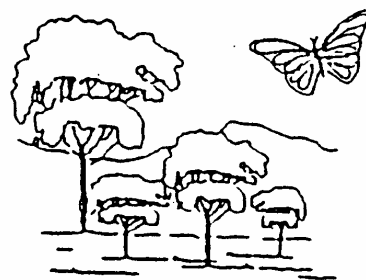


2008  
40 years



# Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 78

October 2008

## 2008 Yare Valley Society AGM

Forty-six members were present at the YVS annual general meeting held early in May in Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion. Following the business part of the meeting, Tom Williamson, Professor in English Landscape History at UEA, gave a fascinating, fast moving talk entitled *Norfolk River Landscapes— Putting the Yare in Context*.

Andrew Salisbury was elected chairman of the Society and was thanked for all his work as acting chairman. The following are extracts from his report for 2007-08.

‘The Society has suffered a terrible loss in the death of our chairman Elaine Tucker. Tributes have been made to her in the press and in the Society’s newsletter and in the very moving service for her at Holy Trinity Church. I will not attempt to repeat these many tributes to a really remarkable person who is sadly missed by us all.

‘The committee has been vigilant in looking after the valley and several matters have arisen during the last year.

‘The cross valley link is still a very distinct possibility. The decision to allow two way traffic on the University Drive leading to Watton road is still for cars only and does not allow buses. The cross-valley link with buses is still on the university’s agenda.

‘To give some idea of the complexity of looking after the valley you may wish to know that the following bodies are responsible for parts of the valley within the city boundary:

- From Harford to Church Lane, and Marston Marshes— City Council
- Church Lane to Cringleford Bridge—Waitrose
- Cringleford Bridge car park to overpass—City Council
- Overpass to Boardwalk—owned by Bartram Mowers, managed by City Council (marsh subject of ESA, Countryside Stewardship scheme with Natural England)
- Riverside boardwalk, lakeside and riverside to traffic bridge—UEA (marsh subject of Countryside Stewardship scheme)
- Riverside path through Earlham Park to Watton Road—City Council

- From Watton road, Earlham Marsh and Bowthorpe Marsh—City Council (managed by Fringe Project)
- Southern Park, Bowthorpe—City Council.

‘There was a Marston Marsh working session attended by John Elbro and some valuable work tidying up the area was undertaken mainly by university students.

continued overleaf



'The Green Infrastructure Plan was set up by the Broadland Council, South Norfolk Council and Norwich City Council. The main theme is that just as infrastructure is needed for services such as water, electricity, gas, telephones and so on, so there is a need to ensure that there is set up a green infrastructure to preserve open spaces and a network of paths and routes. Two committee members attended an evening to put out views and as a result our views appear in the final document. John Elbro was very involved in this work and he brought the attention of the organisers to the needs of the Yare valley.

'Planning applications and other concerns:

'The so-called "University Triangle" is a piece of land belonging to UEA near the Watton road. UEA are asking to increase the proposed size of buildings on the site and made little reference to the effect on the environment. Planning permission had already been granted many years ago by South Norfolk and we suggested that there should be no change to that agreed then and that the view of the site from the valley be considered more carefully.

'The University are going to remove the large temporary car park near the Prospect. This should happen soon. We are watching to see if this really takes place.

'There was a proposal to build next to 8 Harmer Crescent. We considered that this was inappropriate development and should be rejected. It is on the site of the very ancient oak tree there and overshadows the bungalow next door. This is the third application to develop here. (*Planning permission with conditions was subsequently given.*)

'At a South Norfolk Council Civic ceremony in March at Wymondham Abbey, the Society was presented with a civic award "in recognition of the contribution made towards enhancing the quality of the environment".

'I wish to thank all those people who support the Society. I wish particularly to mention Pip Pyper and those who deliver our newsletter. They provide a valuable link with our members and we are so fortunate to have so many willing helpers. Please volunteer if you think you can deliver even just a few. The more we have the better our links with our members.

'... We urgently need someone from Cringleford to be on the committee and keep an eye on developments in that area. Please consider this most carefully. We have very experienced people on the committee who are willing to help and support you.'

## **YVS Website**

With grateful thanks to Ros Ashcroft and to Ernest Forbes for the use of his photographs, the Society now has a website at [www.yarevalleysociety.org](http://www.yarevalleysociety.org) There is an e-mail link on the site, so please let us know what you think.

*Articles, comments and letters for possible publication in future newsletters can be sent to Alison Ward 20 Brettingham Avenue, Norwich NR4 6XG or e-mail to [yvs@talktalk.net](mailto:yvs@talktalk.net)*

## **Compost Corner**

*Two related questions have cropped up:*

*Should I avoid rhubarb leaves and citrus fruit in my compost because of their acidity?*

*Some people add lime to their compost. Should I do this?*

*There is no need to avoid acidic items like rhubarb and orange peel. It's all about balance. In the unlikely case of your having industrial quantities of these, then you (and the worms) might be in trouble. Otherwise, mixed with plenty of other material, no problem.*

*Similarly, lime is unnecessary. In fact it can be harmful to some composting micro-organisms. If your soil is acidic, add lime to the soil, not to the compost bin.*

*John Thurman*

## **Good wishes**

Our committee member and 'Master Composter' underwent a major operation at the end of September. I am sure that all members of the Society would wish to send him very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **Bluebell Day**

### **Saturday 29 November 2008**

The Society has been successful in obtaining a Norwich City Council Community Participation Grant for £1000. The grant is for making improvements in the neighbourhood which involves local people and leaves a lasting benefit. The Society suggested that we should be responsible for planting bluebell bulbs on Bluebell Road. It is unusual for such a scheme to obtain the full £1000 and it is thought that we could be offered a similar amount next year. After taking advice from the Norwich City horticultural team it has been agreed that we should plant 5000 native bluebell bulbs under the trees on the land on the corner of the slipway from Bluebell Road into the city. In addition it was agreed that we plant about 2000 snowdrop bulbs on the other side of the road underneath the trees there. Both these sites are in the shadow of the flyover. The impact of these would be far greater than planting them in small clumps along the road and it is hoped that we can do a similar planting at the other end of Bluebell Road next year.

We would encourage as many members of the Society and other residents to come along on the Saturday morning at 10.30 am to help with cutting the turf and planting bulbs underneath. Yellow jackets will be provided. We hope to have hot soup available for our helpers. We need lots of help and lots of spades, so please book the morning and encourage as many friends as you can to assist us on the day. Please let Andrew Salisbury know if you are able to come and help (01603 455237).