

Yare Valley Society

Enhancing the Valley
for Wildlife and Informal Recreation

Newsletter 122 Jun 2024



Come to the AGM:

Yare Valley Society

Annual General Meeting and Talk

**"Managing the Yare Valley
for People and Wildlife"**

Matthew Davies Norwich Fringe Project Officer

Matthew will tell us of the present work of the Fringe Project from Bowthorpe Southern Park (Miyawaki Forests) to Whitlingham Marsh and the threats and opportunities in the Yare Valley Green Corridor

Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7.30 pm

Cringleford Sports Pavilion

(Entrance via Recreation Ground at end of Oakfields Road Cringleford)

All who value the green space of the Yare Valley are welcome.



yarevalleysociety.org.uk

Enhancing the valley for wildlife and informal recreation

Please make a special effort to come to our AGM. The formal part of the AGM is normally concluded in the first half hour. We will then be able to enjoy *"Managing the Yare Valley for People and Wildlife,"* a talk by Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Park Officer. Matthew will tell us of the present work of the Fringe Project from Bowthorpe Southern Park (Miyawaki Forests) to Whitlingham Marsh and the threats and opportunities in the Yare Valley Green Corridor.

The Agenda and AGM papers are at the end of this Newsletter.

Landscaping at McCarthy Stone

The landscaping continues of what will become a public green space adjacent to the McCarthy Stone Bluebell Road Development. The abrupt end to the surfacing of the footpath beside the flyover is because the remainder of the path to the river lies outside of the area required to be landscaped.



Work remains to be completed on the Yare Valley Walk section beside the river below the McCarthy Stone development. This and other environmental works required to satisfy planning conditions placed on the development will continue to be monitored by YVS.

Disappearing Nature: Raising Awareness

Blue signs in locations around Marsden Marsh draw attention to our Disappearing Nature.



Disappearing Nature: Volunteer to “Restore Nature Now”

We will be hearing about the good work being done by volunteers involved in the [Fringe Project](#) at the AGM. Other organisations giving volunteers the opportunity to help Restore Nature in the Valley are:

The [Yare Valley Meadow Makers](#) aim to establish wildflower meadows at the Strawberry Field, UEA, and elsewhere. Volunteers help with activities that promote wildflowers, including seeding and removal of grass cuttings, and carry out plant surveys to monitor outcomes. On June 29 they will be collecting yellow rattle seed from Marston Marsh to sow elsewhere to promote wildflowers. The Yellow Rattle helps to create favourable conditions for other wildflowers by suppressing grass growth.

The [Conservation Volunteers \(TCV\)](#) have monthly programmes of tasks that promote nature. The programme is advertised on the YVS website, and June’s programme is [here](#). Some tasks are in the Valley or nearby, others are in wider Norwich and Norfolk.

Disappearing Nature: March to “Restore Nature Now”

Extinction Rebellion supporters have placed the signs on Marston Marsh. [Extinction Rebellion](#) is only one of numerous environmental organisations, including [Wildlife Trusts](#), [RSPB](#), [Woodland Trust](#), [National Trust](#) and [Rewilding Britain](#) intent upon moving Nature up the political agenda at election time.

They want to see UK politicians “show strong domestic and global nature and climate leadership by:

1. Giving a pay-rise for nature
2. Making polluters pay
3. Delivering more space for nature
4. Putting a right to a healthy environment in law
5. Ensuring fair and effective climate action”

Read more about their specific demands [here](#). You can give your support by joining the march:

Restore Nature Now

Saturday June 22

12:00 noon - Park Lane, London, W1K

More details [here](#).

If you cannot make it to London, be sure to raise Nature with those who come canvassing for your vote.



Five-star accommodation in the Valley

Papers for the AGM 2024

AGM AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 21st June 2022 (see below)
4. Matters arising
5. Chair's Report (See below)
6. Treasurer's report (See below)
7. Election of Officers for 2024/2025:
 - Chair
 - Vice Chair
 - Honorary Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer
 - Committee members (maximum of five)
8. Any other business

Followed by a talk by Matthew Davies, Norwich Fringe Project Officer: **“Managing the Yare Valley for People and Wildlife”**.

