



# On the Foss

The River Foss Society Newsletter

Spring 2009

[www.riverfosssociety.co.uk](http://www.riverfosssociety.co.uk)

## Welcome....

Welcome to this the next instalment of the society's newsletter. I hope that you find it informative and 'readable'. At time of writing Spring seems to be 'springing' and there are signs of new life on the banks of the river. Can I please draw your attention to the notice below regarding the AGM and take this opportunity to encourage you to attend. It would be great to see you there.

Thanks for your support and please keep using, walking and watching the River.

Yours  
**Amanda**

## Society Annual General Meeting

The Society will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm. The event will be held at Strensall & Towthorpe Village Hall, where the speaker will be Julian Small – an authority on Strensall Common.

## New Subscription Rates

The Committee will be recommending to the Annual General Meeting that most of the subscription rates for 2009 be raised for the first time in over 10 years. We hope members will appreciate the increased activities, the scope and quality of the Newsletters plus the decision to take out an insurance and that you will continue to support the Society at the rates of :-

Family	£12.00
Individual	£ 8.00
Concessions	£ 6.00
Schools and Societies	£18.00
Parish and Town Councils	£18.00
Commercial Organisations	£25.00

Please make payment by cheque made out to "RIVER FOSS SOCIETY" either at the A G M or by post to the Membership Secretary, Peter Hopwood, 147 York Road, Haxby, York YO32 3EU. Thank you. Any queries to tel. no. 01904 768071, e mail [chrisandpete@haxby147.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:chrisandpete@haxby147.fsnet.co.uk)

Please try and encourage others to take out membership and join us.

## A Tree in Memory

A Rowan tree was planted on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in memory of Maureen Hume, a former Membership Secretary of the society, on land adjoining the River Foss at Monk Bridge. Maureen's husband John and daughter Alison were joined by several members of the Society for the simple ceremony during which Alison read Joyce Kilmer's poem, "Trees".

**Many thanks to Bill Briggs the Parks and Gardens Manager of the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust for providing and clearing the site.**



## Forthcoming Events up to Mid June...

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April - 10am

A walk including a conducted tour of the New Earswick nature reserve. Please meet at the Folk Hall car park, New Earswick.

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - 6pm (note change of time)

Following his talk at the AGM, Julian Small will lead a wildlife walk on Strensall Common. Coming from the direction of York, park in the car park immediately on the right beyond the first cattle grid on the Strensall – Flaxton Road. After the walk there will be a pub meal at The Blacksmith's Arms, Flaxton. Food to be ordered in advance either at the AGM or by contacting June between May 6th and 11th.

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May - 10.30am (note change of time)

Foss Walk 1 of about 6.5 miles from Strensall to Farlington led by John Millett. Meet at the Strensall Village Hall car park and bring a picnic lunch. Please let Pat Rattenbury know in advance if you plan to attend – 01904 761168 – so that he can arrange for cars to be available at the finish point.

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – 6.30pm

Another "Food for Free" walk with Stephen Whittaker. This time the walk will be along a different stretch of the river and with St Thomas' Scouts and Cub Scouts. Meet at the Scout Hall, Haxby Road, which is next door to No 153 and on the corner of Greenfields.

### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – 10.30am (note change of time)

Foss Walk 2, about 6 – 7 miles from Farlington to Crayke led by June Card. Meet at the car park of the Blacksmiths Arms, Farlington and bring a picnic lunch. Again please let Pat Rattenbury know in advance if you are coming – 01904 761168



## Some New Dates...

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – 6.30pm

A visit to the barge 'Syntan' at King's Staith followed by a pub meal.

### Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 7pm

An additional meeting at the Merchant Adventurers Hall – details of both in the next newsletter.

## Planning

### A Telecommunications Mast at Church Farm, Huntington?

At its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008, the City of York's Planning Committee refused Vodaphone's application to erect a 23.4m mast at Church Farm, Huntington in the meadow bordering the River Foss. The River Foss Society objected to the proposal, as did several members in an individual capacity. Since then Vodaphone has resubmitted the proposal, lowering the proposed mast by 3 metres. The River Foss Society has renewed its objections: it is not the height of the mast that is the problem but its location in the green belt and in a well used and much loved natural environment.

## An Otter Mystery

The body of an otter was spotted on the Strensall Road between Earswick and the Towthorpe turning by Member Chris Dunn. He dashed home to get his camera but when he got back there was no sign of the otter. This happened on Thursday 12th February (the day it snowed) at about 7.45 am. Does anyone have any information, please?

If you happen to find a dead otter, please report it immediately to Will Durrant, tel 640198. This is for two good reasons. If the casualty is a female in milk, a search for her kittens can be carried out which could save their lives. Secondly, the body can be sent off for a post-mortem which will add to our knowledge of otters.



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