

Yare Valley Society Newsletter



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.

Issue 105 August 2018

Please make an extra special effort to come along to our AGM and give your support. See the Notice of our AGM, and the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports for 2018.

Please give some thought to whether you can give additional support to the Society by becoming a committee member, or a non-committee volunteer member. If the Society is to be effective in the future a sound administration and a steady flow of new ideas is essential.

The AGM will be followed by a talk by Matt Davies of Norwich Fringe Project. The Norwich Fringe Project is responsible for much of the work that is done in the Valley on improving wildlife habitat and public access. Matt will describe how volunteer workers help the Project to achieve its aims.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7.30 pm at Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 7 June 2017
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report (See below)
6. Treasurer's report (See below)
7. Election of Officers for 2018/2019:
Chair
Vice Chair
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Committee members (maximum of five)
8. Any other business

TALK

By Matt Davies of Norwich Fringe Project:

“Conserving Norwich's Natural Heritage”

Enjoy a chat and refreshments after the talk

Yare Valley Society

Chairman's Report 2017/2018

It has been a busy year for the Society: campaigning on the Local Plan consultation, commenting on planning applications, monitoring ongoing developments, developing the website, creating a Facebook page, conforming to the General Data Protection Regulations, publishing a Calendar, as well as responding to consultations and enquiries ranging from Giant Hogweed invasion to Yare Valley Walk signage. Below are some of these activities:

Consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan

The consultation included many proposals for development of sites that are within the supposedly “protected” zone of the Yare Valley Green Infrastructure Corridor. The Rugby Club approval has shown that “protected” has not the meaning we thought. It was vital to have a strong public response. A big thank you to all who wrote in to help safeguard our green space. Help and support on navigating the intricacies of the consultation process was available on the new YVS website.

A draft of a new Greater Norwich Local Plan is now being prepared. Once completed it will go out again for public consultation. Again, we must be ready to express our views to protect the Valley.

McCarthy and Stone Developments at Bartram's Mowers.

Phase 1 of this development is now approaching completion, and its final form is taking shape. McCarthy and Stone have submitted plans for phase 2 of the development. YVS made representations on these plans, and it is pleasing to see that these have been reflected in the Norwich City Council's own reservations about the plans. A response from the developer is awaited.

Strawberry Field

As part of the above phase 1, arrangements for public access to the so-called “Strawberry Field” have been completed. You can now walk in the field legally. Plans are in place for its future management. YVS was consulted on the plans for the field, and on the design of an interpretation board, and possible waymarking signs. A sign design is being considered that could eventually be used for waymarking the whole of the Yare Valley Walk. A variation of the design could be used to identify circular walks linked into the Valley Walk. The design's motif is a dragonfly.

Work has still to be finished on the provision of amenities such as surfaced paths, signs, interpretation board, and landscaping.

The Strawberry Field is a much-needed additional public access space to spread the load of the current high footfall in the valley, and to meet the demands of the ever-growing number of residents in the vicinity of the valley.

Rugby Club/UEA Playing Fields development

YVS, with the Cringleford and Colney Parishes, has been active in seeking to mitigate the visual and ecological impact of the development through a small team led by Professor Tim O’Riordan involving the Sportspark, the UEA Estates Office, architects, and UEA environmental scientists. Discussions are now on hold, awaiting clarification. It seems there are still issues to be resolved by the Club before they can proceed with the development.

Keswick Triangle Development adjacent to A140

YVS worked closely with Keswick Parish Council, and Norwich Cycling Campaign in opposing this employment zone development in the form in which it was being proposed, including presentations at the Planning Meeting. The planning proposal was rejected initially, but subsequently important modifications were made to the proposals and it was eventually passed. Important concessions were made to meet various objections. These include a woodland buffer zone between the Valley to the west and the Development, a new footway/cycleway along the west side of the Mulbarton road, and reduced traffic flow on Mulbarton road. The footway/cycleway will complete a new safe circular route for walkers and cyclists and will give them safe access to the tiny Keswick All Saints Church.

