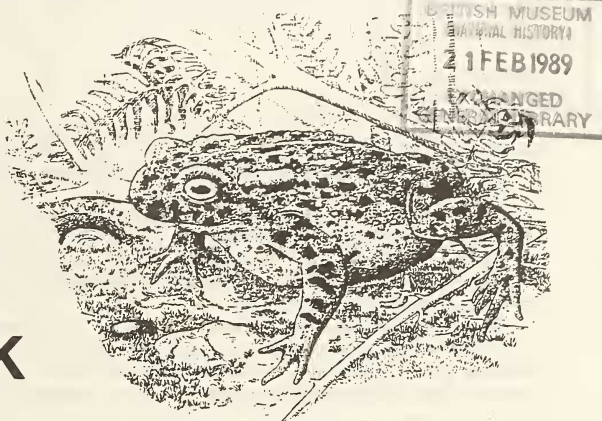


THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK



The Quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

No.24

February 1989

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at 19.30 hours on Wednesday 8th March 1989 in the City Library Lecture Theatre, Norwich

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting. (23rd March 1988)
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Presentation of Chairmans Report.
5. Presentation of Treasurer Report and the Income and Expenditure Account for 1988.
6. Presentation of the Council nomination for the President of the Society for 1989-90. (Mrs A Brewster)
7. E.L.Swann - Nomination for Honorary Life Membership.

Eric Swann has been a member of the Society for longer than most of us. He is a Vice President, a past President, and is joint author of the Flora of Norfolk which appeared in 1968, and it's subsequent supplement. He has devoted the whole of his adult life to the study of both the higher Flora and the Mosses and Liverworts of his native county, even refusing promotion in his banking career so that these studies would not be disturbed. Though he has never suffered fools gladly, he has always been every ready to help genuine would be seekers of botanical knowledge, and many are the younger botanists who would be happy to acknowledge that fact. Now in his middle eighties, and very much confined to his home base following a slow recovery from a broken hip two years ago. Council felt that it would be an appropriate gesture to make him an Honorary Life Member.

Alec Bull. Secretary.

8. Presentation of Officers and Council.
Council offers the following nominations, all nominees having consented to serve.

Chairman
General Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer

Mrs.A.Brewster
A.L.Bull
Mrs.J.Negal
D.A.Dorling

Assistant Treasurer
 Chairman, Membership Committee
 Secretary, Membership Committee
 Chairman, Programme Committee
 Secretary, Programme Committee
 Chairman, Publications Committee
 Secretary, Publications Committee
 Chairman, Research Committee
 Secretary, Research Committee
 Honorary Auditor

M.J.Woolner
 R.Hancy
 C.R.Dack
 M.J.C.Ewles
 Mrs.C.W.Haines
 R.Jones
 Dr.A.G.Irwin
 P.R.Banham
 E.Cross
 J.E.Timbers
 Dr.R.Hamond (Retiring 1990)
 D.M.Thain Dr.G.Phillips
 R.E.Jones (Retiring 1991)
 M.Carmichael J.Dawson
 M.Hall DR.A.R.Leech

Elected Council Member to serve for one year,
 Elected Council Members to serve for two years,

Elected Council Members to serve for three years, (Retiring 1992)

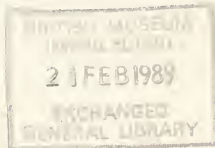
Any other nominations may be received from members for any of the above posts other than Vice-presidents, duly proposed and seconded and with the nominees written consent, not less than seven clear days before the A.G.M. to (Gen. Sec) 9. Any other business.

Following the A.G.M., "Through the Rockies to Carlsbad". Illustrated talk by Mr.M.Smith.

RAFFLE ON 8th MARCH A.G.M.

Prizes so far for the raffle on the night of the A.G.M. are as follows

- From:- Norwich Camera Centre Ltd. 20 White Lion Street, Norwich. NR2 1QB
 Telephone (0603) 612537.
 A pair of Ranger 8 X 30 Binoculars
- From:- Leisure & Camping, Upper Goat Lane, Norwich.
 Telephone (0603) 610987
 Swiss Army Knife.
- From:- Monks + Crane (Tool suppliers), Unit 4, Charles Wood Road, Rashes Green
 Trading Estate, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1SX
 Telephone (0362) 694931 Telex: 97277 FAX 0362 697204
 Gedore 7 peace screwdriver set.
- From:- Eastern Office Equipment (Dereham) Wellington Road, Dereham, Norfolk.
 NR19 2BP Telephone (0362) 694873 FAX 0362695423
 Parker Jotter stainless steel ball pen.
- From:- L.F. Everett & Son (Printers) 41 Norwich Street, Dereham.
 (Printers of the Natterjack)
 A Voucher for a box of headed note paper.
- From:- Toftwood Stores, Toftwood, Dereham.
 A bottle of Old England Ruby Wine.
- From:- Mike and Jean Woolner (Society members).
 book :- Ted Eales Countrymans Memoirs (A Warden's life on Blakeney Point).



