



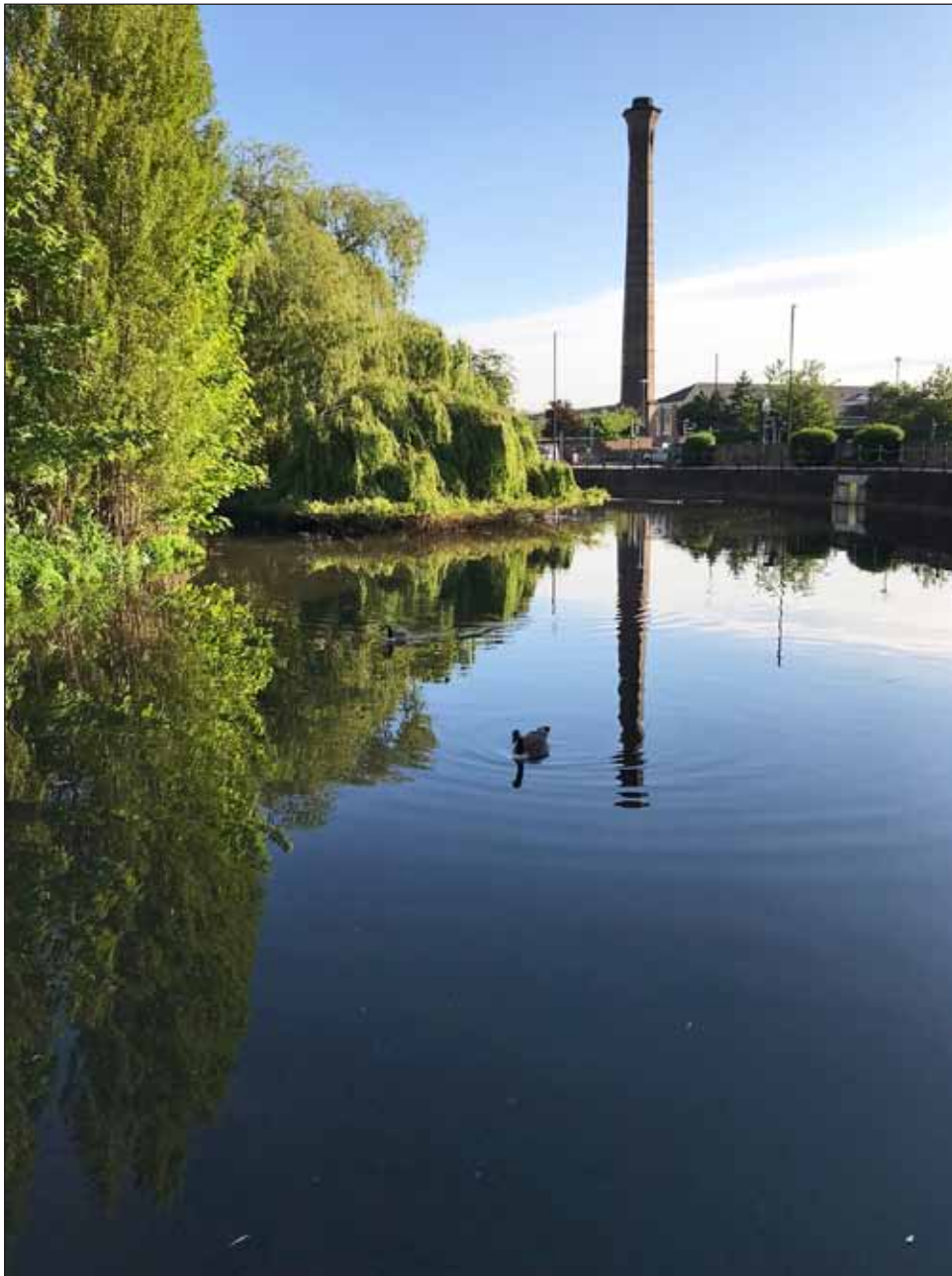
## Inspired Views

This year's photo competition was well supported with 38 entries. It seems that members have managed in these difficult times to get out to enjoy walks by the Foss.

The images cover many aspects of life along the Foss.

The entries were judged by eminent ecologist Alistair Fitter, our President.

