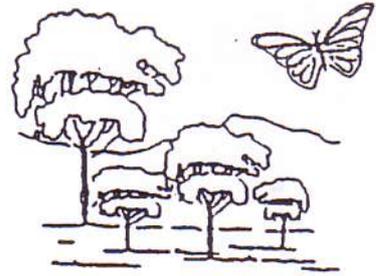


2008
40 years



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 76

February 2008

MEMORIAL TO ELAINE TUCKER

After consultation with her family, your committee, with the generous assistance of the Norwich Fringe Project and co-operation from UEA, has decided to plant a rowan tree and place an oak bench in memory of Elaine, our former chairman. There will be a simple ceremony on **MONDAY 3 MARCH at 2.00 pm** to plant the tree and to place the bench and a memorial plaque. This will be beside the river on the university side adjacent to the footbridge at the west end of the UEA Broad.

All are welcome to attend

Thank you to all who contributed to the memorial. There is still time to donate to the fund if you have not already done so. Contributions should be sent to the treasurer, Jean Ray, 9B Poplar Avenue, Eaton, Norwich NR4 7LB. Cheques payable to Yare Valley Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 pm Wednesday 7 May 2008

Cringleford Playing Field Pavilion

followed by an illustrated talk

by Tom Williamson

**Professor in English Landscape History
UEA**

The cross-valley road link

At the time of writing, there is still no planning application for the proposed cross-valley bus link between UEA and Colney Lane. The University has promised further consultation with community stakeholders 'early in 2008' before any formal application is made. The Society is one of the stakeholders and we will keep you informed.

Vandalism and graffiti

It has been brought to our notice that recently planted trees in the area near Cringleford Bridge opposite the mill have been vandalised. If any member witnesses an act of vandalism, including graffiti, please report the incident to the police (0845 456 4567) who will log it and contact local community police officers. City Hall (01603 212212) should also be informed if you observe graffiti within the city boundary.

Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy

As reported in our last Newsletter, a Green Infrastructure Strategy (GIS) is being prepared for the Greater Norwich Area. The local authorities in the area have combined to consider the implications of a large increase in population and businesses in Norwich and the surrounding area. It is 'a proposed vision for connecting people, places and nature'. The basic idea is that just as the usual infrastructure (drains, water, power, etc) is needed, so there should be an underlying plan for developing, maintaining and overseeing the provision of green spaces. These green spaces must not be piecemeal but connected together to produce corridors for wildlife and breathing space for humans. Everyone in their homes should, it is argued, be near an open space for active and passive recreation and quiet enjoyment.

In August last year the Yare Valley Society made three proposals for the Strategy:

- **The Yare Valley Walk** – To complete the walk from Bawburgh Mill to Whitlingham Country Park
- **The South Norwich Cycle Loop** – To link the National Cycle route on Marriott's Way via the UEA and the Yare Valley to Whitlingham Country Park where it would rejoin the National Cycle Route.
- **The Yare River Parkway** - To establish a unified management of the river corridor's wildlife and recreational assets, and of their relationship with the adjacent urban and rural areas.

We can now say that all of our proposals have been included in the Strategy.

A full report on the Strategy will be available shortly on the Norfolk County Council website. A period of public consultation will follow, and we hope you will feel able to give your support.

Greater Norwich Development Partnership—Growth Strategy Consultation

The Society has responded to the consultation leaflet in the form of a letter, our concern being primarily focused on the implications for the river valleys and the Yare in particular. We have suggested that the issues listed in section 5 for Urban Norwich and the surrounding areas (5,6,7,8) are simplistic and ignore the environmental implications of major developments where the existing 'green' areas would be under particularly heavy pressures given the preferred strategy. There is a need to acknowledge and stress the importance of the existing 'green' areas' of which the river valleys are key features and the need to protect and maintain them for their landscape and wildlife qualities.

Wildlife sightings

Just after the last newsletter was printed, Colin and Maureen Forbes e-mailed with details of their wildlife sightings in the valley in 2007. They mention a large dog fox, pheasants, kingfishers, moorhens and two Egyptian geese. Finally and I quote, '... On 30 September – a bittern sighting! Maureen looked up from reading in the conservatory and there on the corner of the bungalow stood a bittern—beak pointed heavenwards and throat feathers ruffled. By the time the camera was fetched it had gone and bird books were hastily examined. A call was made to Strumpshaw Reserve and we were told that they had received reports of other sightings of tired bitterns arriving from Scandinavia and landing in a variety of odd places. The Warden mentioned that a very early flock of geese had come in that morning which hinted at a severe winter to come. He thought that the island here with a dyke down the middle and overgrown was ideal for bitterns, so we must listen for any booming come next February.'

Winter Discovery Day

The Society was represented at a Winter Discovery Day held early in February at Earlham Marsh and Earlham Millennium Green and organised by Norwich City Council. The aim was to provide a fun event for local children and families to discover wildlife. It was seen as an opportunity to explain the wildlife interest of the site and how the community could be involved with the management and protection, in the hope that the site would become the ninth Local Nature Reserve in the city. About 60-70 people attended and quite a lot of interest was shown in the YVS display which was very well produced by John Elbro, to whom we owe many thanks.

Subscriptions

For those of you who pay annually, your subscription of £2 is due now please. Alternatively you can pay £8 for five years or £20 for life membership. All subscriptions are per family living at the same address.

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