From:- Mike and Janet Ewles (Society members) Set of wine glasses.

From:- The Esso Tokens a Bush Alarm Clock Radio.

From:- Ken Durrant (Society member) Record of Bird Song.
and book :- All Colour Book of **SEASHELLS**.

Would members please carry on collecting the petrol / oil gift vouchers. Vouchers collected from now on will be used to exchange for prizes for the Society Social Evening Raffle.

Colin Dack.

INVITATION

Society members are invited to a field meeting at Felthorpe Woods. Meet roadside verge TG 154167 by gravel pit entrance. On Sunday 12th March 1989 at 11.00hrs. The Leaders for this meeting are Reg and Lil Evans.

SATURDAY 6th MAY 1989

Will members kindly refer to their 1989 Programme and note:-
Saturday 6th May Excursion to Berney Marshes.

The 1989 Train Timetables now being to hand I am able to give the further particulars promised as follows,

From Brundall

Train Leaves 10.30 am.

Arrives Berney Arms (Request Stop)

at 10.52 am.

We will be met by Les Street, the Warden, who assures me that at this particular time of the year the four mile walk to Gt. Yarmouth will be pleasurable to the botanical and ornithological oriented members of our Society, and given the good fortune of fine weather, likewise to our photographers and others with varied interests who attend on the day.

The return trains times from Gt. Yarmouth to Brundall are :-
13.15pm. 14.15pm. 15.15pm. 15.47pm. 16.15pm. 17.10pm.

There are of course later trains than the above should anyone decide to prolong their stay in Gt. Yarmouth.

Bob Robinson.

"C" SITES

Following a recent meeting of Council attended by Mr.P. Bennett-Lloyd from the department of Planning and Property at County Hall, I have now Received a series of maps indicating the exact whereabouts of all the "C" sites revealed by the Norfolk Naturalist's Trust Countywide Survey a few years ago.

If anyone knows of areas of good habitats within the county which they think could have been missed by this survey, please get in touch with me to see if they are marked on the maps or not. It is to be hoped that quite a number of worthwhile sites will be pinpointed by our involvement, as the list of sites is very much used by the County and district authorities when considering planning

applications. I have not had time to go through all the areas thoroughly that I know myself, but a quick glance at only two maps, revealed three sites which ought to be down.

Alec Bull.

GRIMES GRAVES

24th July 1988

We found that all the young Birch had been cleared from this site, and being sheep grazed it was an open area where most of the plant life was stunted, but in the shelter of the woods was of normal height. Five spot Burnet and Silver Y moths were on the wing, many Longhorn beetles *Strangalia melanura* were found mating on the thistle heads. Speckled Wood, Essex and Small Skipper butterflies were also seen.

After lunch we visited nearby Emily's Wood where we found the undergrowth much overgrown, restricting our wanderings to the outer edges, and these were cut short by a violent rain storm.

Ken Durrant.

NARFORD HALL

2nd October 1988

Members spent a very pleasant day in equally pleasant weather in the grounds of Narford Hall. On arriving we were welcomed by Cmdr. Andrew Fountaine who told us the history of the estate and his family's connection with it. We then toured the southern side of the lake which contained a large number of duck in variety, Egyptian and Canada Geese and a single Flamingo. Herons were roosting in nearby trees.

Eight species of butterflies were noted during the day. In the morning sunshine Comma, Brimstone and Speckled Wood were frequently seen, as were many male Vapourer moths. Amongst the reeds at the lakeside numerous Cigar galls caused by the dipteran *Lipara lucens* were seen. Here too were found a number of Caddis flies *Limnophilis lunatus* - the Cinnamon Sedge of the fly fisherman.

The Het bugs *Pantilius tunicatus* were fairly common on the Alders. We returned to lunch near the Hall where we found fourteen Small Tortoiseshell butterflies on two Michaelmas Daisies competing for the nectar with many Drone Flies.

The Eucalyptus trees around the Hall were surrounded by large growths of Tree Lupins more often found in coastal areas. These had been planted to supply nitrogen to the soil instead of using artificial means.

After lunch we crossed the bridge over the stream feeding the lake to explore the northern side and River Nar. The stream contained a huge growth of Mares-tail *Hippuris vulgaris*. After a while the access was restricted by being heavily overgrown and we returned having had an interesting excursion in which fifty two species of Fungi were noted.

Ken Durrant.

