



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 45

October 1999

Social Evening

Monday 18 October

7.30 pm

Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion

Wine, fruit juice and nibbles

Since much of the work of the Society is done by the committee, this is a chance to put faces to names, to talk informally and to raise issues that are of current concern which can be discussed generally. It will also be an opportunity to tell the committee what you like and dislike about the Society! Do bring along any potential new members. It is envisaged that the event will finish between 9.00 and 9.30 pm.

If you have not already done so, please ring Alison Ward on 01603 452330 by 13 October to indicate that you will be attending. We need to have an indication of numbers for catering purposes. The cost is £2 per person payable at the door.

Paths near Keswick Mill

In our Newsletter dated July 1998, issue 40, we published a letter from the Secretary of the Ramblers' Association Norfolk Area about the status of the path leading from Church Lane Eaton to Keswick Mill. We have recently received an update and further information from him as follows:

Path across Eaton Common The Secretary 'received about 50 public path evidence forms for this path. These were forwarded to Norfolk County Council . . and are currently being processed by them. Eventually if the evidence is accepted by them, an order will be published registering the path within Norwich as public. (The part within

Keswick Parish is already registered.) However the procedure is not quick.'

Track from Mill Rd, near Keswick Mill, to B1113 near Harford Bridges 'Late last year, notices appeared stating "private road". Early this year, the words "permissive path" were added. Old maps in the Norfolk Record Office show this as a public road. Apart from that, people have walked the track for many years without challenge. If the "permissive path" claim is not disputed, there is the danger that the landowner could close the path in future years. Together with the path across Eaton Common, this forms part of an attractive walk for local residents.' The Secretary is collecting evidence to get this track registered as public, so that its status may be safeguarded. If any Yare Valley Society members have evidence, please contact John Harris on 01603 612644. He will send you a public path evidence form for completion, which will then be included in the evidence to be submitted to Norfolk County Council.

Hospital at Colney

Planning permission has now been given for an additional 144 bed spaces in two extra blocks on the Colney Lane side of the site. A direct link to the hospital from the A47 has been turned down by the Highways Agency.

Cringleford Bridge area

We are in communication with the Environment Agency and Waitrose about the control of fishing and car parking, both of which cause continual damage to the sensitive river environment in this area.

Work on the marshes adjacent to Bartram Mowers

Several members have asked what is going on in this area? Apparently it is being prepared for grazing with the help of the Norwich Fringe Project. This has in-

volved the excavation of further deep dykes and the removal of trees and some marsh vegetation. The Society is very concerned at the effect all this could have on the landscape and ecology of the valley and has written to the Environment Agency and the Fringe Project asking for their comments.

Norfolk Structure Plan Review

We replied to the proposed modifications, made by the Council in response to the report on the Examination in Public, welcoming the general approach to the strengthening of policies relating to the environment. The Council has recently met to consider the modifications and has adopted the final version of the Plan.

South Norfolk Local Plan Inquiry

Since the total number of objections amounted to 3,090, the Inspector does not expect to complete his report before next April. So everything to do with it is in abeyance until then.

Subscriptions

A reminder that if you have not already paid your subscription (£1 per family) for 1999, please either give it to a committee member, or send it direct to the treasurer at 9 St Peter's Close, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6UL.

Development in the Bowthorpe area

Three Score will be further developed shortly and the Society has been asked by the City to comment on a planning application from developers of a site just above marsh level that is particularly prominent in the valley. We have asked that the layout of the houses be related to the attractive views and that special attention be paid to the colour and shape of roofs. Also, that there should be an emphasis on green links and on planting that fits into the valley scene. We hope that the area will be not only pleasant to live in but an attractive part of the valley.

Link Road The Society has written to Norfolk County Council requesting that any lighting on the proposed bridge should be as low level as possible.

Ancient right of way between Bowthorpe and Colney

Norfolk Landscape Archaeology has recently produced an evaluation dating it as likely to be Late Saxon or mediaeval in origin. It remained in use until early this century. Ask us if you would like to see the report, or look at it at our social evening on Monday 18 October.

Walk on Earlham Marshes

About twenty members of the Society spent a very pleasant and informative evening in July being shown around Earlham Millennium Green and the nearby marshes by Matthew Davies, acting Project Officer for the Norwich Fringe Project. Matthew has said that he would be pleased to take us on another walk in the valley. Look out for future details.

Danby Wood and bats

The Society has received a letter from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers asking for information about bats in



Danby Wood. They understand that 'the site has been previously used by bats as a roosting site and that there have been proposals to re-open the chalk tunnels at Danby Wood in order to create winter hibernation sites.' The Community Projects team would like to hear from anyone who has information and whether the site is used at present as a roost. The telephone number is 01603 767300.

Articles, comments and letters for possible publication in future newsletters can be sent to: Alison Ward, 20 Brettingham Avenue, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6XG