter activity to clear some of the invasive Himalayan Balsam growing along the Tiffey - invitations to join these events to follow.

On a more administrative front, we are also organising our AGM which once again will be by Zoom. This is where we will present our accounts, changes to our constitution (if any) and elect officers & committee for the coming year. This will be held on the 18th May 7pm - if you would like to join this, please email us at greeningwymondham@gmail.com before Friday 6th May along with any questions you may wish to raise.

Forthcoming Dates

8th March - Lizard Work Day 9:30 - 3pm

19th March - Browick Road Orchard Work 10:00 - 12:00

22nd March - Lizard Work Day 9:30 - 3pm

24th April - Launch of Wymondham Growing Together 10:00 @ The White Hart

April - Litter Pick - date to be established

May - NO MOW MAY - Give the insects a chance - allow wild flowers to grow

An Exciting & Inspiring Community Project

The Project:

To create an Orchard by the community for the community, the work being done by volunteers.
Plant a collection of local variety heritage fruit trees surrounded by wildflowers to improve the area.



In the autumn, 2021, Peter Knights from GW put together a proposal for a small community orchard on a partly neglected area of the Rec (Browick Park). This was presented to Wymondham Town Council who gave their approval (South Norfolk council who own a part of the area also approved).

This is a community inspired and led project which is independent of
(and receives no funding from) Wymondham town council.

Working parties have been meeting over the winter months.

SO FAR:-

Top section - turf cleared, wildflower seeds & bulbs planted. Planted 12 Heritage variety Apple trees from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project - these were funded by Richard Wills, owner of RWTa Ltd.

Bottom section - clearing of neglected area, dense and overgrown with brambles. Working to a site plan from local resident Paul Lucas, the work continues.



Autumn Bulb Planting



Pruning Heritage Apple Tree

Pictures/Info - there are lots of great pictures and further details about the orchard on the GW website in the specially created section for the Community Orchard - go to www.greeningwymondham.org



Volunteers Clearing the Neglected Area

**Want to see what's being done or come along and help?
Many hands make light work and lots of smiling happy faces !**

Full details of future sessions (usually a few hours on a Saturday morning)
Will be posted on the Web Site, Facebook & Instagram.

The decline of Native Bees – A serious situation

There are 250 different native bees, most are very rare. Of the common species, all are under threat and extinction is a serious possibility.

Our government has, for the 2nd year running, agreed to the continued use of Neonicotinoids which were banned in 2018 by the EU and UK because of conclusive evidence that even tiny trace amounts of these chemicals (which don't degrade, remain in the soil and are absorbed by plants) damage a Bees ability to forage and navigate.

Rather as we have seen with the decline of Hedgehogs, the uncomfortable truth is that our industrial agricultural farming methods mean there's no place for Bees in the countryside either.

What can we, in Wymondham do?

Firstly, don't use any insecticides or chemicals in your garden and avoid inadvertently killing Bees.

Some chemicals may be harmless to Bees but you need to do some homework to find out first.

If you have an insect pest, the chances are there's a predator will eat the pest, better to encourage the predator.

Grow nectar and pollen rich flowering plants.

There's a multitude of plants which have nectar and/or pollen – make sure you buy the correct variety, there's hundreds to choose from. Natives are generally good ones for beginners.

Grow plants which provide nectar and/or pollen and flower in different seasons, for example:-

Winter/Early Spring – Hellebores, Snowdrops, Aconites

Spring – Lilac, Rosemary, Raspberries

Early Summer – Geranium (Johnsons Blue), Geum, Sage

Summer – Vipers Bugloss, Summer Raspberries, Honeysuckle, Thyme

Autumn – Fuschia, Ivy, Viburnum



A Bee Friendly garden – Sage, Poppy, Allium, Geum, Phacelia

Provide Suitable Homes for Bumble Bees.

NB: Honey Bees live in hives belonging to Bee keepers, let them provide their homes. We are only talking about homes for Bumble Bees.

Bumble Bees generally don't sting, they are docile and unless you go shaking or disturbing their nest will not be bothered by you nor you by them.

Different bees, different home requirements, for example:-

Above Ground (Tree holes, old bird nests) - Small garden Bumble Bees

This year we are trialling a "Tree" design for such species (see picture below)

In the Ground - Carder Bees

We are trialling a design from the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust

In Walls - Mason Bees

Drill holes of different width and depth into a south facing brick wall

Insect Boxes - Leafcutter Bees

There are many commercial insect boxes available (or try making one)



Bee Nesting Box for Above ground Bumble Bees (inside the pot is old bird nest material)

We'll let you know in the autumn newsletter (or via Facebook/Instagram posts) how we've got on with our designs.