A GLIMPSE OF THE DEEP

Earlier this year I was involved with projects for the Norwegian oil companies inspecting the integrity of their sub-sea pipelines. One project used an ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) to survey the pipeline. The ROV was fitted with three video cameras positioned above and to each side of the pipe to enable a simultaneous view of any particular section. This particular pipeline was 200 kilometres long and crossed the Norwegian Trench to come ashore south of Bergen. The Trench at this point reaches over 330 metres (1000 feet). Much of this type of inspection is routine and tedious, however, it is made that much more interesting by the marine life picked up by the cameras.

In the trench there was life, not just tube dwelling worms or torpid tunicates but crustaceans and fish. Shrimps, and prawns were very common, often attracted to the ROV lights. These in turn attracted shoals of Saithe (*Coelie*) *Pollachius virens* and Cod *Gadus morrhua*. On the seabed flatfish, rays, Ling *Molva molva* and Greater Forkbeard *Phycis blennioides* sped off ahead of the slowly moving machine.

One of the oddest species encountered at these depths was the red-hued Norway Haddock *Sebastes viviparus*. It resembled a perch but was very slow moving and tended to stay close to the bottom. Other denizens that previously were unknown to me were the Rabbitfish *Chimaera monstrosa*, a small fast moving ray-like fish with large round set eyes giving it a superficial rabbit-like head (without ears!). Instantly recognisable, however, was the large head of the Angler Fish *Lophius piscatorius* often seen lying close to the pipe. Sometimes the ROV operator would slow the vehicle and pan the camera onto these awesome fish. The dorsal fin-ray lure clearly seen and on occasions its cavernous mouth would open slightly to reveal a wicked set of inwardly curved teeth.

Another fish that could rival the Angler for ugliness was the Wolffish *Anarhichas lupus*. This greyish-brown catfish often lived in hollows under the pipe where it laid in wait for its prey. Some individuals were so aggressive that an attack on a passing ROV was not beyond them! They have massive bony heads containing powerful jaws and strong teeth with which to crush crabs and molluscs. Other species noted passing were a small shark, the Spur Dog *Squalus acanthias* and a female Lump sucker *Cyclopterus lumpus*.

Crustaceans observed at a 1000 feet were Dublin Bay Prawns *Nephrops norvegicus* perhaps better known as the Norway Lobster or Scampi, the Spider Crab *Maia spinado*, the Edible Crab *Cancer pagurus* and most surprisingly of all a Lobster *Homarus vulgaris*.

With the exception of the Norway Lobster the latter species were not expected. According to Brent J. Muus and Preben Dahlstrom (Collin's Guide to the sea Fishes of Britain and North West Europe) the Spider Crab was well north of its given range (English Channel to the Mediterranean). The same book also stated that Edible Crabs were found at depths not greater than 50 metres and Lobsters no greater than 40 metres. The book was first published 1964, a year prior to the advent of North Sea exploration, therefore the authors did not have the advantages of our present day technology. Advances to our deep sea knowledge must be daily events to the observant as colour video cameras push forever forward recording marine life *in situ*. Like the Lobster walking seaward alongside the pipeline - an extended rock outcrop? - habitat in which to shelter

and forage, it too reaches new frontiers.

Francis Farrow

HOCKERING WOOD

Sunday 30th October 1988

Fed up with roasting our toes in front of the fire several members got together for an afternoons visit to Hockering Wood. The afternoon turned out fine and dry and with the late autumn sunlight glinting through trees the woods were a peaceful refuge. With the help of Reg and Lil Evans 66 species of fungi were identified and recorded. I have listed some of the more interesting finds.

Macrolepiota konradii single specimen of this uncommon toadstool.

Mycena pelianthina under beech, violet edge to gills

Rutstroemia firma yellow / brown 1/2" discs, on fallen Oak branches.

Tremella foliacea uncommon jelly like fungus.

Crocibulum vulgare birds nest fungus.

Mycena aurantiomarginata grey cap and pretty orange gills, rare in Norfolk, under conifers.

Janet Ewles.

LONGHORN BEETLE

In the August issue of the Natterjack a query was raised regarding the status of *Agapanthia villosoviridescens*, a small longhorn beetle with a gigantic name. This beetle is frequently found on flower heads on roadside verges and damp areas throughout the county, from June to September. It usually breeds in the stems of Thistles and can be confused with the very similar *Saperda populnea* which has five small pale dots running down each elytron. These are absent on *Agapanthia*. *Saperda* is not so common.

Ken Durrant.

LIFT REQUIRED

A lady member living in Swaffham requires a lift to Society meeting. The lady is now without transport. So if you think you could give her a lift please contact me (Colin Dack Membership Secretary 12, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1JJ).

JEW'S EAR

One of the most easily recognised fungus is Jew's Ear *Auricularia auricula-judae* normally found on Elder branches. It has also been recorded in Britain on a variety of trees and shrubs such as Beech, Elm, Sycamore, Holly, Ash, Spindle and Buddleia.

A second record for the County on Willow has been reported by Miss R. Walby. There is only one previously from Thompson Common.

