

Marston Marshes Volunteer Group – Report to EVRA 2013 AGM

The MMVG was formed in late 2011 to deliver EVRA obligations under the sustainability element of the Grant for the Easy Access Path.

Sustainability Grant covers cost of guided walks to promote use of path and for the upkeep of the path. We have purchased a brush cutter to help with maintenance of the area and the Norwich Fringe Project look after this for us.

The Volunteer Group has undertaken 4 sessions on the marshes this year and the work included:

- Maintaining and topping up path following damage during winter flooding
- Making and installing faggots to shore up eroded river bank
- Raking and clearing sedge
- Cutting and burning willow scrub

We always welcome more volunteers to help. It is a good day out in the fresh air with refreshments provided. We are currently planning more quarterly community work days and these will be publicised on our website and in future EVRA newsletters.

There are other opportunities to get involved on the marshes and other sites managed by the Norwich Fringe Project and these are also published on our website.

Both the Dawn Chorus walk in May and the Wildflower and Butterfly walk in June were well attended. The Dawn Chorus walk was an early start but many birds were seen or heard and we finished with bacon rolls and hot drinks served by the 34th Norwich Scout Group. The dyke dipping sessions for children in May half-term week were also well attended despite the rain!

The number of volunteers turning out has dwindled of late and we would really like more residents to come and join us. Typically we start at 10:00 and work until around 3:00pm. All tea & coffee, tools and training will be provided by the Norwich Fringe Project. Dress for the weather and conditions and bring a packed lunch and water. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us for future work days.

Thank you

Chris Stebbing

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