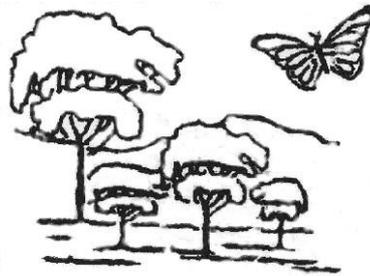


# Yare Valley Society

Enhancing the Valley  
for wildlife and Informal recreation



**Newsletter 113 June 2022**

## **Annual General Meeting and Talk**

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7.30 pm

Cringleford Sports Pavilion

(Entrance via Recreation Ground at end of Oakfields Road Cringleford)

Please make a special effort to come along and give your support. As a consequence of Covid the present committee has now served for three years. The Chair's Report draws attention to the impact of Covid and the resulting need to fill vacancies on the committee and to promote membership. Please give serious thought about joining the committee or of supporting the Society in specific areas of activity such as talks, walks, writings, and membership drives. All of this is essential if the Society is to continue to effectively safeguard and improve the Valley for the future.

The papers for the AGM are at the end of this Newsletter

### “Strawberry field: from Ragwort to Riches”

We normally manage to complete the business of the AGM in the first half hour. We will then be able to enjoy, “Strawberry field: from Ragwort to Riches”, a talk by [Dr Matt Tomlinson](#) from the John Innes Centre. Matt works on the anticancer benefits of natural plant compounds. The talk will be of interest to all who wish to see the biodiversity of the Valley improved, and also to those seeking to rewild their gardens. Matt started his interest in the Strawberry Field as a lockdown 2020 project. Over the last two years the *Friends of Strawberry field* has formed, and is working with the landowner to make changes to the management the field. The field is now rapidly heading towards being a rich community wildflower meadow. Spurred on by these successes the *Friends* are now also assisting with adjacent hay meadows. More on the work of the *Friends* and some of the wildflowers that can be seen on the Strawberry field at <https://www.facebook.com/strawberryfieldeaton>



**The beauty of wildflowers: Ragged Robins on Marston Marsh**

**Photo: June Gentle**

## Eaton Eco Fair Display



Society Eco-stand

Photo: Marilyn Evans

Our three representatives on the Yare Valley Society Eco Fair display were kept very busy throughout by interested and enquiring viewers. The display highlighted (in green) the important roles the Yare Valley green corridor has in promoting biodiversity and combatting the effects of climate change:

- It is a wildlife highway for the migration of flora and fauna
- Its wildflowers sustain pollinators
- Its grazing livestock promote biodiversity
- Its vegetation and marshes reduce flood damage and pollution
- Its marshes and woodlands act as a carbon sink
- Its ease of access for a large urban population reduces carbon emissions by reducing dependence on car use.

Have you anything we could add to this list?

The display also highlighted (in red) some of the threats to the Yare Valley in performing its roles effectively.

### A wildlife gem by the junction

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust has surveyed the marsh it owns upstream of Harford Bridge, and has undertaken a programme of improvement. The marsh was gifted by one of its members. All is described in an article by Robert Morgan at <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/news-and-articles/articles/all-articles/a-wildlife-gem-by-the-junction>.

The NWT appeal for funds to purchase and manage Sweet Briar Marshes in the Wensum Valley green corridor continues. The Wensum corridor, in common with the Yare Valley green corridor, is threatened by urban development. The new nature reserve will be free to visit when it opens to the public.

More details at <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/support-us/sweet-briar-marshes-appeal>



Grazing longhorns improve biodiversity at Harford Bridge Marsh

## AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019
4. Matters arising
5. Chair's Report (See below)
6. Treasurer's report (See below)
7. Election of Officers for 2022/2023:
  - Chair
  - Vice Chair
  - Honorary Secretary
  - Honorary Treasurer
  - Committee members (maximum of five)
8. Any other business

Followed by a talk by Dr Matt Tomlinson from the John Innes Institute:  
**"Strawberry Field: From Ragwort to Riches"**

### **Agenda Item 3: Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

1. The Chair welcomed the members and the guest speaker to the AGM
2. Copies of the Minutes of the last AGM, the Chair's Report and the Treasurer's Report were available at the meeting and the last two were also in the April Newsletter.
3. The Minutes of the last AGM were approved. There were no matters arising.
4. The Chair's Report and the Treasurer's Report were taken as read, and clarifications provided.
5. The Reports were approved.
6. Members were invited to stand for officers and members of the committee, but there were no further nominations.
7. The existing officers agreed to stand. There was no nomination for Honorary Secretary.
8. The following officers and committee members were elected unopposed: Chair: John Elbro, Vice Chair: John Ayton, committee members: June Gentle, Rachel Taylor, Graham Martin, Treasurer Hilary Hann, and Graham Fletcher.
9. Any Other Business: queries were answered but none that required further action by the committee.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Caroline Spink of Norfolk Wildlife Trust: "Wildlife in Common"