Nick Lowe's excellent view of the river (left) wins a £20 book token and the two runners-up win a £10 token each. They are: Tony Whitehead with a shot of a damselfly (below left) and Nick Morrice and Adrienne Wilson with a summertime view of the river (below right).



*Left: First prize, Nick Lowe*



*Runner up: Tony Whitehead, a damselfly*



*Runner up: Nick Morrice and Adrienne Wilson with a summertime view of the Foss*

# Planting for tomorrow

The banks of the Foss at King George's Field, at the junction of Huntington Road and Fossway, now sport four lovely young conker trees thanks to the efforts of two of our members.

The trees were offered as a private donation and on 10 September, after obtaining permission from the City of York Council, Michael Reakes and Barry Thomas planted them in the gap where in January we had planted young trees amongst mature plants. Sadly some of these young trees were accidentally mowed, so the new conkers have filled the spaces left.

After planting, Barry Thomas took the time to do a bit of litter picking in the children's play area so the day was a very profitable one for the Foss. We are very grateful to the donor for this gift.



*Ready to plant!*

## Please sir, I want to moor ...

Tim Rane, a River Foss Society member, has joined with fellow residents in the Huntington Road area to do some extra litter picking on the Foss. This is in support of their dream to bring more boating activity back to the Foss. They see this being approached in three phases:

First, clear debris beneath the water line;

Second, conduct a test passage of a barge type of craft to prove navigability and to highlight silt/debris build up due to a lack of river maintenance;

Finally, encourage boaters to use the river more, not only to view its very interesting visual perspective, but also to help oxygenate the water and

monitor more remote areas for vandalism and littering.

They want to enable boats to use the river along the 1.3 mile stretch designated to be kept navigable by working in partnership with authorities. This would help preserve the Foss's industrial heritage for years to come.

Their first litter pick was very successful, with a large number of shopping trolleys, bikes and other rubbish being removed from the river (see below). This has inspired his colleagues to continue litter picking, using their fishing nets, and he reports that they are keen to help in the future.



**Don't forget our website:**

**[www.riverfossociety.co.uk](http://www.riverfossociety.co.uk)**

After five years of sterling work, Alison Scott, our Secretary, has decided to 'put down her pen' and retire, as from the 2021 AGM (whenever that might be!). The Society is therefore looking for a new secretary to take over from Alison next year.

Duties are fairly light and include booking meeting venues; preparing agendas and taking minutes of committee meetings (four per year) and AGM; renewing annual insurance; answering enquiries

## Help Needed!

from members of the public – all in consultation with other committee members. Advice and support will

be given.

We would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking on this important role. For more information as to what is involved, please contact the RFS Chair, Michael Alexander on 01904 625610, or by e-mail: [mjapedologist@gmail.com](mailto:mjapedologist@gmail.com).

Huttons Ambo - the villages of High and Low Hutton - is mentioned in the Domesday Book. "Hutton" derives from the Old English meaning settlement on or by the hill spur and "Ambo" indicates the combination of the two villages. There is evidence of 12/13th century fortified buildings in Sheriff Hutton by the river.

## Summer Walking

July 15 saw twelve of us set off from Low Hutton village green on a dry, cloudy evening. We walked back up the road for a little way and turned left down a path towards a wooded lane. A lone walker overtook us and expressed some surprise at seeing people on what was usually a deserted path.

Eventually we could see the A64 ahead. We turned left just before the dual carriageway and walked down a large field enjoying the view of the River Derwent and beyond. We were wary of the "Bull in Field" sign on the gate, but the cattle, at a distance, appeared quite settled. A walk uphill through a wood, across another field with lovely views and back to the village completed a peaceful and enjoyable evening stroll.

Eight of us went on to the Stone Trough in Kirkham for a socially distanced meal/snack where several of us enjoyed the cheesy chips.

The bright and cheerful company more than compensated for the wet and dreary weather when 13 of us met at Beningbrough Hall gates on 4 August. We walked the usual way along the Ouse, stopping by its confluence with the Nidd to read the information board about the



*A good number walked at Beningbrough*

July 15 saw twelve of us set off from Low Hutton village

tansy beetle. The previous Saturday had been glorious but the cabin cruisers, swimmers and day trippers enjoying the sunshine had disappeared. Unfortunately their litter had not.

