

NNTV newsletter

Norfolk National Trust Volunteers www.norfolkntv.co.uk



Autum/Winter 2010



CHAIRMAN'S WORDS

Another year with many new faces and some faces who for various reasons we will not see again. Its always a shame when a volunteer disappears never to be seen again. However this brings me on to a relevant point that we must, in these ever increasing petrol prices, resolve car driving volunteers being paid a petrol allowance or even more volunteers will not be able to make it to various faraway tasks. At time of writing the AGM had not been set but it is essential that we all come to an agreement as to how we can resolve this fairly.

I have once again been very pleased with the number of volunteers on each of the tasks I attended last year and once again with the number of new faces that keep appearing. I just hope that we can create tasks that are big enough to keep all these very enthusiastic volunteers busy.

I would like to thank Dawn once again for organising all the tasks and for her contribution to the Christmas bash at Flebrigg.

Best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Rupert



HEIGHAM HOLMES OPEN DAY—19 SEPT 2010

Whether it was the star TV appearance by the warden Stephen, or Stuart's tasty toasted teacakes, there's no denying this year's Heigham Holmes Open Day was one of the most successful yet. The secluded nature of the island, and the theory that it was used as a wartime spy airfield, attracted the attention of the BBC series Secret Britain and its presenter Matt Baker. In turn, this led to a record 908 visitors traipsing across the bridge for their once-a-year chance to see the former dairy farm and nature haven spanning 450 acres. On the Saturday, wildlife enthusiasts were given the chance to explore the island with Stephen leading two walks,

described by one visitor as 'terrific .. and enlightening'. This year's event was particularly popular with families with story-telling, pond-dipping, puppet show, and Mary's genius frog-trampoline game, not forgetting the highly competitive snail race. A really successful partnership between the Broads Authority and the National Trust – let's aim to beat the total next year! Although bagsy not manning the badge machine.

Sally



FELBRIGG WALK – 10 OCT 2010

When National Trust Volunteers meet up, it is usually to prune trees or carry out some other energetic task, but on Sunday 10th October it was for a different activity: an escorted walk around the woods and grounds of Felbrigg Hall with warden Richard. Before the walk, David gave us a brief history of the house, revealing that the park had been designed by local man Humphrey Repton, who alongside Capability Brown, is considered the founding father of English landscape gardening. Once inside the woods David demonstrated how to distinguish between several types of superficially similar conifer trees by comparing the size,



shape and colour of the cones and leaves, and the patterning of the bark. The warm but damp autumn weather had encouraged the growth of many different fungi in the woods, some tiny ('Candle-snuff'), some large ('Bracket') and some inedible ('Sickener'). Another notable sight was a hollow tree with holes resembling eyes and a mouth, which looked like Edvard Munch's *The Scream* if you squinted hard enough... We emerged through the splendid avenue of beech trees which lead to the house, and rounded off the walk with a traditional National Trust Cream Tea in the Carriages Brasserie.

Andy





FELBRIGG WALK – 31 OCT 2010

As a certain time of year approaches, the inevitable rhodi bashing begins. On an overcast but mild autumn day, 11 of us set about tackling the rhododendrons in a car park on the western edges of Felbrigg. A roaring bonfire was already waiting to welcome us courtesy of Richard and Debbie. It was a site familiar to some of the volunteers who'd worked on a different part of the area 18 months ago. It was heartening to see that site was still clear, and Richard assured us we had and would be making a difference. During the day we cleared about 300 square metres of the poisonous invader - one of them

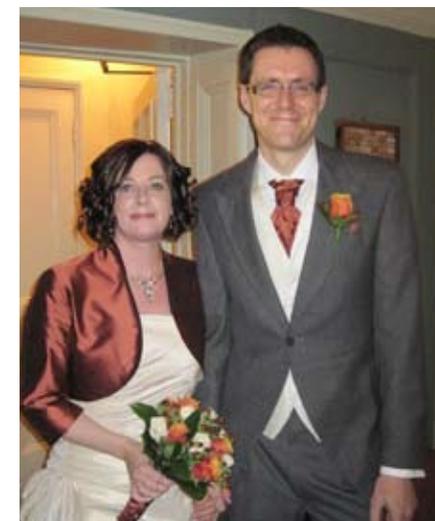
had been there about 26 years judging by the rings on its trunk. Rhododendrons can grow to 4m high, and not only stifle all fauna underneath but release poisonous toxins into the soil, and harbour diseases. They were also hiding a variety of beautiful fungi, including clouded funnel, deceivers and jelly ear. Now that this area is free, the yew and holly should thrive and grow to be a natural barrier to hide the car park. A thoroughly satisfying day, and a chance to see Felbrigg's glorious trees in all their autumnal technicolour.

Sally

BACONSTHORPE WALK – 21 NOV 2010



Twelve of us braved the November chill for a bracing walk around the North Norfolk countryside. The walk took us past the interesting remains of Baconsthorpe Castle which was built between 1460 and 1486, initially as a fortified manor house. Some of the buildings on the site were later converted in the Tudor period by Sir John Heyden II



into a wool processing factory, with much of the cloth produced being sold to the Netherlands. The house fell into ruin after the Civil War.

We all had a hearty appetite after the six mile hike and therefore the ample Sunday roast dinner at the Hare and Hounds in Hempstead was most welcome. After dinner, the group very kindly presented a generous gift to Amy and me to mark our recent wedding. We would like to thank everybody for their kind words and best wishes - they are much appreciated by us both.

David & Amy



NNTV CLOTHING

There is now another chance for members to order NNTV clothing. The range includes a T-shirt, Poloshirt 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