

 THE NATIONAL TRUST

NNTVnewsletter

Norfolk National Trust Volunteers

www.norfolkntv.co.uk



Summer / Autumn 2009

CHAIRMAN'S WORDS

Another year has passed us by and the grand opening of the Breathing Spaces Project was opened in freezing temperatures by Sir Nicholas Bacon on 22nd November 2008 who planted a Silver Birch tree to mark the occasion. Despite the weather, the opening went down very well especially with the children who had come from the local school. I would take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who spent many hours over at Horsey working on this project and as a group I think we should be immensely proud of what we have achieved. For this purpose we entered the project into the Marsh Heritage Volunteering Award. There were 40 entries and we reached the second round where nine were chosen. Unfortunately we



did not make the final three but the feedback I received was that it was a tremendous project but lacked enough public benefit.



I have thoroughly enjoyed another year of volunteering and its always very good to see so many volunteers at each task as well as seeing new faces which is always encouraging. Our appreciation should go to Dawn who has done a fantastic job of task organising and I personally thought the Christmas bash at Felbrigg was one of the best I have been to. Roll on another year

Finally, this year's AGM will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 28th of April at Mike's new house in Lower Hellesdon, Norwich. Car sharing is advisable as parking is limited. Please can you let Eileen know if you are able/ unable to attend on (01603) 613352. *Rupert*



HICKLING TOUR - 22 AUG 2009

On a lovely, sunny day, seven of us were given an illuminating walking, talking and boating tour of Hickling, the largest of the Broads, by the education officer David North. He covered the history, geography & geology of this beautiful wetland as well as instructing us on the flora and fauna to be found there.

The paradox is that although these parts of England are the driest, they also have the most marshy wetlands in the country, some natural but mainly contrived and artificial.

Everything at Hickling is balanced as far as possible to enhance ecology including the introduction of the sturdy little Polish ponies (Koniks) who munch and thrive on the tough grass. There are also Cormorants, Reed Warblers, Barn / Tawny owls, a huge variety of

dragonflies and butterflies such as Swallowtails. Plus many reeds and flowers. We saw Yellow Loosestrife, Angelica, Pennywort and Marsh Marigolds to name but a few.

In the future, as the sea level rises, the sea could again infiltrate the rivers and the Broads; we were told that the Broads are already becoming more saline. There is also a problem with acid from deep drainage and the leaching of iron from silt. Getting and maintaining clear water is a task that costs £millions. *Jill*

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. Email any future contributions to

newsletter@norfolkntv.co.uk

Thanks again. David.

OXBURGH HALL - 6 SEP 2009

Think of sunny Sundays, moated manor houses, lazily punting through flowering water lilies surrounded by beautiful English countryside. Maybe just a taste of champagne and strawberries with cream (dream on!) maybe rakes wheelbarrows and buckets of slime are the order of the day. It's time to clear the blanket weed from the moat at Oxburgh Hall.



The lovely summer weather enjoyed this year in Norfolk was also much appreciated by the blanket weed which had rapidly spread over and through much of the moat. If not kept under control the weed would totally smother everything else and deoxygenate the water. Blanket

weed is actually a long filamentous algae which can reproduce very rapidly giving a good impression of turning the water into pea soup.

Our job today was to remove as much of it as possible. We did this by punting across the moat, ladling the weed into large buckets, transferring it to wheelbarrows on the bank and then wheeling it to the compost heap where it could dry out and be used as part of a compost mix ready for use in the gardens. Not surprisingly this proved to be a very popular job with reminiscences of summers on the Cam for some and a 1st time punting experience for others. The buckets did actually get very heavy but somehow no one overbalanced into the moat. The public were very interested in our progress and there were more than a few quips about moats, MPs and expenses but as yet no job offers!!

Space on the boat was limited and rather than see some of us idle we were put to work wheeling barrow loads of hoggin through the gardens over the river and through the wood to continue path laying. This was heavy work which quickly seemed to get heavier due to the distances involved. On past tasks the hoggin has been somewhat nearer to it's destination. However a good stretch of pathway was laid despite our aching limbs.

We all had a most enjoyable day and agreed it was fun to do something a little bit different. *Jane*



WASP SPIDER AT HORSEY

A rare arachnid, the female wasp spider, has been found in the wildflower meadow at Horsey Windpump. It is only the fourth time that the distinctive species of spider has been recorded in the county since 2006.

