

# Friends of Kett's Heights

Annual Review - January to December 2018

-  A welcoming space for the local community and visitors to Norwich.
-  An attractive space with a wide diversity of plants and wildlife.
-  An event space with activities to suit a wide audience.
-  An educational space where its long and diverse history can be investigated and interpreted.



## Agenda

1. Chair's Opening Remarks
2. Apologies
3. Last Year's AGM Minutes
4. Matters Arising
5. Presentation
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Committee Members and Officers
8. Any Other Business

## Executive Committee Members 2018

Michael Button (Treasurer)  
Jane Chapman  
Jane Chittenden  
Steve Davis  
Peter Jennings (Secretary)  
Helen King (Vice-Chair)  
Cavan Stewart (Chair)  
John Trevelyan  
John Williams

## Summary of Accounts

Account Balances

As of 31/12/2018

Account	Total
Assets	
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Bank and Cash Accounts	
LloydsTSB Bank - Kett's Heights	2,610.47
Cash float	43.73
Total Bank and Cash Accounts	2,654.20
Total Assets	2,654.20
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Net Worth	2,654.20

## Volunteers

Over the course of the year our Secretary keeps a record of volunteer hours covering everything from practical work to administration and media production. This year it came to a total of 1029 hours. Our main volunteers include the following:

Mary Ash, Alan Brownlee, Lesley Brownlee, Peter Burton  
Mike Button, Linda Campbell, Jan Carter, Jane Chapman,  
Jane Chittenden, Steve Davis, Bridgid Everitt, David van  
Edwards, David Howarth, Peter Jennings, Helen King,  
Gaye de Leiros, Norman Lister, Sue Lister, Chris Pink, Tony  
Quickenden, John Trevelyan, Vanessa Trevelyan, Kath  
Warner, John Williams and Susan Wright.



# Chair's Report

## Introduction

The inauguration of the Friends of Kett's Heights took place in January 2015 and this our third AGM and my first since taking over as Chair last year. My own personal fortunes have brought about my election as a City Councillor for Thorpe Hamlet last May. Whilst this may have increased my workload it has not lessened my enthusiasm and belief in making Kett's Heights an important focus for community involvement. As I said at last year's AGM the Friends of Kett's Heights is about much more than just improving the accessibility, environment and bio-diversity of this much loved open space, it is also about bringing people together for a common purpose, generating friendships, dialogue and propinquity.

## Practical Work and Site Improvements

At one time it seemed that we did little else other than cut back brambles, clear fallen trees and keep paths clear. Indeed, these activities remain an important aspect of keeping the site tidy and accessible. However, by the time the winter snows had cleared we witnessed the first signs of newly planted snowdrops emerging from the banks along the entrance path. By March we welcomed Norwich Fringe to help us clear the thick brush on the lower and upper terraces, allowing us to plant a wide variety of fruit trees including eleven apple, four plum and four cherry.



With a wet spring council grass cutting was late in the season, and despite our requests the workers resolutely cut the wild flower area on the upper green. Perhaps this year we will erect some signs to deter their enthusiasm. They say that in the summertime the living is easy, but the replacement of the old chain link fence with a paddock style railing was undertaken by The Conservation Volunteers over a particularly hot week in July. The tree thinning along the entrance path helped us in our efforts to expand our bulb planting with the addition of an additional 2000 snowdrops and 2000 bluebells.



The job of keeping the site tidy and well cared for falls to our dedicated team of litter pickers, who scour the site for lager cans and sometimes more revealing items. Quite why the viewpoint has become a focus for ladie's underwear will hopefully remain a mystery. A special thank you must go to John Williams, who has made it his personal crusade to foil the attempts of the most determined graffiti artist to gain a foothold on Kett's Heights.



## Events

We were delighted to welcome the return of the Community Theatre Group *Crude Apache*. This year's production 'At the Turning of the Tide' was a high energy show full of music, tears and laughter. The show told the story of the Norfolk Wherries, the great trading vessels of the Broads, which reached their heyday in the 19th century before suffering a terminal decline with the arrival of the steam railways. FKH supports and hosts these productions, and as always they are well attended and full of drama. Once again we were blessed with the most perfect weather for an open air production.



For the third year running we have offered the community the chance to get creative and the theme this year was 'Creative Creatures'. Using natural found materials people were asked to create a sculpture or picture which could be abstract or take the form of an animal. This was very much a family event and brought out some fantastic ideas. People brought their picnics and we spent a wonderful two or three hours on the Lower Green chatting and meeting new friends. Prizes were awarded as a result of us voting for each other's works.



### Guided Tours and Heritage Open Days

We have continued our programme of free guided tours, which are on the first Sunday of every month throughout the summer. We also offered a programme of tours as part of the Heritage Open Days on a Saturday and Sunday from 8 to 16 September.



### Biodiversity Award

This award recognised the achievements of the Friends for working on biodiversity projects in our local community. This included such things as our work on tree planting and spring flowering bulbs, together with the renovation of the pond for aquatic species and the provision of bird boxes around the site. It was also in recognition that groups such as ours can inspire people to care for their local biodiversity while providing the chance to get together and work with a common purpose. The award was for all participants and the group as a whole, as well as those achieved for wildlife and habitats.



### Loose Ends

The author C. J. Sansom was so impressed after the research for his book, *Tombland*, that he gave us a generous donation. We had a visit from two of Robert Kett's real-life descendants. Bignold Primary School made a return visit in May. The plant sale run by Tony Quickenden raised £76! The Fun Dog Show was cancelled because of the extreme hot weather.

