



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 36

April 1997

Gordon Prest

We were sorry to learn of the death, shortly before Christmas, of one of our longest serving members, Gordon Prest. Gordon belonged to the Society in the early days before it fell dormant in the early 1980s. When we re-formed, about ten years ago, he became treasurer and, befitting an ex-RAF officer, was an efficient, loyal and cheerful member of the committee for two important years. Later and until his health became poor he pounded the pavements of Greenways delivering our newsletter. Thank you, Gordon. You will be greatly missed by all who knew you.

John Thurman

Colney Hospital News

From a recent article in "Building"

There is a hold-up in the Private Finance Initiative deal between the NHS Trust and the banks. Although legislation does not forbid Trusts entering into PFI-type deals, the law says that a Trust's key responsibility is healthcare, with no scope for the leasing deals that PFI projects demand. This means that banks could lose a vast amount of money if the Trusts acted outside their powers.

Whilst the government could quickly solve the problem by approving a new statutory instrument, now might not be the moment for doing so!

Bird Watching Walk - Thursday 17 April

Mike Freer will lead a bird watching walk for members, around MARSTON MARSHES on Thursday 17 April. Meet outside Waitrose supermarket in Church Lane, Eaton at 9.30 am. Stout footwear (boots rather than wellingtons are usually sufficient) and warm clothing are essential while enjoyment will be severely restricted without binoculars.

Most spring migrants should have arrived and we will at-

tempt to identify birds by sound as well as by sight. NO DOGS, please. The walk will probably last about two hours.

Bowthorpe Barn, Bowthorpe

There is a planning application to develop this barn into a sport and leisure centre. Since the barn is both in the Yare Valley and also in a Conservation Area, we have made written comments to Norwich City Council on this proposed development.

We have asked that traditional materials be adhered to, that the maximum height of the new building be no greater than that of the existing barn, and that no excrescences such as ventilation ducts ever be added to the roof line. We have also pressed for screen-planting of native species as a condition of planning permission, with special emphasis on the east and south elevations.

Elaine Tucker

Eaton Street Verge

The YVS has written to Norwich City Council pointing out the disgraceful state of this verge because of the car parking on it.

Elaine Tucker

YVS Annual General Meeting

Monday 12 May 1997 at 7.30 pm

Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion

to be followed by talk by

William Buhler

School of Development Studies UEA

Please contact Elaine Tucker (458657)
with nominations for the committee