Colney/Bowthorpe Pedestrian Bridge approaches completion

The bridge is now approaching completion. The bridge links the bridleway at Colney to an ancient track at Bowthorpe. In a plan for the Yare Valley published by the Norwich Society in 1968, one of the projects was for the then existing stepping stones be replaced by a bridge. The dream has been realised half a century later. YVS has long supported the project. Credit to Norfolk County Council and South Norfolk District Council for persisting with the project in spite of numerous difficulties.

Yare Valley Calendar 2017/18

Thanks again to June Gentle for another successful Society Calendar. The profit added a valuable £150 to our funds.

YVS on Facebook

Thanks to the efforts of Rachel Taylor who joined the committee last year, we now have a Facebook presence. Please make a special effort to post your pictures, news and views to keep interest in the Valley alive.

YVS Website

Our website has been remodelled with the help of a user-friendly editing program (WordPress). The domain name is now yarevalleysociety.org.uk to bring us into line with other similar organisations.

Use the website to keep up with current happenings and to get help on responding to Planning Applications and Consultations.

Maintaining a good website takes a lot of effort. If you have had some experience with word processing, can you help with doing some editing on the site, or general “housekeeping”, or perhaps curating our photo gallery? Support will be available to help you with WordPress.

General Data Protection regulations

YVS has updated its procedures and literature to be compliant with the regulations. If you want to know more go to the Join Us section of the YVS website, or contact us using the details given below under “Contact YVS”

Member Action

Members keeping YVS informed of incidences in the Valley continues to be helpful. Reports have included the appearance of Giant Hogweed, the sighting of dead fish in the river, and a dubious planning application. YVS has responded in a number of instances e.g. through our website by providing advice to members on hazards, indicating the Authority for other members to report to should they see similar incidences.

The Year Ahead – a Vision for the Valley?

The Yare Valley is identified in local plans as a key part of our green infrastructure and essential for the wellbeing of the ever-increasing local population – but recent developments highlight how difficult it is to defend the Valley from undesirable development. In addition, parts of the Valley are already showing the wear of too many feet. Actions on projects to relieve the pressure and enhance the ecology, and actions to prevent undesirable developments intruding into the valley become ever more urgent.

The Norwich Society plan for the Valley in 1968 is mentioned above. Is now the time for YVS to create a new “Vision for the Valley”? There is certainly a need for a coherent plan to meet the pressures now and in the future. The existence of a Vision will help the Valley to gain wider recognition as an essential component of a viable green infrastructure for Greater Norwich. Can you help to create a Vision for the Valley?

Non-committee Volunteer Members

Several appeals for help in assisting with aspects of Society administration have been made above. If you would like to help, or to would like to know more, please let YVS know at:

Contact YVS

You can contact the Yare Valley Society at yarevalleysociety@gmail.com, or ring 01603 456443 and leave a message. Please use the email contact if you can.

Thank You

I give grateful thanks to the committee for their active support throughout the year, and also to all those non-committee Volunteers who have given active support to the work of the Society by looking after membership enrolment, the Yare Valley Walk Guide, and newsletter distribution and other matters.

A thank you also to all our members for helping the Society to care for the Valley.

John Elbro

Chair

Yare Valley Society

Yare Valley Society

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

Current Account

Income		Expenditure	
	2017		2017
	£		£
Subscriptions	180.00	Hire of Cringleford Pavilion for AGM	37.50
Calendars (2017)	206.00	Public Liability Insurance	115.50
YVS Guides	106.00	EJP Print Ltd for YVS guide	70.00
Donations	13.00	Website registration	52.76
		Calendars (2018)	390.00
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	505.00		665.76
Deficit	160.76		
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Total	665.76	Total	665.76

Bank Reconciliation:	Balance at 1 January 2017	£ 682.31
	Less	<u>£ 160.76</u>
	Balance at 31 December 2017	£ 521.55

Deposit Account

Balance at 1 January 2017	£ 3040.17
Add Interest	<u>£ 9.60</u>
Balance at 31 December 2017	£ 3049.77

Hilary Hann

Treasurer

Dated 06.18