

# Yare Valley Society

## Newsletter Issue 25

### July 1993



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#### AGM Report

The AGM was attended by about 40 people again this year.

After the evening's business we all enjoyed John Ayton's slide show and tape-recorded commentary, although unfortunately, because of health reasons, he was not able to give his talk in person. He has, however, promised to give us a follow-up talk to **Planning and the Growth of Norwich**, again with slides. At the AGM John gave us an overview of development in inner Norwich over the last 30 years or so. This time, he will deal with **Development in Outer Norwich, including the Yare Valley**.

As you will remember, John Ayton has just retired from being Herad of Planning for Norfolk County Council, so what he has to say is not only interesting, but also well informed!

His second talk will take place on Monday 20th September at 7.30pm in the Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion.

*Put the date in your diary now!*

#### Chairman's Report

This has been a very important year for the Society as there has been a great deal to be considered.

First the **Norwich Local Plan** was discussed and there was an inquiry into the report and its implications. This is not great headline news and does not attract the attention of the general public but was very important for the Yare Valley as decisions made at the inquiry are likely to determine the future use of the valley well into the 21st century.

The committee have been exceptionally hard-working and have met regularly about once a month to decide our view on the Local Plan. A great deal of work has been done by all the committee to make our views known and to take our place in the decision making. We prepared extensive and well-researched documentation about aspects of the Plan as it affects the region of our concerns. I cannot speak too highly of the dedication and the expertise which was brought to bear on these matters.

You will know most of the details from the Society's Newsletter which has come to you every two months or so throughout

this decisive year. The use of the **Bartram Mowers** site and the **University**, the area, including gravel workings at **Thickthorn**, **Colney Hall**, **Roys**, (especially the car park), the Scout area at the end of **Church Lane**.

One encouraging aspect of our work has been an increasing awareness from the **Cringleford** side of the valley of the value of our contribution to the upkeep of our local environment. This is very welcome. It can be said quite clearly we are a society whose work and approaches to issues is worthy of consideration by the local authorities on both sides of the valley and we are consulted and notified of many of the planning issues which are raised.

I cannot let this report pass without very great thanks to **Janet Johnson** who has minuted our committee meetings and has done such a good job in preparing six newsletters during the year. I am very pleased to say that Janet has agreed to be our secretary for the coming year. **Elaine Tucker** has been a tower of strength in planning matters and produced such a very good report on the **Bartram Mowers** site. **John Thurman** has been very good at helping with the society's submission about UEA to the local inquiry. **Steve Dawson** has looked after our finances and has taken a special interest in the **Marston Lane Marshes**. **Pam Ford** has looked after our membership and distribution of the newsletter. **Peter Hunter** has kept us on the right lines with his forthright views and experience from previous appeals. **Tony Tilford** has looked after our publicity documents and was involved in the **Bartram Mower** report with Elaine and Janet.

From this you will see that **Val Salisbury** as secretary and I as chairman have received great support from an exceptionally hard-working committee who have the real interests of the area at heart. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts. We are also preparing to help in any way we can (other than being officials) and I am sure **Elaine Tucker** will make an excellent chairman and carry on the work of the society into the coming years. Thank you for your interest in the area and in the workings of our society.

**Andrew Salisbury**



## **A note from our new Chairman, Elaine Tucker:**

For the last 26 years, our Society has aimed to protect the beautiful Yare valley from inappropriate development. This it has done with a remarkable degree of success, judging by the fact that most of the valley south of Norwich is still a place where people can go to enjoy natural countryside without using much (if any!) petrol. Moreover, over the years the Society has built up an important rapport with the local planning authorities, so that today it actively upholds and encourages proposals in their new Local Plans and receives recognition as a force to be reckoned with.

None of this has been achieved without a lot of hard work and commitment on the part of successive committees, including the present one. So it is an awesome thing to become the Society's chairman!

Pressures for development will no doubt increase as Norwich grows and the recession ends. We all therefore, need to remain vigilant. And that 'all' of course, means each member of the Society, not just the committee. So please always feel free to ring a committee member if you hear of anything that may interest us.

I hope to see you at our Autumn meeting.

***Elaine Tucker***

### **Our new Committee Members are:**

Chairman  
Elaine Tucker  
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Secretary & Newsletter  
Janet Johnson  
21 Chalfont Walk  
Eaton  
NR4 7NH  
telephone 52271

Treasurer  
Steve Dawson  
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Eaton  
NR4 7LG  
telephone 503171

Membership  
Pam Ford  
35 Brentwood  
Eaton  
NR4 6PN  
telephone 50621

John Thurman  
20 Bluebell Road  
Eaton  
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NR4 6UE  
telephone 504710

Andrew Salisbury  
42 Bluebell Road  
Eaton  
NR4 7LG  
telephone 55327

Also, Dr Graham Hussey who has done so much work for the Cringleford Society, has been nominated to join our committee.

## **Advance notice of a possible change in the Constitution**

We have been re-considering the limits of the area served by the Society so that we have greater scope to comment on proposals within the Valley but outside our presently defined area - which is between the Earlham and Harford Bridges. This change, would need to be adopted at a special General Meeting called by 12 good and true members as signatories to any change. The 20th September meeting where John Aytton is giving a talk seems like a possible opportunity to us. So we would be relying on you to come and give us your comments. John Thurman and Tony Tilford are drafting this amendment to the constitution.

### **Yare Valley Walk**

It was Pam Ford's idea that the Committee should take a walk along the river valley and see if there was any conservation work to be done.

On a fine summer evening we set off from the Car Park on Eaton Street and walked up to the University Broad, round the lake and then back again.

We saw several areas where bridges, board walks, shoring and notices were in need of repair, as well as enjoying a beautiful summer's evening and caught sight of (or heard) much wildlife - including a pigmy shrew, a water rat and a good variety of water birds and dragon flies. At one point of the walk, no houses can be seen at all - most remarkable for this part of Norwich.

*Let any of the committee know if you see any places locally which need conservation or repair.*

Elaine Tucker will be forwarding our observations to Bob Cronk, of the Norwich Fringe Project, in the hope that some maintenance work can be undertaken. Our walk served to remind us of some of the so readily accessible natural beauty our Society sets out to preserve.

Should you not have renewed your subscription yet, please send your £1 to Steve Dawson, our treasurer, whose address is in the column to the left. The subscription is for a whole family, so please include the names of family members that wish to belong. If it's more convenient, I live above the shops on the Bluebell Estate and can easily pass an envelope to our Treasurer at the next meeting on your behalf.

That's all for Newsletter Number 25 - have a pleasant summer and be sure to take a walk along the Yare Valley at least once or twice and put the date for the September Meeting in your diary now - Monday 20th September!