



THE YARE VALLEY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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AGM Details

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 13th May at 7.30pm** at St Andrew's Church Hall, Church Lane, Eaton.

Please come. This has been another very eventful year for the Yare Valley and this meeting is *your* opportunity to make your views known.

We hope to be able to welcome some new members to the committee. The workload is not heavy. We hold between 6 and 10 meetings a year, usually on a Monday, which last about an hour and a half. Of course, there may be more to do if a campaign is needed.

Please contact our Secretary Anne Girling, 14 Blakeney Close, tel 507524, and let her know if you are willing to stand any time before the meeting, or if you want to know more about how the committee works.

Guest Speaker

Chris Barringer is our Guest speaker. Chris is a well-known tutor on landscape and conservation courses at Wensum Lodge and is Vice Chairman of the Norfolk Society. He will give an illustrated talk on **What is happening to Norfolk's Countryside**.

Update on the UEA Development

Members may have read in the local press about the extraordinary about-face of the City Planners who have now agreed to allow UEA to build student residences near the Sainsbury Centre on land within the valley area (see our last Newsletter). We regard this as a deplorable decision, now endorsed by the full Council, both in the precedent it sets and the circumstances in which it was made.

In behind-the-scenes discussions, UEA agreed to drop its detailed design proposals for the building in exchange for outline permission to build on the site.

As a society, our future task is *two-fold*:

- * first, we shall comment vigorously on any future detailed planning application in order to ensure that the building is as unobtrusive as possible.

- * **Second**, we propose to keep a close watch on the progress of the Norwich City Draft Local Plan, which was featured in our November Newsletter. Had this been a statutory document at the time of the UEA planning application, the outcome might have been different.

We shall do whatever we can to ensure that the policies in the draft plan which would protect the valley become fully adopted without any dilution during the Consultation Stage.

Conservation Work in the Valley

Three members, Anne and John Thurman and myself, helped Bob Cronk of the Norwich Fringe Project with some planting on the river bank opposite Cringleford Mill on the morning of the 10th March. A variety of native shrubs and trees including willows and field maples were planted. We spent an enjoyable morning in the fresh air and learned quite a lot about the best techniques for planting trees.

Ulrich Kreise appeals for your help. *He writes...*

What are your favourite places and views in the landscape south of Norwich? As members of this society you are concerned with the Yare River Valley. Most of you probably live in it and know it very well.

I would like to find out your opinions about the landscape. This is a part of a project I am doing for the Norwich City Planning Department. It is a visual analysis of the urban fringe of Norwich, the landscape between the new southern by-pass and the built city.

The main objective of the project is to assess the visual qualities of the landscape in the area. This will form the basis of a supplementary planning guide for the City Planning Department's use. Although visual aspects are usually the most significant, other aspects such as noise and smells could be important as well.

If you want to help, please follow this procedure:

- * name the places/sites/areas which you like most (maximum 3) and please explain why you do so.
- * name the views (together with the view points) which you like most (maximum 3) and again, please explain why you do so.
- * Do the same for the places/sites/ areas and view you dislike most (maximum 3) and explain why.

Try to describe each site precisely to help me identify them. Let me stress that every reply is important. The more information I get from you, the more meaningful the survey will become. I am also interested in written material - poems and novels and paintings etc of the area.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me. My address is UEA, School, School of Environmental Sciences, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

Thank you very much for your help.

Please do all you can to help the success of this important study! (Ed)

Editor Janet Johnson, 21 Chalfont Walk, Norwich NR4 7NH

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