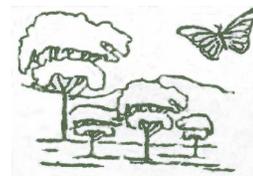


# Yare Valley Society Newsletter

## Issue 91

## May 2015



*The objects of the society are to protect the natural landscape and wildlife habitats of the Yare Valley south and west of Norwich, principally between Harford and Bowthorpe. We oppose any development that would detract from its natural qualities and support projects which would preserve the valley for the benefit of all.*

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm at  
The Willows Centre, Cringleford

After a short Business Meeting there will be a discussion forum. We are very pleased that the following Councillors have agreed to take part.

Cllr Bert Bremner	Norwich University Ward
Cllr Judith Lubbock	Norwich Eaton Ward
Cllr Garry Wheatley	South Norfolk Cringleford

### Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Treasurer's report
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee Members.

#### CHAIRMAN

Andrew Salisbury	Proposed by Hilary Hann	Seconded by John Ayton
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#### TREASURER

Hilary Hann	Proposed by Ann Livingstone	Seconded by John Thurman
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#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

John Ayton, John Elbro, June Gentle, Graham Martin, Madeline Keep, John Thurman. All these members are willing to stand again

- 6 Any Other Business

Yare Valley Society  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Annual General Meeting

In the Chair: Andrew Salisbury

1. The Chairman welcomed the meeting with a particular reference to the Mayor elect, Mrs Judith Lubbock. 30 members in attendance.
2. Apologies were received from Paul Hann, John Elbro and Alison Ward.  
The Chairman paid a special tribute to Alison Ward for her major contribution to the work of the committee and the Society as secretary for many Years. A presentation in acknowledgment of all her hard work and commitment would be made later.
3. The minutes of the AGM, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 were agreed as correct and duly signed.
4. Matters arising: The Chairman referred to and apologised for the recent difficulty with the website but reassured members that it was now working normally.
5. The Chairman's Review  
A copy of the review was incorporated in a recent Newsletter and is filed in the Minute Book. The Chairman drew particular attention to the work of the committee and the newsletter deliverers. Jean Ray has agreed to act as deliverers co-ordinator.  
Cases dealt with during the year included the final phase of the Bowthorpe development, where the change suggested by the Society on the river edge was accepted by the City council, car parking at Earlham Park (also amended to meet the Societies concern) and the Cringleford Plan which incorporated policies to protect the valley.  
The committee also met local politicians from the Labour, Conservative, Lib-Dem and Green parties for useful discussions on environmental issues and the current working of the planning system.
6. Hilary Hann presented the Treasurer's report and copies of the account were circulated. Attention was drawn to the deficit of £62.74 for the year, with a shortfall of income against running expenses. The total balance in hand in December 2013 was £2989.  
The accounts were approved nem con.
7. Andrew Salisbury presented the Membership secretary's report . Total membership now stood at 379 with 21 complimentary copies being distributed.
8. Elections  
John Thurman took the chair to pay tribute to the hard work of the Chairman in managing the committee and the running of the Society. He was nominated for re-election by Jean Ray, seconded by Jack Gentle and elected nem con.  
The Chairman reported that, subject to the elections, it was intended to divide the work of the Secretary providing for external correspondence, minute taking, the Newsletter and the website by separate members of the committee. He reported that all the current committee members – Hilary Hann as Treasurer, John Ayton, John Elbro, June Gentle, Madeleine Keep, and John Thurman - were willing to stand again and two new members had been proposed and seconded – Ann Livingstone and Graham Martin. He proposed that they should all be elected en bloc and this was agreed nem con.
9. Any other business  
June Gentle described how a small sub-committee had devised a draft redesigned brochure and membership form and invited members questions and comments which will be considered by the committee. The Annual Meeting ended at 8.03pm.

Following, Dr Gerry Barnes MBE gave an illustrated talk on “Landscape with trees – Norfolk's heritage”

Chairman .....

Date .....

## Chairman's Report 2015

Unfortunately, we have been unable to fill the post of Secretary. This has meant that committee members have shared the secretarial duties amongst themselves. John Thurman has taken over keeping the Society website up to date; John Ayton is the Minutes Secretary; Val Salisbury is the Newsletter Editor; Jackie Marquart with Jean Ray looks after the Newsletter printing and distributing; and the Chairman looks after other tasks not covered above. The Chairman has always been the person to write planning letters and to negotiate with other interested parties so the secretary can concentrate on his/her duties.

In addition the committee has subcommittees to consider Membership, Planning, and Social and Amenity activities. Ann Livingstone has taken on the not inconsiderable task, for one year only, of bringing our membership lists up to date and at the same time has encouraged our members to receive newsletters by email. This is a big saving for the society and has reduced our need for newsletter distributors. We thank her very much for her efforts on behalf of the society. We have also decided not to have life membership as an option which does mean we have a better trickle of fees coming in. The society has always run on limited finance with nearly all the work being done voluntarily with no claims on the bank balance.

