

Kesgrave Conservation Group



*Photos above - what can be achieved ...
Photos below - work that was required.*

Brief History

Kesgrave Conservation Group (KCG) was formed in 2010 by a small group of like-minded people to improve wildlife habitats in Kesgrave. There is a growing public interest in how to conserve threatened wildlife such as birds, butterflies and bumble bees. The small gardens of Kesgrave offer limited opportunities to do this whereas our larger green spaces can provide much more. At this point it would be remiss not to mention the origins of the current Group who continue the work of their predecessors, locally known as 'CAIK' (Conservation Awareness in Kesgrave). Much of CAIK's work was carried out before the development of Grange Farm but their objective to enhance the open spaces and wildlife areas for the benefit of Kesgrave is still the aims of the current Group.

Kesgrave Conservation Group works in partnership with Kesgrave Town Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council to improve and maintain the open spaces and landscaping across Kesgrave.

The Story So Far...

Kesgrave Conservation Group has undertaken several projects from wildflower and tree planting, to hedge and public open space rejuvenation. The Group has even undertaken demolition work to remove a dis-used brick storage unit to enhance a public open space. Like any garden the work is never ending and the tasks can be as small or as large as you want them to be. Also like your own garden the rates of success depend very much on 'mother nature'. Some areas of success are:-





Pergola Piece POS

Some open spaces had deteriorated and needed help, one such area was Pergola Piece Public Open Space (POS). Old rabbit fencing had collapsed and was removed. This in turn allowed the wildlife area to receive urgent maintenance; regular mowing in order for the wildflowers to thrive, additional wildflower planting; bramble trimmed back to allow good hedge growth and new seating for residents to enjoy the tranquility of this area. Work continues to enhance the centre circle.

Pilboroughs Walk

Kesgrave has several ancient hedges one of which is located on Pilboroughs Walk dating back to the 1700s, so is of both historical and wildlife value. Unfortunately due to invasive plants like 'Russian Vine', Ivy and Bramble the hedge has drastically suffered. Work continues to rejuvenate this hedge by removing the rubbish, planting whips and regular managed cutting to help new growth. Alongside the daffodil bulbs large swathes of wildflower planting have also been carried out.



Jubilee Copse POS

The biggest project to date is 'Jubilee Copse', an open space between Ropes Drive and Pilboroughs Walk. With over 100 trees having been planted over the last 5 years this area continues to thrive and in time a whole new habitat will have been created.

In addition a further 60 Oak trees have been planted in Kesgrave.

And the Future....

To introduce the next generation to conservation work, we are working with 1st Kesgrave Cubs who are growing Ox-Eye Daisy during the summer. These will be planted later in the year in local wildflower areas.

A lot of the work undertaken will take years to mature but after eight years we can already see what has been achieved. Some people are shocked when areas have been decimated in order to achieve rejuvenation, but sometimes it takes drastic measures that will in the end benefit wildlife and the Kesgrave community alike.