Everyone, this summer, please help our native Bees

What Greening Wymondham volunteers have been doing this Winter

As reported in the last newsletter, volunteer working days have been reduced to one a month to save costs - the council doesn't (at present) have much money for environmental projects, and to be fair, without the financial support of the council paying for the Norwich Fringe Project Team, volunteer working days wouldn't be possible. It is, what it is.

Norwich Fringe manager Matt supplies the technical expertise, tools and wood management skills, guidance - as well as (Covid permitting), tea/coffee & biscuits for thirsty volunteers !

This winter work has been in 2 mains areas.

1. Near the Harts Farm entrance to the wood. There is, sadly a lot of Ash die-back disease in the wood and the Ash trees in this area had all died. They were removed and burnt. Thinning to encourage regrowth has also been carried out.
2. Near the central part of the path (close to the park bench) thinning out of densely planted Willow has been carried out as well as coppicing Hazel stands to open up the area and allow more light to the woodland floor (the best Hazel poles donated to a project at the Lizard).



Removal of dense Willow, Hazel coppiced to open woodland floor & encourage regeneration, Feb 22

By the By:

The works carried out to raise the path last summer have worked, evidenced by the much greater use by humans and dogs this winter. It's great to see the increased usage of the wood path, what's not so great is an increase in fouling by the (very) few dog owners who, one assumes, adopt an out of sight out of mind attitude to their pets' pooh.

Too early yet for any conclusions on the autumn bulb planting, we are checking and hoping to see some aconites emerging anytime soon.

We have observed some lovely fungi growing close to the path this winter - you may have seen pictures posted on Facebook and Instagram at the time.

Following *Greening Wymondham* on the web site, Facebook and/or Instagram is the best way to keep up to date with events and projects.

The last volunteer work day at Harts Farm this winter was Tuesday, March 1st. We hope to have a few additional work days in the summer months.



Creeping Crumble Cap Fungi - Kett's Wood, October 2021

Brownie Litter Pick

Greening Wymondham loaned Wymondham 5th Brownie troupe with pickers, bag holders, bags and hi-viz jackets on a cold December 6th evening. The girls were given a short safety talk on what they shouldn't pick up and to tell their accompanying adults about for the adults to deal with.

The Brownies walked through the main central streets of Wymondham and still filled a bag full of rubbish despite there being a clear up following the Wynterfest the previous day.



Afterwards the Brownies were asked what they thought were the worse items and discussed what items would decompose and which items wouldn't.

Brown Owl leader Susie was really pleased with the girls enthusiasm for the activity and the support given by Greening Wymondham and hoped to join in with one of Greening Wymondham's Big Litter Pick events during 2022.

CIL Funding Update

Tony Fielder

Following our brief notification advising all of the town council proposal to transfer all its existing CIL funds to the Cemetery Funds, thus giving the impression that NO CIL funds would be available for any community projects. After a lengthy discussion where a counter proposal was made to defer the decision whilst further councillor questions could be answered, the decision was narrowly made to transfer funds to the cemetery. It was stressed at the meeting that the funds were transferred between "pockets", NOT spent - whether this means that should community projects be raised that they could still be funded from CIL is not known - but remember that previously the town council held a substantial fund for the cemetery but then used these funds to help pay for the town council offices.

The winter season has seen great achievements here on The Lizard 9 acre meadow in regenerating an old, overgrown hedgerow. This work has included planting hundreds of hedgerow tree species i.e. hawthorn, holly, field maple, hazel etc. after brush-cutting the dense bramble growth to let in the light and give space for the new growth. This section included trees that had eventually died and been overgrown with ivy, although, an amount has been retained for cover and food for the birdlife.



As we move further along the hedge line we were able to use the existing hazel stands to create a layered hedgerow, which, come the spring should see a much welcomed sight of new growth and vigour. We chose to use this technique in order to strengthen the divide between ourselves and the new houses that are going up on the north side of Rightup Lane, to create added potential for wildlife food and cover to help mitigate what is being lost.

The third section of hedgerow has seen the creation of a 'dead hedge' with a managed walk-through under a wonderful oak tree. Using cut hazel poles as a double line of posts the infill comprised of all the brash that resulted from the work conducted for the hedge-laying and clearing for new planting.



With two more workdays to go we will be doing some more hedge-laying and finally clearing up any debris left over. All this work has been carried out by Lizard volunteers greatly augmented with Greening Wymondham volunteers and together we work under the superb guidance of the Norwich Fringe Project. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer do email: greening.wymondham@gmail.com or LizardVolunteers@groups.outlook.com.