



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 82

October 2010

Annual General Meeting May 2010

Forty-five members were present at the AGM and 17 sent apologies. For those of you unable to attend, the following are extracts from the Chairman's report:

'I regret to report the death of Donald Law. He was the founder of the Society in 1968 and led the Society through its early days.

'The committee wish to express their appreciation of the most valuable work of those who deliver our newsletters. They contribute greatly to the Society enabling us to keep in touch with our members. I would particularly like to thank Ann Girling and Vic Edwards for their contribution to the Society. Unfortunately they have had to give up being newsletter deliverers. We really need a few more volunteers for this service as we think that some others would welcome a sharing of the members on their lists. Please please get in touch if you would like to help in this way. We really need you.

'We have an excellent committee for whom I am very grateful. They work hard for the Society and try to keep me in order. We particularly need new committee members especially from Cringleford, Keswick, Colney or Bowthorpe. We would be pleased to have any volunteers.

'At Colney Hall a multi-million pound scheme for treatment and support for people with MS and other conditions was given outline planning permission in January. This is the first of other plans for the area to the east of the hall at Colney. Committee members were invited to Colney Hall by James Boddy to hear of these later plans for the area. It would be extensively developed but those who attended felt that the plans were at present at a very early stage and that we should wait to see how the plans are turned into applications.

'There has been a government led initiative to ask all landowners on the county if they wished to build on their sites. This call for sites has been carried out by Norwich and South Norfolk councils. Bartram Mowers and the University of East Anglia responded. Bartram Mowers expressed an interest in building on their site but plans at present are very tentative. UEA put in several sites for consideration including Earlham Hall and its surroundings including building on the Earlham Hall car park. They also

wished to extend the bus route across the valley and wished to put forward building down to the Broad in the Bluebell Road area across the meadowland there. The Society objected to these proposals and now awaits the decision of the city council as to which of all the sites in the city they wish to put on their call for sites plan.

'The university has also produced a landscape strategy. This document runs to 270 pages. The Society and the Norwich Society were invited to discussions about the document before it was published. As a result several modifications were made by UEA and the document is a more sympathetic one for the valley. There is however a big difference of opinion about building near the university Broad and the need for a bus route across the valley.

'The university has also commissioned the estate agent Bidwells to produce a UEA Strategic Development Principles Consultation. The main thrust of the strategy is that UEA should continue to expand its student numbers and its single campus approach. We strongly questioned these unsupported assumptions.'

South Norfolk LDF - potential threats to valley

SNC has recently published maps showing the sites suggested by landowners and developers for the Local Development Framework. These can be seen at www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/ldf. The inclusion of a site in this document does not represent a decision by the Council, but if a site is allocated as part of this process planning permission will still be needed but may be difficult to withhold. Several sites are within the Yare valley, including land between Colney Hall and the village, the eastern end of the village, Cringleford Wood and the adjoining marshland, sites at Keswick beside the railway and the large blocks of land both sides of the A140 near Tesco. Site numbers of concern include:

Map 26 Colney: 029; 261, 263; 266; A0004; A0006; A0011

Map 28 Cringleford: 505a; 505b

Map 48 Keswick: 840, 635; 1034, 946, 025

The consultation closes on Friday 19 November 2010 and it is important that any concerns should be expressed to the District Council at this stage.

CENTRAL NORFOLK HEALTH WALKS IN THE YARE VALLEY

DATE: Tuesday 2 November 2.00 pm

MEETING POINT: Eaton Park Car Park (golf course), South Park Avenue. Map 237 TG203075 NR4 7AZ

LEVEL: 4 or 3

WALK: A walk past the UEA Broad to the village of Colney via Earlham Hall. Option of level 3 cutback available.

ADDITIONAL INFO: 5.2 miles, 50% soft, one set of steps, moderate gradients, can be muddy.

DATE: Monday 8 November 10.30 am

MEETING POINT: Eaton, Waitrose Car Park, Eaton. Map 237 TG201061 NR4 6NU

LEVEL: 3

WALK: Leg stretching rural village walk including Keswick Mill

ADDITIONAL INFO: 3.6 miles, 40% soft, one stile, minor gradients.

DATE: Sunday 14 November 10.30 am

MEETING POINT: Bowthorpe Marsh, Bowthorpe Shopping Centre Car Park. At far end near Health Centre. Map 237 TG177093 NR5 9HA

LEVEL: 3

WALK: Rural walk around Bowthorpe Marsh and Bowthorpe Southern Park

ADDITIONAL INFO: 2.3 miles, 25% soft, one stile, moderate to steep gradients.

For further information on the walks, please contact Kate Stannett (Fit Together Co-ordinator) on 01603 423377 or 07899 927763

An update on wildlife in the valley

Maureen and Colin Forbes have sent an update on the swans that were mentioned in the last newsletter. It appears that the 'vanquished' pair have not bred this year. However the apparent 'victorious' pair appear to have had five cygnets, of which four have survived to date.

An exciting piece of news is that a pair of kingfishers have been seen with offspring.

Maureen and Colin also report that employees from the Dept of the Environment, using their flat-bottomed cutter boats, have cleared the accumulated surface growths which clog the river by late summer.

UEA Campus: wildlife survey and conservation project

Volunteers wanted for various roles

UEA, the Student Wildlife and Conservation Group, and community groups, are all participating in this interesting project which is about to be launched and has already received some funding support.

The Project's aims are:

- To promote the conservation of the land around the UEA campus and Yare valley
- To provide useful volunteering opportunities for students/staff and the public to come together and work towards maintaining the beauty of the campus and Yare valley
- Provide some useful training in biodiversity and conservation skills and field survey work
- Improve relations between the University and the local community.

Our Society is backing this initiative, as are the Friends of Earlham Park, CPRE and others. Activities are expected to include:

1. A wildlife biodiversity survey of the whole area (identification and recording of flora and fauna). This is being led by a Biology lecturer and will last until March 2011
2. Conservation work parties held weekly on Wednesday afternoons (work needed – coppicing, reed cutting, creating butterfly meadow, the removal of non-native invasive species etc)
3. Litter picking days with help of local community groups and students/staff
4. Preparation and production of a guide to the biodiversity of the site (waterproof and reusable) for use by public and students/staff
5. Information boards around the site about the biodiversity and natural history
6. Guided tours by students around the site (for students/groups from the University and the local community).

Anyone with even a little time to spare is welcome to participate in any of the above – especially the biodiversity survey, or leading working parties, or having an input to the Guide and signage. If you want to take part (or even if you just want to know in more detail what's happening!) **please come to the Project Launch on Wednesday 13 October at 2 pm at the beach on the UEA Broad.**

Subscriptions

If you have not already done so and you either pay yearly or paid for 5 years in 2005, please let the treasurer (9b Poplar Ave Norwich NR4 7LB) have your subscription. The current rates are £2 per year, £8 for five years or £20 life membership, per family.

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 yvs@talktalk.net