



# Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 55

April 2002

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13 May 2002

7.30 pm

**Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion  
(off Oakfields Road)**

Following the short business meeting, there will be an illustrated talk about the *Anglian Otters and Rivers Project*. This will be given by **STEVE HENSON**, the Project Officer.

You are all warmly invited to this meeting. Do come and have your say as to what the Society should or should not be doing.

We shall have on sale packs of cards featuring Ian Levene's original drawings in the Yare Valley Walk booklet. Each pack of four cards includes Keswick Mill, Cringleford Bridge, Earlham Hall and St Mary's Church, Earlham. The Guide to the Yare Valley Walk will also be on sale.

### Yare Valley Society Committee

Two members have decided that they wish to retire from the committee. At the AGM we shall be looking for new committee members. If you are interested in this, please contact Elaine (458657) or Alison (452330).

### Spring Bird Watching Walk

Glenn Collier will kindly lead a walk to look at birds and other wildlife on Eaton Common, meeting at 12.30 pm on Sunday 19 May 2002. It is suggested that you might like to bring a



packed lunch. Please ring Glen on 01603 451193 for further details and to book a place.

### Benches on the Yare valley walk

The two benches, complete with plaques, donated by the Society were successfully installed on Sunday 3 March by a happy band of twelve Drayton Scouts under the direction of Matt Davies of the Norwich Fringe Project. A few of us joined them to celebrate the occasion, thank them for their hard work and enjoy some crème Easter eggs. The benches are at two good viewpoints and are sure to be popular.

### Newsletter distribution

We had a good response to our plea for help with distribution and are very grateful. Thank you to all deliverers old and new—we could not manage the distribution without you. However we are still looking for someone who could deliver in Church Lane.

### Norwich Replacement Local Plan

We are pleased to record that three of our five objections to the First Deposit Version of this Plan have been resolved by the withdrawal of proposals by the City. These include deletion of the proposed high technology or research development at **Earlham Hall**. Instead, consideration will be given to using the Hall for education and offices or housing, with the area for development being smaller than previously defined.

A proposed small new housing site at **Bland Road in Bowthorpe** has also been deleted. We are pleased that this attractive open space that serves as a link between the protected river valley and the surrounding development is to be preserved.

Thirdly, a proposal to use a section of the **Yare valley walk at Bowthorpe** as part of a strategic cycle network has also been withdrawn.

We also made six representations supporting proposals in the Replacement Local Plan, including the preservation of the present boundaries of the river valley. **Bartram Mowers** is seeking to overturn this

proposal, as we outlined in the Special Edition of our newsletter in March 2002. We have of course written to object most strongly to this counter proposal which would introduce a foreign, urban element into the valley, and would be very similar to what has been repeatedly refused in the past. As we know, the protection of the Yare valley as a unique, natural and easily accessible recreational resource becomes more not less important with time, as pressures for development in and around it increase.

### **Access routes to hospital and Research Park**

Alternatives will be put to public consultation late in June this year. Proposals to urbanise the undeveloped part of Colney Lane are our major concern because of the effect on the valley. We will keep you informed.

### **New large-scale housing development at Bowthorpe**

We are pleased to be in touch with the officer responsible for planning this development. We have told him that one of our main concerns is how the proposed development will integrate with the protected valley, both in its appearance from the valley and in the way its open spaces and pathways run into it and make the valley, as it stands, an integral part of the setting. We are also concerned that an ancient grass road, which adds so much to the character of the area, is preserved in as natural a state as possible, given the problems of security.

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