

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 106 April 2019

We begin with a date for your diary: the AGM on the 8th May. Please attend and give your support. There is also the opportunity to become a committee member, or a non-committee active volunteer member. If the Society is to be effective in the future a sound administration and a steady flow of new ideas is essential.

We normally manage to complete the AGM in the first half hour. We can then enjoy a talk “Wildlife in Common” by Caroline Spink of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Eaton Common is one of the assets of the Valley, and Caroline will give us a valuable insight into the Trust’s work on commons. The Trust has long been committed to the welfare of wildlife in the Valley, reinforced recently by its purchase of wetlands adjacent to Harford Bridge.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place on Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 7.30 pm at Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 12 September 2018
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman’s Report (See below)
6. Treasurer’s report (See below)
7. Election of Officers for 2019/2020:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Committee members (maximum of five)
8. Any other business

TALK

By Caroline Spink of Norwich Norfolk Wildlife Trust:

“Wildlife in Common”

Enjoy a chat and refreshments after the talk

Yare Valley Society

Chairman's Report 2018/2019

This year has seen a continuation of the McCarthy and Stone and the Rugby Club development sagas; but it has also seen some positive improvements to the Yare Valley. The “Strawberry Field” is now being enjoyed by all, and a dramatic new footbridge has been created at Colney. The Society continues to work with local Parishes and other organisations for the wellbeing of the Valley. The work includes participating in consultations e.g. on the use of green space in Norwich and being represented on liaison committees e.g. the Norwich Research Park. Many of these activities are reported on our website and/or Facebook and so go to them for the latest news.

Particular concerns this year have been:

[The New Greater Norwich Local Plan](#)

All quiet on this front at the moment, while a draft of the new plan is being prepared. The draft will include the preferred planning strategy for the area to 2036. Developers have put forward many sites for development in the Yare Valley Green Corridor, and we must be ready to give a strong response to protect the Valley if these appear in the draft plan. We expect the plan to be consulted on between September and October this year. Be ready to act!

[McCarthy and Stone Developments at Bartram's Mowers.](#)

Last year McCarthy and Stone submitted plans for phase two of the development, and we were awaiting the outcome. YVS had made representations on these plans, and it is pleasing to see that these had been reflected in the Norwich City Council's own serious reservations about the plans. The developers have now withdrawn the plans rather than attempt radical change. The developers will be returning with a new set of plans. YVS will press for the new plans paying more attention to the promised delivery of open space and its use to enhance the Valley for wildlife and recreation.

[Strawberry Field](#)

As part of the McCarthy and Stone phase one development, the Strawberry Field has been opened for public access. Some restrictions on access in the coming months can be expected while long awaited plans, on which YVS was consulted, are carried out. For technical reasons a start last autumn was not possible. Expect to see improvements in signage and footpaths, and the appearance of display boards.

[Rugby Club/UEA Playing Fields development](#)

Since the last Report was written, there have been two further planning applications to South Norfolk District Council relating to the UEA/Rugby Club Playing Fields. While they contain much of a technical nature, important changes are proposed to the original application (2016/0233).

The first of these further applications (2018/1830) sought to split the development into two phases, phase one, a car park adjacent to Colney Lane, and phase two, the rest of the development. The application raised a number of serious concerns, including the danger of creating a planning approval in perpetuity. The failure of the developer to address these concerns led to YVS joining with Colney and Cringleford Parishes in submitting an additional formal letter of objection. In spite of this, and the large numbers of objectors who wrote to the Council on this complex matter, the application was approved on the 10 December 2018; but with 31 conditions attached.

The second (2018/1830) sought partly to fulfil conditions relating to the two earlier planning applications, but also included significant changes to the phase one car park proposals. YVS's particular concerns are the run off from the impermeable surface, the light pollution from overhead lights, and the grossly inadequate arrangements for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at the car park's entrance on Colney Lane. A decision on the application is awaited.

As a footnote to all this, it seems that some of the difficulties the Rugby Club had in selling its present ground have been overcome, and it may become possible for them to proceed in the near future. YVS, with the Cringleford and Colney Parishes, will continue to seek to mitigate the visual and ecological impact of the development through a small team led by Professor Tim O’Riordan involving the Sports park, the UEA Estates Office, architects, and UEA environmental scientists.

Colney/Bowthorpe Pedestrian Bridge: The Bridge of Dreams?

The bridge is now in use as a recreational and commuting route, it is a major contribution to the path network in the Valley, linking Colney and the Norwich Research Park with Bowthorpe Southern Park. Proposed as early as 1968 by the Norwich Society, and subsequently supported by YVS it is now in being. “The Bridge of Dreams” is a suggested name: it recognises the bridge as a dream realised, and as an ideal spot to dream and reflect.

Facebook and website

A big thank you to those who have posted pictures, news and views on our Facebook page, and to those who have used our website. The green space of the Valley can so easily be taken for granted, and it is important to celebrate its existence for wildlife and recreation.