Much of the walk was under the trees which afforded some shelter. We went along the Woodland Walk and returned to the cars happy, if a bit wet and bedraggled. The farm shop and Blacksmiths' Arms were closed, and at least two of the walkers went off to find a pub offering the 50% discount.

Eight walkers met at Welburn on 20 August, a perfect



*A warm, sunny evening at Welburn*

warm summer evening with blue skies and wonderful views of Castle Howard, the Temple of the Four Winds and Mausoleum.

We walked the usual route through the wood, skirting Ray Wood which stands on the site of an ancient woodland, past Bog Hall, up to High Gaterley, turning right along the Centenary Way and back again.

A stop for a drink and snack at the Crown and Cushion completed a very enjoyable walk.

On 27 August, eight walkers and Spike the dog set off from Moor Monkton Main Street for a morning stroll.

We walked through the village and across several fields to a minor road leading to the Red House Estate which is mentioned in the Domesday Book. After several owners, Sir Edward Seymour became Lord of the Manor here in the 16th century, and it was owned later by the Slingsby family who used it as the family's hunting base with its deer park and extensive stables. In 1902 it became a prep school until 2001, and today it is an equestrian centre with holiday lets and a caravan site. The chapel is well worth a visit.

The walk took us past the lagoon by the River Ouse which was swollen, and some of the walkers took a slight detour to avoid getting wet feet. We went along the river, left through fields and then returned to the village.

*Anne Bednarski*

## And more walking ...

On 28 July eight walkers, and a dog, began in Terrington, traversing over to the 'ridge of the entrenchments', a low wooded ridge bounding the Castle Howard estate towards Hovingham. There is a path along it sometimes called the Sheep Walk, with good views down into Ryedale, especially around Fryton and Slingsby. We reached the ridge via field paths past Terrington Prep school. The rolling countryside around Terrington more than merits its designation as part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The group had a good day, covering over seven miles.



*On the Terrington walk*

On 15 September a group of five RFS members met at Kirkham Priory for a delightful morning walk. Crossing the railway line and the River Derwent from the Abbey car park, we walked first by the Derwent, through woods and fields, which despite the bright sunshine were sufficiently grown to dampen boots and legs. The path went alongside the tranquil river, past Howsham Hall, to a drink stop opposite Howsham Mill, a converted folly, which generates electricity via two massive Archimedes screws.



*The group on 15 September*

We then crossed woodland, before climbing up a path through what looked like an equestrian facility, but

which turned out to be an Alpaca farm. From here, field paths and tracks took us over the York to Scarborough railway line and into the small village of Crambe. A short road walk brought us to the woods above Kirkham and a return to the beginning of our walk.

A drink at the Stone Trough Inn rounded off a delightful walk in great weather. Unfortunately, the dreaded Himalayan Balsam seems to be infesting the Derwent as well!

Five RFS members and their leader set off on 1 October from the picturesque village of Coxwold. Meeting at the Church, with its Octagonal tower, we walked uphill, passing Shandy Hall, before crossing fields by a well-hidden footpath. With good views towards the low wooded ridge above Husthwaite, we descended to follow the route of the Thirsk to Malton railway, closed by Beeching in 1964.

At the end of this stage we came to Coxwold Gates station, where an 'honesty' DIY café has opened. A path through fields again led us to the village of Husthwaite, with a nice village green and some interesting houses, including the workshop of a rival to 'Mousey' Thompson (of Kilburn), the 'Squirrelman' of Husthwaite. From here a gently rising track took us up onto Beacon Banks with views of the White Horse and Byland Abbey. Descending the ridge, we passed Newburgh Priory and its lake, owned by the Wombwell family now, once the site of a Priory dissolved in Henry VIII's time. A short path led us back into Coxwold and the end of our walk.

*Derek Chivers*

During September, the RFS supported the City of York Council's litter pick scheme covering much of the city and surrounding area. Volunteers from our committee, working in groups of two, covered the river banks from Foss Islands Road downstream into the city centre, and also from Huntington Road/Haleys Terrace upstream to beyond Strensall.



*Barry and John on the job*

One feature reported to me was the number of favourable comments from members of the public whom we met whilst carrying out this task.

## Helping out

As such the publicity was very good news; and hopefully just may bring in new members. My appreciation and thanks goes out to all those who were involved.

*Barry Thomas*

### On the Foss

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