

OUR NEW WALNUT TREE

with the installation team

Many thanks for your help. I know it has been a long drawn out process. I was surprised at the turn out and was nice to see such community spirit (which is rare these days).

Regards
Steve

Wilbytree Surgeons Ltd
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You may have noticed that the play-park has recently benefited from a new black walnut tree, near to where the old walnut tree used to be. The old tree was diseased and falling branches had caused physical damage, but many of us were disappointed to see it go. We were very grateful therefore when Wilby Trees offered a replacement tree, free of charge, as a donation to our village. Mrs Freda Richards, of Mears Ashby, also had an old fund from previous times, which she kindly agreed to donate for the very nice black frame to protect the young tree. With the help of Margaret Tinston and Any Reid, a good number of children and youths in the village agreed to help plant the tree; many of them use the park regularly and we hope this involvement will help engender some pride and ownership of the tree and the park generally among the younger people.

On the day, Tuesday 7 April, Steve Bassford of Wilby Trees brought along the tree and guard, and proved his strength by carry the tree in by himself – I could hardly lift it, never mind carry the thing! But he was happy to step back and let the children dig much of the hole themselves, occasionally assisted by members of the Parish Council (usually when they thought a camera was near them!). I should particularly mention Liam Tinstons' efforts, as he put in much of the tree guard in himself.

When the tree was successfully planted, we all moved to the wall between the park and The Worlds' End, where some paint had been sprayed on. Further considerable time and effort was made by the children, youths and adults in cleaning much of this off. We had a few materials to help us, but elbow grease was basically the main component. By the end, much of the unsightly paint was cleared and Amy took the opportunity to sell part of her tuck-shop to the hungry children – never a missed opportunity! They say the sun shines on the righteous, well it shone well for us that day, and by the end we were all pleased with our new tree and the general appearance of the play park. My thanks again to all those who got involved, and I hope as many people as possible continue to use and enjoy our village park.

Chris Petrie,
Chairman, Ecton Parish Council

AND THE WORK DID NOT STOP AFTER THE PLANTING
AS THE YOUTH CLUB SET ABOUT REMOVING
GRAFFITI FROM THE PARK