Known to naturalists as *argiope bruennichi*, the spiders first appeared on Britain's southern coast in the 1920s and have slowly been spreading north due to milder weather.

Female members of the species are usually larger, and often eat their male conquests after mating. They thrive in areas of short grass and devour beetles, winged insects and grasshoppers, although their bite is not poisonous.

The meadow in which the spider was found, was created by our group last year as part of the BBC Breathing Places project. The meadow and is now home to 25 species of butterfly, a wide array of insects and birds and grass snakes and Chinese water deer.

Stephen Prowse, the warden at Horsey Windpump, said: "It is so exciting to find these spiders here in the new habitats. They are absolutely gorgeous creatures and it just goes to show that anything can turn up if you create a flower rich area like this. It is a credit to the volunteers who created this wonderful wildlife area."



BULLFER GROVE - 21 FEB 2010

We have had many wet days this Winter, but I think this one may just be the wettest one, even wetter than Blickling back in November!

Seven of us left Norwich, seeing an occasional flurry of snow, and all was well with the world. We followed the map to the farmhouse where we were to park, turning off the main road, down a side turning, then left again onto a track. This track was lethal – me leading, followed by two more extremely nervous lady drivers (no comments from the chaps please). The track was long, narrow, very muddy/icy and extremely treacherous. We finally, and with some relief, reached the end - only to be told that we could have gone another way! Here we met up with Rupert (who lives nearby) and the wardens.

We made our way to the woodland, now snowing quite heavily. By the time we viewed the area and had our instructions we couldn't see across the field, let alone what we would be cutting. Nevertheless, as we were there, and

having never been defeated before, we decided to carry on. We had a wonderful time cutting back the laurel and piling it up into huge stacks. This stuff is toxic, so we had to be very careful not to touch it with bare hands. We stopped for tea and cake and decided to carry on with the task, hopefully completing, then we would leave. The heavy snow gradually turned to sleet, then rain/sleet. Everything was dripping – the sky, trees, and us! We had finished cutting the laurel and went back to the camp for another, very welcome, hot brew. Graham gave us his blessing to leave and thanked us for our sterling work. I am so pleased that we stayed as long as we did, because the main roads had had a chance to clear slightly from use by traffic.

Unfortunately, all the tools, boxes etc, were as wet as we were, and it took another two hours to sort that lot out. Some of it is still drying.

Many thanks to all of you who came out on the day. It was a brilliant effort. *Dawn*



Bullfer Grove in sunnier weather.

BLICKLING - 30 NOV 2008

On a wet, dull morning we set off for Blickling Hall, waterproofs and wellies and a spare set of clothes in the boot!

We met with Dave Brady who set the task for the day and gave us some background about it. The landscape in the Park had been changed a great deal over the years by the various occupants in the house. The planting of new trees was progressing well to return the avenue of trees too its' original state and restore the original vista. Our task was to remove the tree protectors from the trees which were well established and to build new

fences around newly planted ones. The rain was incessant throughout the day but we managed to get far more done than Dave had anticipated which pleased us 'drowned rats'!!

Dave thanked us for our hard work and said that we could go home knowing that we had helped with the continuity of the environment, continuing to provide habitats for the numerous species, replenishing the tree population and ensuring the aesthetics of the landscape.

That's what it's all about - Making a difference!! *Mary*

NNTV CLOTHING

There is now another chance for members to order NNTV clothing.

The range includes a T-shirt, Polo shirt and Sweat shirt all in National Trust green featuring a NT logo on the left breast and 'Norfolk National Trust Volunteers' on the back.

Members may buy one or all three if they wish and will receive a £7 subsidy towards their total order. Chest sizes (to fit)

XS 34"-36"	SML 36"-38"
MED 38"-40"	LRG 40"-42"
XL 42"-44"	

Prices (all include VAT)

T-shirt	£8.23
Polo shirt	£12.28
Sweat shirt	£13.45

Contact: David (07799) 365737
newsletter@norfolkntv.co.uk

TASK AND EVENTS DIARY

- 11 April 2010
Horsey
- 25 April 2010
Felbrigg Hall
- 28 April 2010
Annual General Meeting
- 9 May 2010
Blickling Hall
- 23 May 2010
Oxburgh Hall (to be confirmed)
- 6 June 2010
Horsey
- 20 June 2010
Felbrigg Hall
- 4 July 2010
Blickling Hall
- 18 July 2010
Sheringham Park

