The Gaywood Valley Conservation Group met at Lynnsport car park on the 08.04.19. Sue Lake gave us a description of where we were due to walk that morning. This was down the length of the Gaywood River until we arrived at the Walks then to return by suburban paths.

The walk started at the car park near to the equipment hut. Here we were serenaded by the shrill tones of a coal tit and random noise from hedge sparrows. On the Gaywood River an area of the water at the side of the river had been separated from the main stream. This was to slow the stream and allow water plants to become established in the slow moving shallows and for young fish to find shelter there. It was also a site that allowed courting Mallards to engage with one another. This longitudinal damming was repeated at intervals down the river. This was all part of the Heritage River Project to improve the river & the area around it. The walk down stream was extremely attractive but further away from the river and lying between it and the reclaimed and capped tip on the Lynnsport area was a site made up of refuse bags, logs, bricks, derelict buildings and an old caravan. No one was certain who owned this area which was certainly an eyesore and in desperate need of a cleanup. The river now flowing through the suburbs of Kings Lynn had a small and attractive pond to one side. The first Mallard chicks of the season were there clustering around protective bushes while concerned parents kept away a gull they saw as a potential predator. The river path then crossed an old disused railway which was overgrown with brambles, shrubs and sadly huge amounts of rubbish. In contrast beyond that was once a clay pit that had been cleaned and reseeded by the efforts of the GVCG on an earlier occasion and was now a clear grassy area. However at one end the remains of a fire, multiple bottles of sherry and discarded empty food containers showed that it was also a dining site for the drinkers. The river then ran alongside the ancient town wall when it and the river had formed a barrier for the town in mediaeval times. Thankfully the extended section of the wall had been retained rather than being demolished for its stone. Once more the site was well maintained and rubbish free except for the still intact remains of an old Second World War bunker in the middle of it. After that the river went through a 16th century bridge that had been built over and widened for today’s traffic. On the now less shaded side of the wall multiple clumps of the small Rue Leaved Saxifrage plants made it more attractive. The river then went underground beneath Morrisons and the Railway Station and finally emerged at the edge of the Walks. Here the Group turned round and returned to Lynnsport via a tarmac path made from an old railway line. These reclaimed lines were wonderful corridors of greenery penetrating right into and across Kings Llyn. Here for instance on one side of the path the Group saw two Tree Creeper birds and colourful flowers like the blue Lesser Vinca and the bright yellow of Dandelions. There were also insects that included bees, bumble bees, three Tortoiseshell butterflies and one Holly Blue and many Lady Birds all drawn out by the now warm spring sunshine. Unfortunately as ever the path was spoilt by the inevitable piles of litter.

At the end of the walk members of the Group went into Salters Sanctuary to inspect the seats that had been so damaged by vandals last week. Now protected by barriers to allow the new concrete base to harden, the seats had been repaired and newly secured to the base. It is hoped that the vandals who broke the seats from their base earlier will show respect for their site and just sit and enjoy the view rather than destroying the seats again.