Member Action

Again YVS can be thankful for the grand response our members make to our appeals for support to counter undesirable developments in the Valley. Do be in touch with us on matters of concern or of general interest, either through Facebook or via the contact information on the YVS website. Photographs are always welcome to make a point

The Year Ahead – a Vision for the Valley?

The Norwich Society produced a plan for the Valley in 1968. Is now the time for YVS to create a new “Vision for the Valley”? The existence of a Vision will help the Valley gain wider recognition as an essential contribution to a viable green infrastructure for Greater Norwich. The Vision would also be a valuable tool to use to argue for improvements to the Valley green space, and to defend the Valley against undesirable developments. Would you be willing to take part in a Vision project?

Committee Members and Non-committee Volunteer Members

All of us on the committee value the fresh ideas that new committee members can bring to the meetings. Please put yourself forward for the committee if you are interested, and value the Valley as a green space.

If you are willing to help in other ways (as a non-committee volunteer member), we continue to appeal for help in assisting with aspects of Society administration, website/Facebook maintenance, creating a Vision, etc. 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

Many thanks to the committee for their active support throughout the year, and to the 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 (by foot and electronically), and other matters.

Many thanks to all our members for helping the Society to care for the Valley.

John Elbro, Chair

Yare Valley Society

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Current Account

Income	2018	Expenditure	2018
	£		£
Subscriptions	105.00	Hire of Cringleford Pavilion for AGM	37.50
Calendars	568.00	Public Liability Insurance	117.60
YVS Guides	32.00	Printing: GNLP consultation	71.00
		Printing: newsletters etc	24.00
Total	705.00	Total	250.10
		Surplus	454.90
Total	705.00	Total	705.00

Bank Reconciliation:	Balance at 1 January 2018	£ 521.55
	Additional income	<u>£ 454.90</u>
	Balance at 31 December 2018	£ 976.45

Deposit Account

Balance at 1 January 2018	£ 3049.77
Add Interest	<u>£ 16.28</u>
Balance at 31 December 2018	£ 3066.05

Hilary Hann
Treasurer

Dated 4th April 2019

Norwich Fringe Project and the Yare Valley

At our last AGM Matt Davies of the Norwich Fringe Project talked about the work they do in the Valley and elsewhere. Some of the volunteers doing the all-year-round work are from Eaton Village Residents Association, and Chris Stebbings, the Chair of EVRA, has kindly updated us on some of the recent activities of the Project:

Bowthorpe Southern Park: In October the team fenced-off an area each side of the new footbridge linking the Park to Colney and planted a variety of young trees (whips). The team returned in January this year to remove the temporary fencing installed during works by Anglian Water and replaced it with a new fence and kissing gate to help manage the grazing on the site and improve access for walkers getting to the new bridge. (Below is a view of the causeway across the Park marshes from the footbridge, and the planted whips. Taken at the beginning of a YVS committee meeting.)



UEA Fen Management: During October and November 2018 the volunteers cleared willow scrub from an area of the UEA Fen which borders the boardwalk alongside the River Yare. The willow scrub was taking hold of the area and would alter the environment unless checked. Four days of cutting and burning the willow will help ensure that the fen habitat is maintained.

Marston Marsh: During March the Volunteers replaced the entrance gate at the Eaton Village end of the marsh and also installed a new, stronger fence alongside the Golf Course. Further work in April will replace the fencing adjacent to the entrance gate and give the footpaths the first cut of the season.

Earlham Park Heronry Pond/Yare Valley Path: In April our Volunteers cut back the sides of the footpath along the river, mended broken fences and repaired some of the riverbank damage. Fallen branches were tidied up and willow scrub alongside Heronry Pond was cut back.

As we move into the Summer season the Volunteers will regularly mow the sides of the paths around Millennium Green Pond and other areas along the River Yare and maintain boardwalks and fences. Further information about the above activities and the work of the Norwich Fringe Project can be found on Norwich Fringe website at: <https://norwichfringeproject.wordpress.com/>

Finally, if you have not yet renewed your membership for this year, below is a membership form. If you have already renewed, or are a life member, please pass the form to someone who may be interested in joining us, or direct them to <http://yarevalleysociety.org.uk/about/join-us/>

Yare Valley Society

Membership Form

Name (Please Print)	Mr/Mrs/Miss/ ...		
Address	Post Code:		
Telephone No.			
Email Address			
Other Family Members			
<p>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:</p>			
<p>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</p>			
<p>Permission to store and process your personal data 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 "Looking after your personal data" on the "join us" page of the Society Website.</p> <p>I give my consent to the Yare Valley Society recording personal information about me</p>			
Signature:		Date:	
<p>Please forward your completed form to: Hilary Hann, Treasurer, 18 Bluebell Road, Norwich, NR4 7LF</p>			
Office Use:			
Date returned:		Subscription renewal date:	