### **Agenda Item 5: CHAIR'S REPORT 2019/2022**

I begin by saying the Society is greatly indebted for the many years of service of our recent Vice Chair John Ayton, who passed away last year. He was a valued friend and colleague on the committee. His wide-ranging experience was invaluable to the Society in formulating responses to numerous planning applications, in preparing for Planning Inspectorate Public Enquiries and in dealing with other important issues.

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Throughout Covid, the Society and its members have continued to be actively involved in Valley issues. While for much of the time the committee was not able to meet in person, it pursued its work by a combination of emailing and zooming.

A very big thank you should go to members who responded to one or more of the public consultations on the Greater Norwich Local Plan, on the White Paper "Planning for the Future" and on the Greater Norwich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:

The new Greater Norwich Local Plan is for the period 2026 to 2038. Of the original seven sites proposed for development in the Yare Valley Green Space, after consultations, only one made it to the final draft – student residences on Bluebell Road. In a final stage, subject to very precise criteria and before the Plan was examined by the National Planning Inspectorate, the Society argued the inclusion of the site was "unsound" on the grounds that it conflicted with the aims for improving green infrastructure stated in policies elsewhere in the Plan. The inspectorate's decision on the Plan is awaited.

The widespread condemnation of the proposals in “Planning for the Future” resulted in it being shelved, at least temporarily, but in the present climate of controversial proposals it could well return.

The consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan saw a return to the idea of a road across the Valley, but it was presented in such a muddled way it was difficult to respond. The Society and members objected to the idea of the road and to the obfuscation.

I hope members feel the Society gave helpful support on its website, Facebook and in Newsletters on responding to these consultations.

As always there has been a steady stream of planning application matters that potentially affect the valley.

The McCarthy and Stone development on Bluebell Road has made a ground start on phase 2. The main concern here was to see the density reduced to accord with the Local Plans, for improved connectivity of footpaths, and for landscape planting. The second two may be achieved. Our speaker tonight, Matt Tomlinson, will tell us about a project for the closely associated Strawberry field.

The Society was represented on Zoom for the Colney Burial Ground Extension Planning Meeting, and expressed concerns about river pollution. A number of pollution safeguarding conditions have been attached to the approval. The Dandelion Day Nursery at Eaton Vale Activity Centre was an application for a change of use whose ramifications could easily have been missed. Unusually the full text of our objection was placed before the planning meeting, and the change was approved subject to conditions limiting the approval’s potential scope.

The Society has generally supported UEA Sainsbury Centre applications for introducing new sculptures to its Sculpture Park, although it expressed a reservation on the siting of the Goodwood Steps.

Lastly it was learned that Norwich Rugby Club had decided not to re-locate to UEA Playing Fields after financing problems and UEA had asked to withdraw from the project.

It is good to see the importance of the Yare Valley Corridor in our green infrastructure being increasingly recognised. It has been linked into the recent B Line and Slow ways projects. The city council have installed new signposts and way-marking posts with a dragonfly symbol to designate the Valley Walk, and put up some new interpretation boards. Work is currently proceeding with improving the paths and car park at Cringleford Meadow. As always, we are thankful to the Norwich Fringe Project for their continuing work on maintaining and improving the Valley.

Covid has not stopped other matters proceeding.

The Society restored the memorial plaque of our past Chair, Elaine Tucker, near the UEA Mathematical Bridge. It had become indistinct and no longer properly attached to its base.

Digitally, the Society Website, Facebook and Newsletters have been maintained and progressed. Using several sources, the Society now has a complete digital archive of past newsletters from issue 1 in June 1989. The archive is lodged with Norfolk Record Office, and is in process of being added to the Society Website.

To make the Society more widely known, and attract new members, a new Flyer has been produced, and copies will be available at the AGM. June Gentle generously gifted 1000 copies of the Flyer to the Society.

Further publicity has come with the Society’s stand at the recent Eaton Eco Fair which attracted a lot of interest, and will be displayed at the AGM. In keeping with the Eco theme, the stand shows the role of the Yare Valley in helping us cope with climate change and in promoting biodiversity. In our times it should be a strong argument for safeguarding and enhancing the green ecology of the Valley.

