

Tranby Gate: Woodland and Wildlife Haven : Newsletter 2021/2022

There has been lots of news about Tranby Gate since our last Newsletter. We have had challenging times not least a car driving into the historic gate - happily, quickly restored by East Riding Yorkshire Council. In 2022 we lost the beautiful mature Oak, blown over in a storm. Most challenging of all has been the Persimmon development adjacent to Tranby Gate and the loss of trees, wildlife habitat and open spaces this has caused.

But the Friends of Tranby Gate have been quietly continuing their work to manage this woodland as an oasis of wildlife in our ever shrinking natural spaces; managing the site to protect our local wildlife and create space for the enjoyment of everyone.

The Gathering at the Gate

As the pandemic retreated, we were able to hold an awareness and fundraising event, 'Gathering at the Gate'. The Friends had a stall selling plants and pottery - wild flower seeds were given away to those who came to visit. Other areas were generously hosted by Hessle Bookshop, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Relax Kids and Hessle History Society, who created a fascinating display about the history of the site. The Scouts helped provide a lively atmosphere with a campfire and refreshments. There was a treasure hunt and clay bird making workshop for the children. Huge thanks to everyone who supported us.



Planting and Growing

As part of a Community Tree Grant for the Queens Jubilee, ERYC planted ten trees. Much to our delight, a mixture of Cherry, Oak and Silver Birch appeared on the sight. Sadly though, due to lack of water, some of the trees died in the heat. We are hopeful though, that there are plans to replace these trees and the Friends would like to be part of the process of planting.

With money raised by the Friends, we bought from Mires Beck Nursery, 100 Butterfly City Buckthorn Whips to support endangered Brimstone Butterflies. They were planted around the site. But sadly, despite our care, some of the delicate whips could not cope with the hot summer. Others may have been lost to the over zealous grass cutting from ERYC. However we are hopeful that some have survived and will provide a suitable habitat for Brimstone Butterflies.

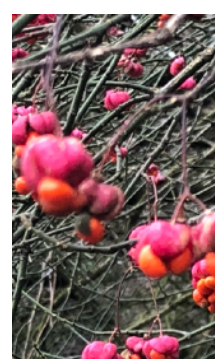
We are sure that many will have been as upset as the Friends, when the beautiful old Oak was brought down in high winds. One theory is that at some time in its history, the tree was struck by lightning, weakening its resistance to disease. The Friends informed ERYC but after a site visit we were told the tree should be left where it had fallen. The Friends employed the advice of a tree expert on how to best manage the fallen tree. As a result, large branches were cut back to reinstate the blocked circular path and the sawn wood was made into piles to support wildlife on site. The jagged stump was cut back to make it as safe as possible. Hopefully the fallen Oak will become a sculptural feature in the woodland and home and cover for a variety of wildlife. We are very grateful to the Hessle resident who donated a Rowan sapling that he had grown. It has now been planted on site.

Meeting with Hessle History Society

Kindly hosted by Sue and Jed Avery, the Friends enjoyed a very informative evening with Hessle History Society, led by Michael Free, who generously gave an illustrated talk about the History of Tranby Lodge, its residents, the gate and the planted gardens; helping to explain the mix of ornamental and later wild plant species on site.

The Persimmon Development

Following an approach by Councillor Nolan about the wood on the northern boundary of the Persimmon site, intrepid members of the Friends gained access from outside the official site to explore the wood. Untouched for years, the wood was full of natural treasures and evidence of the wood's past management as part of Tranby Lodge Garden. The Friends had hoped that Persimmon would create a green wildlife corridor on its land, linking the woodland to the Tranby Gate site. However, it was eventually decided that Persimmon would manage the wood themselves as an amenity for residents, with access from the new development. The destruction of trees marked 'do not cut' at the site entrance and the site office encroachment into the green space of the land adjacent to Tranby Gate, has been very distressing, particularly for residents of Tranby Gardens. Our current understanding is that Persimmon's proposal is that the green space will be restored to the residents of Tranby Gardens, who will have the full support of the Friends of Tranby Gate to facilitate this.



Practical Management

The Friends have reported Fly Tipping (a three-piece sofa!) and garden waste thoughtlessly dumped in the dark wood area. Old paths have been reinstated and British native wild flowers have been planted. We are hoping these will gradually become established and want to encourage ERYC to respect 'no mow May' so that meadow plants that have been planted can thrive. We were delighted with the show of planted daffodils and native plants that appeared last spring, and hope that the additional bulbs planted this year will make a show in future years.

The friends of Tranby Gate continue to support the transfer of Tranby Gate to Hessle Town Council, but this appears to be a slow process. The Friends will continue to manage the site, but ownership by HTC would give it greater security and enhance opportunities to invest in the site.

Helping MacMillan...

This year the Friends held a very successful coffee morning at Tranby Gate, complete with seating and bunting! It was well attended by locals and everyone worked hard to provide delicious cakes and create a friendly atmosphere. It was a great success raising £350 on the day and a great illustration of the versatility of Tranby Gate...