We have also a record on Laburnum this year. We are always interested in unusual hosts for this fungus.

Reg and Lil Evans.

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 23rd November 1988

Once again Reg Jones showed the some of his superb slides. He explained how he went about taking his slides. From how he composes the subject by using the rule of thirds, using imaginary lines diving the picture into three equal sections, horizontally and vertically. If you compose photographs in this way it is usually pleasing and well-balanced. Focusing of the subject and how to use the depth-of-field (depth-of-focus). Exposure how to get it right and how to adjust the exposure to get a good balance between the the bright part of the subject a white flower and the dark leaves. Also using flash to fill in the shadows and give a good balance between flash and daylight. He also stressed the importance of supporting the camera using a tripod where the light is low, also using the right shutter speed for the lens in use to avoid camera shake.

Reg Jones proves the fact that it is not the camera but the photographer that takes a good photograph. Point being know your equipment, subject and film, and to use your brain to think out the photograph before you take it. It is far better to take one very good photograph than any number of mediocre photographs.

A very enjoyable and instructive evening, I think this would have been a very good lecture for the hole Society. In fact if Reg could be persuaded to give this lecture I know that the non-photographs would enjoy this as much as the photographers.

I believe Reg Jones lecture proves the best all round camera for natural history use is a single lens reflex with through the lens metering, the manual type. Not the all singing dancing auto focus, auto exposure, automatic film loading, advance and rewinding with built in auto flash.

Colin Dack.

A FUNGUS NEW TO NORFOLK

A farmer neighbour planted roughly 3 acres of trees on a piece of ground which had been partly waste land and partly arable, in about 1980. By 1986, fungi had started to appear which have associations with certain of the tree species planted. E.G. *Lactarius torminosus* under birch.

On 23th Ooctober 1988, I was walking through the area looking for fungi when I noticed some small white bracket species apparently growing on moss. Specimens were collected and examined under a lens, when it was discovered that the species concerned was a cup fungus rather than a bracket. Comparison with illustrations in Roger Phillips ' book ' Mushrooms ' indicated that *Leptoglossum retigerm* was probably the species concerned, so specimens were taken to Mr. R.E. Evans. Mr Evans confirmed the identification and added the information that the species had not been recorded in Norfolk before, so far as he was aware. The moss species concerned was the very common *Brachythecium rutabulum*.

Rita M Bull.

CAR STICKERS

The Car Sticker included in this issue of Natterjack is free (part of your your membership) additional stickers will be available for purchase. The price is 50p each from, Colin Dack, Membership Secretary.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

This is to remind members that their subscription is due on the 1st April. Cheques should be made payable to the **Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society**.

Annual Subscription Rates are :- Junior £3.00 Ordinary £6.00
Family £7.50 Affiliation £15.00

D.A.Dorling, Honorary Treasurer, "St Edmundsbury", 6 New Road. Heathersett, Norwich. NR9 3HH.

WARNING, If your subscription has lapsed for more than one year and the Hon Treasurer has not received your subscription by the 1st August 1989. Your name will be deleted from the membership roll. (Colin Dack, Membership Secretary).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NATTERJACK should be sent to Colin Dack, 12, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1JJ, to arrive not later than **1st April 1989**. Contributions sent after this date will not be accepted for the May Natterjack.

A STRANGE LINK WITH THE ELLISES

It was a calm cold morning when we visited Belaugh Broad, the Broad which the Broads Authority have rescued from complete overgrowth. High water at Yarmouth Bar was around nine which meant that by late morning the fens around the broad were being submerged by this spring tide. Certainly the "mangrove swamps" of alders were well submerged.

The very gentle breeze had drifted a floating scum across the broad and our work-boat, as it drifted gently, was pushing the surface film ahead of it. I took a small bottle of it home.

This scum was exceptionally rich in the spores of microfungi. These have their origin on the dead leaves of the carrs. Besides the common hyphomycetes like *Alatospora acuminata* there were spores of fungi first illustrated in a paper which Ted Ellis wrote with Professor C. T. Ingold in 1952. They found the spores in a walk together along the edge of the wood at Wheatfen. Those present in Belaugh Broad were *Tetracladium maxilliforme*, *Tetracladium setigerum* and *Lateramulosa uni-inflata*.

There were a number of *Dematiaceous Hyphomycetes* present of which I was able to identify *Diplocladiella scalaroides*. These dematiaceous hyphomycetes were dealt with in two fine monographs from the Commonwealth Mycological Institute at Kew which were written by Ted's brother Martin when he was there.

So in the tiny tube of wind-drifted scum I found links with two different members of the gifted Ellis family.

K.B. Clarke



DIPLOCLADIELLA
SCALAROIDES



LATERIRAMULOSA
UNI-INFLATA



TETRACLADIUM
MAXILLIFORME



TETRACLADIUM
SETIGERUM