

NNTV newsletter

Norfolk National Trust Volunteers www.norfolkntv.co.uk



Spring 2011

SHERINGHAM PARK – 6 FEBRUARY 2011



Spring had finally sprung for our task at Sheringham Park after a long hard winter. The snowdrops were out, and even some plucky azaleas (I think!) braved the cool February morning to brighten up the landscape. The splashes of colour made another day of rhodibashing much more enjoyable. We were working right towards the back of the original park, and the warden Graham explained that



we were helping to open up the woodland for more paths, while keeping a line of shrubs and trees as a windbreak from that sometimes all too cool seabreeze. The group soon made a difference and cleared a large area, providing fodder for a very welcome warming bonfire, before ending with a very pleasant walk back to the cars through the park.

Sally



BLICKLING – 20 FEBRUARY 2011

Dave Brady asked us to help in an important project at Blickling, namely removing a vast quantity of fencing surrounding the Tower Park area.

There seemed to be miles of it! We set ourselves up into small 'teams' to remove staples, posts and wire/barbed wire. The wire was taken away from the fencing and cut up into small lengths to fit into plastic boxes. We had a competition for the neatest box! This process enables re-cycling, therefore gaining a small monetary return – the old way of coiling or rolling up the wire did not allow recycling as it gummed up the works apparently. Posts were pulled out and gathered. The wire mesh fencing was pulled out by tractor, rolled, and then flattened. In some areas the mesh had been buried to stop rabbits getting through. Once

pulled, a trench was left behind and a ridge of soil. This had to be spaded back into place, and then trampled flat.

Once we got going, we made very fast progress, leaving all the tea things far behind – thus a long walk back for the much needed sustenance at tea time and lunch time. Dave Brady was very impressed with us (once again), and thanked us for our work.

Clearing the fence line away will allow more fencing to be laid, but in a different, not so visual, location, following the same boundaries as in the distant past, restoring Blickling parkland to its original state. Some of the fields that have been arable will now return to grazing land for sheep and cattle.

I am sure that all those helping on this project found it worth while.
Dawn



BLAKENEY POINT—3 APRIL 2011

We had an early 9am start at Morston to catch the tide for our boat trip to Blakeney point where we were met by Ed and his team. First stop the old lifeboat house for a tea break and the first of many cake tastings. Then to work!

A small group trekked across the point to a bird hide perched dangerously right on the edge of a high and steep sand dune. With a couple of crowbars, hammers and some brute force we quickly dismantled the hide without losing anyone down the slope. The wood was transported back to the lifeboat house and any reusable wood was salvaged and the rest



was burnt. Meanwhile the rest of the group were giving two sheds at the back of the lifeboat house the same treatment. We agreed demolition and large bonfires are two of this groups favourite activities... very good for stress relief.

The area around the lifeboat house has been used as a storage/dumping ground for some time. We cleared and burnt the unusable wood and loaded the trailer ready for a trip to the mainland with a considerable amount of rusty metal including what was apparently the remnants of a land rover which had been left to rot some years ago. After lunch and more cake we took advantage of low tide and walked across to see the Grey and Common seals on the sandbanks. We were able to get quite close to



them and had the use of some telescopes for some great close ups. They are quite comical to watch and some seemed as interested in us as we were in them. We were also able to view the birdlife in close up including a peregrine.

The last task was to lay some boardwalk over the dunes in the area we had cleared to the bases of the (now demolished) sheds. The boardwalk is made from



recycled plastic though looks like wood. Last year we had spent a day removing the previous decaying wooden boardwalk and the wardens and staff have since spent many many hours building hundreds of yards of new boardwalk. They have the procedure down to a fine art and were able to assist the installation of a new stretch in a very short time.

With some time to spare most of us went for a walk right out to the point to see the seals of which there were plenty



The high tide brought the return of our boat for our journey back to Morston. We'd had a long day but had achieved a lot of work between us and all agreed this had been one of the most enjoyable task days we could remember.

Jane



It was really good to get back to work on this site. We had done a lot of work here for the 'Breathing Places' project a couple of years ago. We had built two raised ponds using railway sleepers, lining and filling. We then created sensory gardens around the pond area,

also putting down paving to enable wheel chair users to gain access. We created pathways, planted hedging to border a wild flower meadow, also the site for several 'native to Norfolk' apple trees. Steve tells us that new species of spider and other insects have been

discovered in this area since our work began.

Dick and Mary have spent some time here helping Steve to look after this peaceful site, also to replenish stolen plants and stocking the ponds with plants and wildlife.

We were amazed at how much the sensory gardens had grown. The jobs on Sunday included pulling up and digging out many of the weeds, chopping back growth from around the hedging plants, and hoisting out some of the grime and bacteria from the ponds. It was very hard work because lack of rain in recent weeks rendered the soil like concrete – not yielding one little bit.

It also coincided with the annual

Norfolk 50/100 mile bike run, with a lot of the cyclists stopping at the Mill for a well earned break before carrying on their long journey (mostly with a head wind I was told). We therefore were treated to the constant chitter chatter of the Lake twins selling their tea, coffee and refreshments from a stall set up close to where we were working. It was like a sea of lycra, in repose on the grass, sipping drinks and exchanging tales of ‘near misses’ etc to each other. Quite amusing!

I hope it isn't too long before returning to this lovely place to do a bit more.

Dawn

NNTV CLOTHING

There is now another chance for members to order NNTV clothing. The range includes a T-shirt, Poloshirt and Sweat shirt all in National Trust green featuring a NT logo on the left breast and ‘Norfolk National Trust Volunteers’ on the back.

Members may buy one or all three if they wish and will receive a £7 subsidy towards their total order.

Chest sizes (to fit)

XS 34"-36" SML 36"-38"

MED 38"-40" LRG 40"-42"

XL 42"-44"

Prices (all include VAT)

T-shirt £8.23

Polo shirt £12.28

Sweat shirt £13.45

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