Agenda Item 3: MINUTES OF 2023 AGM (Thanks to Hazel Martin for taking minutes)

Annual General Meeting and Talk 21st June 2023

- 1] Welcome by John Elbro
- 2] Apologies from Rachel Taylor, Pip and Andy Piper, Lavinda Bailey
- 3] Minutes of AGM 29.6.22 circulated
- 4] No matters arising, minutes accepted as accurate
- 5] Chairman's report – no questions
- 6] Treasurer's report circulated – no questions
- 7] Election of Officers: all committee members have agreed to stand for re-election, [new members would be welcomed particularly bringing expertise in various fields]

Chair: John Elbro – proposed June Gentle 2nd John Thurman
Vice – Chair: Rachel Taylor- proposed June Gentle 2nd Graham Martin
Hon Secretary :
Hon Treasurer: Hilary Hann – proposed June Gentle 2nd Carole Williams
Committee members – Graham Martin, Lisa Quattromini – proposed June Gentle 2nd John Thurman and agreed unanimously
- 8] No AOB

The AGM closed at 19.58hrs

John Elbro welcomed the speaker:

Sarah Gelpke from Norfolk Rivers Trust - to speak about Restoring the River Yare

Sarah is overseeing the current works on the river designed to improve water flow patterns and provide wildlife habitat.

Agenda Item 5: CHAIR'S REPORT 2023/2024

Eyes and Ears

Our local authorities, and environmental charities are all feeling the pressure on their staff after many years of austerity. Staffing cuts mean they can no longer cover the range of monitoring activities they have undertaken in the past. One of the roles of the Yare Valley Society, with the support of its members, has been to compensate for this by bringing to the attention of the relevant authorities various matters such as unfulfilled environmental obligations, footpath blockages, and smelly watercourses. A big thank you to all who have helped us in this role by reporting issues to us and providing evidence and suggestions.

Early this year the Yare Valley Society noted that properties of phase 2 of the McCarthy Stone development were being occupied without significant work on the landscaping of the adjacent green space. Concerned, YVS submitted a detailed report with photographs to Norwich Planning Authority drawing attention to the situation and to the environmental conditions attached to the planning permission. The Authority acted swiftly. It took the matter up with the developers and a timescale emerged for the work to be done. The work is now proceeding, but it will not be until the next planting season that features such as parkland trees can be installed.

This work and other environmental obligations related to this development, including the improvement of the riverside walk, and the installation of habitats, will continue to be monitored by YVS.

Last year my report mentioned a member keeping YVS informed of possible criminal damage being done to the trees and vegetation on the green riverside area adjacent to the Waitrose car park. The member has now attended a committee meeting to discuss options for action. The person doing the damage has been identified, and fortunately the activities have ceased. It is an area that still needs some TLC, and ways in which this might be done are being explored.

Other reports have been of a collapsing bridge near below the A11 flyover, and various blockages to paths by fallen trees. All were dealt with as promptly as conditions allowed, including a bridge reconstruction. All largely overseen by the Norwich Fringe Project. Often much has to be sorted in these cases concerning responsibilities (e.g. the highway authority) and land ownership. Still outstanding is the closure of the Boardwalk on safety grounds from Strawberry Field to UEA. Funding for re-opening has yet to be found.

The smelly watercourse that enters the Yare below the A11 flyover and crossed by the newly reconstructed footbridge has long been a source of complaint. YVS had understood that the Norfolk River Trust were considering measures to mitigate this, but there has been a change of staff at NRT and there is no sign of anything happening. YVS is following this up with NRT.

Wildlife needs versus public needs

A growing concern is the wear and tear on our green spaces, due to greatly increased public use, and the impact it seems to be having on our wildlife. There is simply not enough green space to meet the needs of both the community and wildlife. The purchase of Sweet Briar Marshes by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and its opening in May as a nature reserve is a welcome increase in green space. NWT will try to balance the needs of wildlife with providing some public access. It should help to take some of the pressure off the Yare Valley. The McCarthy Stone landscaped area will also contribute to easing the pressure.

Other welcome news for wildlife is that the meadow makers, who are working hard to create wildflower meadows at UEA and on the Strawberry Field, are now formally organised as the "Yare Valley Meadow Makers". They held their first AGM in May and have already been successful in attracting funds for their work. Elsewhere the Norwich Fringe Project has been creating tiny forests by the Miyawaki method in Bowthorpe Southern Park.

Matthew Davies of the Norwich Fringe Project will be giving our AGM talk on "Managing the Yare Valley for People and Wildlife".

Consultations and Planning Applications

Public Consultations, Planning Applications, on matters affecting the Valley continue to figure largely in the committee's considerations.