One big difference in the way the society is run is the arrangement of children's activities. June Gentle with Ann Livingstone, Hilary Hann and family, John Thurman and other committee members have run two events which emphasise the environmental and ecological aspects of the river valley.

Following a well supported Family Nature Walk which the YVS committee organised in the summer holidays last year, we were asked if anything else of a similar nature was to be planned.

We decided to hold an event in the February half term, and as the weather could prove a problem we hired a room at the Willow Centre. We wanted to reach out to the new community in Cringleford so we devised an afternoon based on the flora and fauna of the valley.

We were fortunate to have the co-operation of a number of people and groups to join us in introducing this special place.

On the day, we involved adults in discussions with people representing the Conservation and Environment Agency; the Fringe Group; Marston Marshes volunteers, and the University. We provided quizzes and craft activities for the children.

This was the first time we had done this kind of event and we would like to continue to involve new residents, but it takes much time and energy to organise such things. We would be very happy if a volunteer came forward to help us to promote our special Yare Valley in similar events.

Dr Nick Goodwin of NRP asked representatives of the Yare Valley Society to meet him to discuss the proposal to lay a communications link across the valley to and from the Norwich Research Park to the UEA. The construction caused little disruption and there was no final effect on the valley. We also considered other potential developments of mutual concern. It was a very useful meeting for both parties we think. The proposed development is very good for the NRP and UEA and will allow them to run more smoothly. The Society supported this development wholeheartedly.

I wish to end by expressing my great thanks to the committee members and especially to those who deliver our newsletters to our members. Their support is so important and is appreciated very much. They remain a personal contact with our readers who do not have email facilities.

# YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

## Accounts for period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014

### Current Account

Income		Expenditure	
	2014 £		2014 £
Subscriptions	281.00	AGM Hire of Pavilion	28.00
Donations	46.00	AGM refreshments	8.00
YV guides	222.00	AGM photocopying	5.00
Dragonflies	12.00	AGM speaker expenses	18.00
Postcards	6.50	Donation to NWT (Projector)	20.00
		Web domain	43.16
		Web registration	43.06
		Newsletter printing	17.50
		Public Liability Insurance	140.38
		EJP Print Ltd for YVS guide	94.50
Total	<u>567.50</u>	Total	<u>417.60</u>
		Surplus	149.90
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>567.50</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>567.50</u></b>

<b>Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Balance at 1 January 2014	£ 484.99	
	Surplus	<u>149.90</u>	
	<b>Balance at 31 December 2014</b>		<b>£ 634.89</b>

### Deposit Account

Balance at 1 January 2014	£ 2989.19
Add Interest	<u>£ 17.98</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2014</b>	<b>£ 3007.17</b>

## **Report by John Elbro**

Eaton Village Residents Association active in the Yare Valley.  
Eaton Village Residents Association (EVRA) continues to be active in the Yare Valley with volunteer work at Marston Marshes and Eaton Common and by organising other events. For the May half-term EVRA will host a Dyke Dipping event at Marston Marshes. It will take place on 27 May, and will be led by the Norwich Fringe Project. If you would like to go in search of water mini-beasts such as water scorpions, back swimmers and dragon fly larvae, you can book a one hour slot on the EVRA website at [www.eatonvillage.co.uk](http://www.eatonvillage.co.uk). All dipping equipment will be provided.

Volunteer conservation work in the Yare Valley is done under the direction and guidance of the Norwich Fringe Project, and information on work from Whitlingham to Bowthorpe can be found at <https://norwichfringeproject.wordpress.com>

### **The Yare Valley as a linear park?**

The latest version of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP) was published in March (see <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/delivery/greater-norwich-infrastructure-plan/> ) and includes proposals for a number of “green infrastructure” projects needed to sustain the other infrastructure developments such as the new houses and employment areas planned for Greater Norwich. One proposal is to manage the Yare Valley green spaces as a single entity. This could lead to a better organisation of projects and a better balance of the needs of wildlife and recreation. The YVS is represented on the Yare Valley Green Infrastructure Delivery Group overseeing the proposals. Watch this space

### **Green routes to the Yare Valley**

Norwich has secured government funds of 8.4 million pounds for improving the Blue and Yellow routes. Cyclists will recognise these routes as “Pedalways” that connect the City centre with points south of the City – indicated by those small coloured signs on lampposts. As well as improvements along the existing pedalways (e.g. along Newmarket Road and Hall Road), the pedalways are being extended to Wymondham and the University Technical College at Harford Bridge. Bluebell Road “connector” cycleway will also be improved. For more on this see <http://www.norwich.gov.uk/TransportAndStreets/Transport/Cycling/Pages/CycleCityAmbitionGrant2015.aspx>

The routes will be largely off-road and should provide a safe environment for families cycling with young children. How about a green day cycling to the Yare Valley with a visit to the Sainsbury Centre and a picnic by the river?