



Welcome to Bowthorpe Heritage Group Community Garden Open to Everyone, Every Day.

This garden stands on land owned by Norwich City Council and was previously the site of a 19th Century barn. When the barn was demolished in 2001 a group of enthusiastic, and creative, Bowthorpe residents were keen to make sure that the area became a special place for use by the whole community. The City Council agreed to lease the land to Bowthorpe Heritage Group for a nominal sum of £1 a year and so, (following major planning and money from the Heritage & Community Spaces Lottery Funds) we were able to start work on developing the area as a community garden back in 2005. Major construction and planting were completed in 2011 but, as with any garden, the work continues. Hopefully forever!

Looking through the largest rose clad **Pergola** from Tolye Road you will see the:

Residents raised beds and Formal Butterfly Garden

Local people 'grow their own' or maintain a bed on behalf of the rest of the community, and local organisations sponsoring a bed include Sure Start Children's Centre (herbs to whet your appetite). Banana Moon Nursery, The NEESA Project and the Women's Institute. We also have a scented bed, take a leaf to smell as you wander round, and vegetables - see how companion planting is used to prevent disease and keep damage from pests to a minimum without the use of chemicals.

History Wall, Water and Storage

Our Pergola houses two massive water butts where we collect 2000+litres of rainwater for use by volunteers. Our 'lock up' area means we can provide tools, barrows etc for anyone who wants to give us a hand. We get together every other Sunday afternoon during the growing season, and on some weekdays. The History Wall shows the sweep of Bowthorpe's history from 2000 BC to the present day. Enjoy looking at the mosaics the children of Saint Michael's School helped create in 2006.

Commemorative Rose Garden and Orchard

The Rosa rugosa seen here have wonderful large, colourfull hips through the winter, we mulch them with bark on a regular basis to keep the weeds at bay.

Wild Flower 'Meadow' bordered by a flowering hedge (Viburnum tinus).

We aim to keep this area for annual native wild flowers. It is proving a little difficult as perennials self seed from other areas - but we will persevere!

Camomile seat, Bird feeding Station, Bog garden and Log pile

'Wildlife Wonderland' with somewhere to sit and watch the world go by. Can you spot some creepy crawlies? We hope to have Hedgehogs and Slow Worms hibernating in the log pile, and maybe Chaffinches or Blue Tits making use of the bird boxes. We had funding Children in Need to pay for the boxes, and 'Bug Hotels', which were made by St Michael's Workshop and painted by the children of Clover Hill Infant School. By including this 'Wild Area' in the garden we are able grow and conserve species which might otherwise be at risk.

At the top of the garden, (with Bowthorpe Hall Parkland) beyond, is our:

Butterfly Walk, Compost Palace & Fruit Garden

A walk amongst the Buddleia bushes in mid summer is sheer joy! What butterfly have you seen today? We hope to under-plant with low growing native wild plants or bulbs. Although we love to see the grazing horses in the parkland doing a brilliant job keeping the brambles and nettles at bay, we are planting a boundary hedge of native plants to stop them wandering into the garden. This will also give birds somewhere safe to land and shelter.

In our recently constructed compost area we hope to educate and encourage people on how you can recycle more of your waste at home. It is also a great habitat for all those ugly bugs - a tasty meal for bigger creatures and birds! Feel free to pick a little ripe fruit from the strawberry or raspberry plants, but please leave some for your friends and neighbours!

Please come again ...

We are a group of community volunteers with a passion for plants and wildlife. We want to share it with you. Come back on a quieter day; bring your lunch or book to read; feel the peace and tranquillity of **your** space.

Get Involved / More information / Donate - contact:

We are always interested to hear from you. If you would like to take on a raised bed, help maintain the communal areas or pass on an idea about how we could improve the garden please let us know. Carol: 01603 474633, Madge: 01603 734767 email: madgeroberts@talktalk.net, Adrian: 07765350383, Jill: 07762079477, email: jill.wragg@hotmail.co.uk

Although we are all unpaid volunteers, we have to find lots of money for insurance and repairs, why not become a Friend /Member for just £6 per year and receive regular updates? Or if you feel able to make a donation, however small, perhaps a bag of bird food or sponsor a replacement sleeper, please speak to any of us or send a cheque to our Treasurer Madge Roberts at 29 Fresher Mews, NR5 9HF. Over the years many individuals and organisations have given us money, time, plants, equipment etc. There are too many to list here.

Thank you all!

Registered Charity 1098525