The committee reviewed the modifications proposed by the Planning Inspectorate to the Greater Norwich Local Plan for 2026 to 2038, and generally held them to increase clarity and marginally strengthen environmental protections. The plan has now been formally adopted by the three borough councils, Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk and will be published as soon as legal formalities have been completed.

Decisions have yet to be taken by the borough councils on two major developments that impact on the Yare Valley Green Corridor, the integrated retirement living community at Colney Hall and the residential development of the Deal ground. YVS responded to both of these applications at the time they were made (2022/23).

There has been no re-submission of a planning application for Phase 3 of the McCarthy Stone development, and evidence on the ground suggests that one is not likely to be submitted in the near future. This confirms that YVS was correct in pressing for the associated green landscaping to be completed as part of Phase 2.

A YVS representative attended a meeting in May at Keswick Reading Room to hear an update from Ørsted on how overflowing water might be disposed of when the on-site attenuation ponds at the Hornsea 3 Norwich substation at Swardeston are overwhelmed. Problems have already occurred at the construction stage with flooding on the Mulbarton and Keswick Roads. A technical team is examining the options including inflow into the Yare.

YVS continues to be represented at all meetings on biodiversity and green spaces that potentially affect the Valley.

Publicity

Publicity for the importance of the Yare Valley continues on the YVS Website, Facebook and Newsletters, and Flyers. Further publicity has come with the Society's stand at the Eaton Eco Fair. Its display can be seen at the AGM.

Thank you

On behalf of YVS I thank the Norwich Fringe Project, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Norfolk Rivers Trust, and the Yare Valley Meadow Makers for their work on maintaining and improving the Valley.

I thank the committee, Vice-Chair Rachel Taylor, Treasurer Hilary Hann, Graham Martin, and Lisa Quattromini for their strong support. They have responded in words and actions to the seemingly endless stream of emails on matters that affect the Valley. As always, the committee would welcome any addition to its overly small number. I thank Tim Edwards for his support over many years in distributing the digital Newsletter, and the committee members for distributing the paper version.

On behalf of the committee, I thank all our members who have contributed reports, photos and articles and have been our Eyes and Ears.

Please seriously consider ensuring the future of our Society either by joining the committee or by giving ancillary help such as organising walks, managing website pages, arranging talks, writing articles or other projects.

John Elbro, Chair. 05/24

Agenda item 6: TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

Accounts for period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Current Account

Income		Expenditure	
	2023		2023
	£		£
Subscriptions	227.50	Hire of Cringleford Pavilion for AGM	36.00
Donations	30.00	Public Liability Insurance	157.60
YVS Guides	4.00	Printing: newsletter and AGM	34.15
		Website maintenance	82.08
Total	261.50	Total	309.23
Deficit	47.73		
Total	309.23	Total	309.23

Bank Reconciliation:	Balance at 1 January 2023	£ 793.23
	Less	<u>£ 47.73</u>
	Balance at 31 December 2023	£ 745.50

Deposit Account

Balance at 1 January 2023	£ 3117.06
Add Interest	<u>£ 73.70</u>
Balance at 31 December 2023	£ 3190.76

Hilary Hann

Treasurer

16.05.2024.

Please use this form to join or renew your subscription (if outstanding):

Yare Valley Society Membership Form

Name (Please Print)	Mr/Mrs/Miss/ ...
Address	Post Code:
Telephone No.	
Email Address	
Other Family Members	
Are you interested in giving active support to the Society e.g. with administration, IT, Planning, Ecology, or other? If yes, please indicate your area of interest:	
Membership Subscriptions (Please delete as appropriate) Individual: £5 per year or £20 for 5 years Family: £7.50 per year or £30 for 5 years Payment may be made by: Cheque payable to "Yare Valley Society" Bank transfer or Direct Debit to Yare Valley Society, Sort Code: 20-62-53, Account Number: 30994286	
Permission to store and process your personal data To enrol you as a member of the Yare Valley Society, keep you informed of the activities of the Yare Valley Society and enable you to actively participate in supporting the Society, we need to record some of your personal details. To comply with the GDPR we must ask for your permission to store and process your personal data for this purpose. Please see our privacy policy " Looking after your personal data " on the "join us" page of the Society Website. I give my consent to the Yare Valley Society recording personal information about me	
Signature:	Date:
Please forward your completed form to: Hilary Hann, Treasurer, 18 Bluebell Road, Norwich, NR4 7LF	
Office Use: Date returned:	Subscription renewal date:

Stories, pictures and news of activities for possible publication in the Newsletter and/or on the YVS website and Facebook are always welcome at yarevalleysociety@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support