

## Members Newsletter No. 13 - March 2012

### Annual General Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Another year is rolling by and we will be holding our sixth AGM on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. The venue will be the Royal Harwich Yacht Club as usual and the meeting will start at 7.30 p.m.

This year we have invited as guest speaker David Ralph who is the Chief Executive of The Haven Gateway Partnership. He will outline the Partnership's approach to environmental issues and how they might affect the Shotley Peninsula. The Partnership is one of four planning sub-regions within the East of England Plan and it has published a Green Infrastructure Study that is available on line at <http://www.haven-gateway.org/>. In this the Shotley Peninsula is identified as an important Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANG) that will link with other ANG's to offer '..... informal recreation in a natural setting .....' to urban communities. In this context Alton Water is singled out as having the potential for development to provide '..... substantial benefit.....' for the future populations of Ipswich and Colchester. So, if you wish to hear directly what plans the Partnership might have in store for us then do come along to the AGM.

Sadly, last year we lost Jeremy Pertwee, a valued committee member. All other officers and committee members are prepared to stand for election again. This means that we would still have a full complement of twelve committee members and one co-opted member. Nevertheless, *if anyone wishes to join the committee then please provide your name together with a proposer and a seconder to Rodney Chadburn at [rodney\\_chadburn@lineone.net](mailto:rodney_chadburn@lineone.net) no later than Tuesday March the 13<sup>th</sup>.*

**In order that we can plan the catering please let Rachael Jowers at [rachael\\_jowers@churchmanor.com](mailto:rachael_jowers@churchmanor.com) know that you will be attending the AGM.**

### Collaboration with Suffolk Coast and Heaths

Your Committee has resolved to make an Application for Funds to help draw together much of the rather disparate information that is available on the Shotley Peninsula towards creating a more in depth knowledge of our area. This will help form plans for the area and help us to inform Babergh District Council of the jewel in their District!

Plans have already been collated which will help inform the study and the list is as follows:

- Shotley Peninsula - Designated Sites
- Shotley Peninsula - Wetlands and Estuaries with Water Vole and Otter record locations

- Shotley Peninsula – Woodland, Hedgerows and Parkland with Dormouse and Stag Beetle record locations.
- Shotley Peninsula Public Right of Way (PROW) – 3 plans.
- Shotley Peninsula – Landscape Character Types.

These plans are now on our website for you to view and they give a good start to the study that we hope we will be able to undertake. We need to make an Application for Funds by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 and Tom Hill and Stephen Clark are in charge of submitting our case to Suffolk Coast and Heaths.

## **Christmas Party**

We held our fifth Christmas Party at The Royal Harwich Yacht Club which was a great success and we received positive feedback for the venue and food. Overall 90 Members attended and were treated to a rousing speech from our Patron Griff Rhys-Jones who was as entertaining and thought provoking as ever and we were very grateful to Griff and his wife Jo travelling from London to attend the evening.

The evening was held jointly with the Shotley Cycling Campaign which gave our Members an opportunity to understand their campaign and to view the potential cycle route envisaged from Shotley to Ipswich. This could be the start of other cycle routes across the Peninsula.

## **Major Planning and Other Issues**

- SOS is still actively involved with the Ganges development but we are still waiting for the next formal planning submission from Haylink.
- Tom Hill is maintaining the dialogue with NATS regarding future plans that might emerge regarding revisions to the management of airspace that might affect the Shotley Peninsula.
- We used the services of a planning consultant to make SOS's observations on the draft Babergh Core Strategy document. The current position is that Babergh are considering the responses to the consultation so that they can pick up on any points made and that SOS will still have an opportunity to have an input at the subsequent examination.

## **Proposed Solar Park at Tattingstone**

Inazin, a company involved in the development of renewable energy systems, have outlined proposals to erect a solar voltaic park that would cover over 60 acres of land near to Alton Water. If built, it would probably be the largest solar park in the UK. No formal planning submission has yet been made. SOS will monitor developments.

## **Rodney Chadburn, Honorary Secretary, The Stour and Orwell Society**

Patron Griff Rhys-Jones

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