



Friends of Red House Ramble Newsletter

September 2019

Be part of the growing community

The Friends of Red House Ramble was formed to help improve, develop & maintain the land running north/west & then west from the Red House Pub to Red House Drive



♣ Story So Far

- ♣ This month's newsletter includes an article on the reverse written about the Ramble by Victoria Couelsey-Logan, editor of the magazine from VODA (Voluntary Organisations Development Agency). She has captured the ethos and spirit of the Ramble perfectly.
- ♣ We are busy making plans for the Autumn when most of our planting takes place. We are fortunate to have won a place on the Sainsbury's '150 years....150 hours programme' so they will be along to help us plant the 120 sapling hedge plants they are receiving, on our behalf, from the Woodland Trust. Thank you to member Steve Weddell for putting us forward.
- ♣ From time to time the odd rabbit appears on the Ramble. This cheeky fella was spotted 'surveying the manor' recently!



Working in Partnership



Royal Horticultural Society

- ♣ We have had two visits from judges this month. The first was from the RHS for their 'In Your Neighbourhood' scheme. In 2017 and 2018 we were awarded 'Outstanding' only losing three marks both years. Obviously, we are hoping to make it three years in a row!

♣ Our second visit was from North Tyneside Council for their 'In Bloom' competition, Community category. This time we had four judges who each had their area of expertise. They were very complimentary being interested in our community spirit and its effect on our health/wellbeing.



Community

- ♣ We have also gained several new members this month including one who must win the prize for living the furthest away....so a special welcome to Georgina Hasselquist from California! Perhaps we will welcome you in person one day, Georgina. There is a tree on the Ramble donated in memory of her grandson. Our membership of participating households is now 139.

♣ We have enjoyed a couple of well-attended, social evenings recently giving members a chance to chat and get to know one another. One at the Red House Farm Pub and another was a pub crawl around Whitley Bay's Real Ale pubs. Another 'crawl' is being held on Saturday 28th September utilising the train to Corbridge and stopping off on the way back. Contact us if you want more details.

As you know we work with local schools and help them to create wildlife gardens of their own. South Wellfield sent us this picture of theirs...pretty impressive!



* LEAF is hosted by

Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, a registered charity (number 700510). It is a partnership between Greggs Foundation, Shears Foundation, the Community Foundation and others.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE RED HOUSE RAMBLE



In 2016 a group of residents in Whitley Bay got together to bring about change in their local environment.

Running through the middle of their housing estates was a dark and dismal

green area planted by the housing developers and left as a nature area. Unfortunately, the trees and shrubs used were not ideal for encouraging wildlife, or indeed to make it a pleasant place to walk. The residents decided to set up a community group to deal with the problem.

The Friends of Red House Ramble was created and in three years, with support from North Tyneside Council and the up to 120 household members, they have taken a dark, unloved and neglected space and turned it into a beautiful, welcoming natural area, suitable for people and wildlife alike.

Gone are the large ash and sycamore trees that are not good habitat for small birds, replaced by more welcoming hawthorn, field maple and hazel. Gone are the snowberries with their inedible white berries, replaced by plants such as elderflower, wild cherry, rowan and roses, that provide berries and other delights for birds and small mammals (and also the humans with their homemade Elderflower cordial and blackberry jelly).

The group works closely with local schools and youth organisations growing wildflowers, with the aim of encouraging them to start their own wildlife gardens. They also got their name and logo by challenging a local school to come up with ideas.



Part of the Ramble contains an orchard with pear, apple, plums and damson, some donated by members who ask for them for Christmas and birthday presents and in one case,

an apple tree planted by a member in memory of her dog who she used to walk in the Ramble.

The Friends of Red House Ramble are committed to biodiversity and shaping the environment. All planting has been considered from a wildlife perspective, with the young members creating habitats for bees, butterflies, small birds and mammals. Also, the paths throughout the site have been created from chippings and logs from the large trees that were removed.

“*The Ramble is a place to gather, work, socialise, walk and enjoy the tranquillity. We appreciate and the opportunity to meet others whilst helping to maintain a green environment for all.*”

The work on the Ramble has also helped people get active, with members referring to the woodchip path maintenance as a 'Rural Gym'. Surprisingly, these are some of the more popular days, with members lining up to ferry wheelbarrows up and down the paths (so far over 93 tons of woodchip).



The group has benefitted from hedge saplings from the Woodland Trust, a grant of £1,500 from the Community Foundation, funding from Northumbrian Water and seeds from Kew Gardens. They are also eternally grateful for the support they have received from North Tyneside Council, the local councillors, committee members and not forgetting over 4000 volunteer hours.

The Red House Ramble has been awarded the Mayor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Improving the Life of the Borough, 'Outstanding' by the RHS for their 'In Your Neighbourhood' scheme, and this year was recognised with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

They are always looking for new members - you do not have to live on the adjacent estates to join and take part in their twice monthly gatherings. If you would like to get involved, please contact Cheryl Savage email info@redhouseramble.org.uk or call 07969714308. Annual subscription is £10 per household.

www.redhouseramble.org.uk or find them on Facebook: Friends of Red House Ramble.