I give grateful thanks to our committee members June Gentle, Rachel Taylor, Graham Martin, Treasurer Hilary Hann, and Minutes Secretary Graham Fletcher, for their unstinting support in the past three years since our last AGM. All have served on the committee for at least four years, and the majority for longer. My thanks too to Tim Edwards for his support in distributing the digital Newsletter and for designing the Poster for this AGM.

Covid has impacted in many and various ways on the lives of people and institutions. The Yare Valley Society is no exception. Its AGM has been postponed twice, and not wishing to risk the health of its volunteers, the distribution of paper editions of the newsletter and subscription reminders has been interrupted. Recruitment and renewals to the Society have been slow and appeals to members to fill vacancies on the committee have, so far, failed. The Society, like much of the wildlife it seeks to protect, is threatened with extinction.

**Please seriously consider ensuring the future of our Society either by joining the committee or by giving ancillary help such as organising walks, managing website pages, arranging talks, writing articles or other projects.**

John Elbro, Chair.

**Agenda Item 7: Treasurer's Reports for 2019, 2020, and 2021**

**Accounts for period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019**

**Current Account**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
	2019		2019
	£		£
Subscriptions	72.50	Hire of Cringleford Pavilion for AGM	37.50
Yare Valley Guides	6.00	Public Liability Insurance	117.60
		Donation NWT for AGM speaker	30.00
		Website 2/17-2/19	101.69
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	78.50	Total	286.79
Deficit	208.29		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>286.79</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>286.79</b>

<b>Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Balance at 1 January 2019	£ 978.45
	Less	£ 208.29
	<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>£ 770.16</b>

**B Deposit Account**

Balance at 1 January 2019	£ 3066.05
Add Interest	<u>£ 18.44</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>£ 3084.49</b>

Hilary Hann

Treasurer

06.2020

Agenda Item 7 (continued)

**Treasurer's Report**

**Accounts for period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020**

**Current Account**

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>		
	2020		2020	£
Subscriptions	165.00	Newsletters	56.00	
Donations	75.00	YVS Website	119.81	
YVS Guides	6.00			
246.00		Total	176.05	Total
Surplus			69.95	
	\\			
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<b>Total</b>	<b>246.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>246.00</b>	

<b>Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Balance at 1 January 2020	£ 770.16
	Additional income	<u>£ 69.95</u>
	<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>£ 840.11</b>

**Deposit Account**

Balance at 1 January 2020	£ 3084.49
Add Interest	<u>£ 11.68</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>£ 3096.47</b>

Hilary Hann

Treasurer

10.21

## Treasurer's Report

### Accounts for period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

#### Current Account

Income		Expenditure	
	2021		2021
	£		£
		Renewal of plaque for memorial tree	
Subscriptions	160.00	for E. Tucker ( First chair YVS)	114.95
YVS Guides	5.00		
Total	165.00	Total	114.95
Surplus			50.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>165.00</b>

<b>Bank Reconciliation:</b>	Balance at 1 January 2021	£ 840.11
	Additional income	<u>£ 50.05</u>
	<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>£ 890.16</b>

#### Deposit Account

Balance at 1 January 2021	£ 3096.47
Add Interest	<u>£ 4.10</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>£ 3100.57</b>

Hilary Hann

Treasurer

Please use this form to join or renew your subscription (if outstanding):

## Yare Valley Society

### Membership Form

Name (Please Print)	Mr/Mrs/Miss/ ...
Address	Post Code:
Telephone No.	
Email Address	
Other Family Members	
Are you interested in giving active support to the Society e.g. with administration, IT, Planning, Ecology, or other? If yes, please indicate your area of interest:	
Membership Subscriptions (Please delete as appropriate) Individual: £5 per year or £20 for 5 years Family: £7.50 per year or £30 for 5 years Payment may be made by: Cheque payable to "Yare Valley Society" Bank transfer or Direct Debit to Yare Valley Society, Sort Code: 20-62-53, Account Number: 30994286	
<b>Permission to store and process your personal data</b> To enrol you as a member of the Yare Valley Society, keep you informed of the activities of the Yare Valley Society and enable you to actively participate in supporting the Society, we need to record some of your personal details. To comply with the GDPR we must ask for your permission to store and process your personal data for this purpose. Please see our privacy policy " <b>Looking after your personal data</b> " on the "join us" page of the Society Website.	
<b>I give my consent to the Yare Valley Society recording personal information about me</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Please forward your completed form to: Hilary Hann, Treasurer, 18 Bluebell Road, Norwich, NR4 7LF	
Office Use: Date returned:	Subscription renewal date: