



Yare Valley Society Newsletter

Issue 85

April 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2012

7.30 pm at Playing Field Pavilion,
Oakfields Road, Cringleford

After the business part of the meeting

MICHAEL LOVEDAY
Heritage Economic & Regeneration Trust

'NORWICH - THE SUPERLATIVE CITY'

A new Guide to the Yare Valley Walk

A new edition of this 16 page guide (the first for almost eight years) is now available. It has been completely revised and redesigned, with new photographs and a laminated cover, and is great value at £2 per copy.

Send your order, with a cheque payable to the Yare Valley Society and a self addressed A5 (16 x 22 cm) envelope with a standard stamp, to John Thurman, 20 Bluebell Road, NR4 7LF.

Opening of the Easy Access Path on Marston Marshes

The newly-constructed footpath on Marston Marshes was officially opened by Stewart White of BBC Look East on 24 September 2011. This was a lovely family occasion with about 200 people, including representatives of the Yare Valley Society, not only enjoying the sunshine, and music

from "The Duvets" 4-piece band, but also face-painting with Avril Wilkinson and a barbecue, kindly provided by Waitrose, and prepared by the 34th Norwich Scouts.

The Sheriff of Norwich, Chris Higgins, thanked Gerald Cooke, Chairman of Eaton Village Residents' Association (EVRA), for all his hard work in bringing the project to fruition. Marya Parker, Facilitator, added her comments and congratulations.

Funding for the project had been awarded to the EVRA by the Community Spaces section of the Big Lottery Fund to create the one kilometre long hardcore footpath to enable access all year round to wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. In addition, there is an outdoor classroom, pools to help nurture the baby fish fry and a shallow scrape to encourage waterfowl. A further grant for tools and training for their use has been awarded.

The Association is now asking for volunteers for a few days each year to help maintain the Marshes. If any of our members are interested, please get in touch with Gerald Cooke on 453164.

The UEA Wildlife Trail

Some members were present at the official opening of this trail on February 1 2012, and others may have seen a report in The Guardian by Mark Cocker who officiated at the ceremony. Mark, a widely known author naturalist and journalist who lives in the Yare Valley, has a miraculous effect on wildlife! While he was speaking, an otter appeared in the UEA Broad only a few feet away from the assembled crowd of around 40 people. It porpoised up and down in full view of the spectators, as if to lend its support to the new trail.

It is well worth visiting this asset to the valley. There are four sections, each with an interpretation board and leaflet dispenser, situated:

Next to the bridge on the pathway to the UEA playing fields (*Fen and wet woodland*)

At the edge of the woodland beyond the Sainsbury Centre (*Woodland and grass meadow*)

Near the footbridge at the west end of the Broad (*The UEA Broad*)

On the riverside boardwalk near the east end of the Broad (*The Yare Valley Trail*)

The trail features in the new Guide to the Yare Valley Walk.

Otter sightings

A YVS member has e-mailed recently indicating that a number of people have been watching an otter which is regularly seen swimming in the river by the UEA footbridge.

Subscriptions

Your subscription is due if you pay yearly, or paid for five years in 2007. (£2 per year, £8 for five years and £20 life membership). Any queries, please contact the treasurer on 01603 457271.

Colney Hall

There is an application to build a residential care home on the Colney Hall site which is part of the Norwich Research Park. The Society is concerned that this goes against the guidelines produced by South Norfolk Council. It is a wrong use of the Research Park area and is spread outside the area indicated by South Norfolk for development.

Bartram Mowers

The final decision on whether Bartram Mowers should be one of the selected sites allocated for potential development is likely to be made in June or July this year. We have objected to its inclusion for potential development as this has been the policy of Norwich City Council over many years. Any building on this site would seriously detract from the landscape value of the valley.

Earlham Hall

The University which now owns the Hall wishes to place the School of Law back in the refurbished Hall. We are concerned that the Earlham Park public car park should be preserved and made more available to visitors to the Park. This point has been taken by Bidwells the estate agent dealing with consultations. The restored Hall should be an asset for the Earlham Park in the valley of the Yare. The additional buildings proposed should not have a significant impact on the valley.

Keswick

There are plans to develop land at Keswick to the south side of Low Road near the zed bend by the railway line. We are waiting for a firm proposal to be made before we respond.

Use of e-mail by the Society

Until now the Society has kept in touch with its members by newsletter, by general meetings, and through our website, www.yarevalleysociety.org. We are now considering using e-mail as well.

It takes several weeks to write, print and deliver the newsletters. Some events happen suddenly and require more immediate and urgent responses. It would save us time and money if some of our members, particularly those to whom we post a newsletter, would agree to receiving newsletters by e-mail. We would not make any e-mail addresses public but put them in the bcc box.

If you are happy to receive your newsletter and any other urgent YVS communication (infrequent) by e-mail, please send your name and address to our secretary Alison Ward at yvs@talktalk.net

Norwich Health Walks in the Yare valley

The following walk has been advertised in the current programme.

Monday 16 April, 10.30 am

EARLHAM PARK AND BROAD

Meet Eaton Park Car Park (golf course), South Park Ave
Map 237: TG203075
NR4 7AZ

Level 3 Circular walk around the University Broad
and parkland.

3 miles, 95% soft, moderate to steep gradients, steps.

For further information, contact Kaz Hopes, telephone 07825833538 or e-mail cityhealthwalks@gmail.com