



NEWSLETTER

The RGCG exists to protect and enhance the River Glaven, its tributaries and its flood plain

We aim to work in friendly collaboration with landowners and farmers, conservation organisations and relevant public bodies.

RGCG to visit to the Stody Estate.

We have received an invitation from Ian MacNicol of the Stody Estate to see and hear about the farming on the Estate and in particular about the opportunities and problems that farmers are facing under the new European CAP funding arrangements. Ross Haddow, the Farm/Estate Manager, will tell us about the diverse cropping, the comprehensive environmental schemes, and the constraints placed on farmers by their customers, the Government, and the weather! He will be supported by grazing tenants and neighbouring farmers.



It is of the utmost importance that the farming interests in the Glaven catchment area co-exist with the wellbeing of the river in an atmosphere of understanding and goodwill, and the purpose of the meeting will be to foster just that.

The visit will take place on Saturday the 24th September at 1.45pm for a 2.00pm prompt start. Meet at Green Farm barn farmyard which runs alongside the Hunny Bell pub in Hunworth. There is ample car parking space on the hard surface. A bus will be provided for the tour, but sensible footwear and some water proof clothing is recommended. Tea and cake will be served in the barn at the Hunworth Bell at about 4.30pm. Cost of the tea is £5 collected on the day. Any surplus will go to RGCG funds.

Numbers will be limited to 50, and members of the RGCG will take priority. If you have not already booked a place and wish to do so then please contact Len Bentley (741076) to see if there are still some places available.

In preparation for the visit some committee members met at Stody on the 12th July with Ross, the chair of the Norfolk Norfolk NFU. and two other local farmers; and a representative from each of Defra, the Environment Agency and English Nature.



As you will see, this edition of the Newsletter has an emphasis on the interaction of our interests with farming. We have sought to provide some information for the day, both to better appreciate the tour around the estate and to promote discussion, including that which will take place in smaller groups over tea.

We look forward to a good turnout of members and an interesting day.

*Robin Combe
Chairman*

The Stody Estate

The Stody Estate belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacNicol, and has been farmed by the family for 60 years. The Estate is 3 miles south of Holt and 18 miles north of Norwich and extends to 4,200 acres. The farm is on the Cromer ridge, and soils are sandy loam with gravel over chalk. The wonderful River Glaven runs through the middle of the Estate, the land is undulating, rising up to 90 metres and there is also 700 acres of very attractive woodland with wild bluebells and rhododendrons. In addition a further 1,600 acres are contract farmed for 2 near neighbours. Cropping includes potatoes, carrots, peas, sugar beet, daffodils, wheat, barley, linseed, oilseed, and grass. Land is also rented seasonally to a pig farmer who keeps an outdoor pig herd, and 3 graziers with cattle and sheep. There are 48 houses on the Estate including 7 very pretty thatched cottages, and also the Bluebell Inn at Hunworth. The Estate is in a whole farm Countryside Stewardship Scheme, which includes grassland recreation and protection, grass margins, hedgerow planting and coppicing, pond creation, and creating a 13.5 kilometre circular Public Access Route. Educational Access, which is free, is actively encouraged.

The Stody Estate was owned in the latter part of the Nineteenth Century by the Earl of Lothian, who also owned the Blickling Estate. In 1932 the Estate was bought by Lord Rothermere, and he built the existing house after the original house was largely destroyed by fire. The estate was sold to George Knight in 1941 and is farmed by his stepson Mr. Ian MacNicol and family today. The Land is all in hand. By today's standards the farm is quite diverse, but 40 years ago the Estate was well known for its pedigree herds and flocks, fruit farm, poultry and flowers. The soils are mainly light and gravelly and the farm is on the edge of the Cromer Drift – a formation resulting from 2 Ice Ages.

There are 2 Ancient Monuments, both of which are being clear felled to help preserve them.

Hunworth Castle Hill is a medieval ringwork overlooking the River Glaven and Hunworth village, and the estate has removed tree cover so that the site can be viewed better.

Hindringham Fish Ponds are part of a rare complex of Hall, Moat and fishponds. The Manor of Hindringham was included in the Domesday Book, the existing Hall dates back to the 16th Century and there are signs of previous buildings. The Hall and Moat do not belong to the Estate but the fishponds do. The Estate has also removed the tree cover to protect the site and hopes to restore the fish ponds to some of their former glory. Educational Access to both sites is encouraged.

ABOUT THE CROPS

The sugar beet is delivered to Cantley Sugar Factory, near Norwich. The farm produces 14,000 tonnes of beet from 645 acres. The crop is contract harvested and hauled by the Medler family from Marsham.

The potatoes are grown for several markets, - for crisps (including for Kettles in Norwich), chips (McCains/MacDonalds), and some for the baker market. The farm produces about 5,000 tonnes per year. Harvest starts in July and ends in October, with potatoes stored right through to June ensuring a year round supply. There are 50 acres grown for seed.

The daffodils are planted in July for 2 years before being harvested, dried, and graded. Nearly all of the bulbs are exported to America. We grow over 20 varieties, that include yellow trumpet, double yellow, multi-headed, and ornamental varieties. In March each year the flowers are picked, and exported to European supermarkets. In 2002, we sold 12 million flower stems.

Both Winter & Spring Barley is grown for the malting market.

Wheat is grown both for the milling market and for animal feed.

Oilseed is grown on the heavier soils at Hndringham.

The peas are grown for the frozen market, and many of them are exported to Italy.

Carrots & Parsnips are grown on the farm by specialist growers for the supermarket trade.

ALL THESE CROPS ARE GROWN TO ASSURED STANDARDS, AND WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE ASSURED COMBINEABLE CROPS, AND ASSURED PRODUCE SCHEMES.

In This Edition

Page 1

Stody Estate visit

Page 2

The Stody Estate contd on p.3

Page 3

The single payment scheme & Environmental Stewardship

Page 4

Stiffkey Fen The creation of a wetland

Page 5

Conservation and Farming

Page 6

Letheringsett Ford

Conservation and Farming contd.

Page 7

Navigating the Glaven

Soil - keeping it on the land

Page 8

News

© RGCG 2005

Contributors to this Newsletter express their own opinions which do not necessarily reflect those of RGCG.

The RGCG would be pleased to receive articles for inclusion in their future Newsletters. Please send to the Secretary or contact him to discuss the content.

STODY ESTATE

Cropping includes:-

Winter Wheat 1,100 acres; Winter Barley 800 acres; Spring Barley 100 acres; Linseed 40 acres; Oilseed Rape 170 acres; Vining Peas 250 acres; Setaside 380 acres; Sugar Beet 640 acres; Potatoes 300 acres; Daffodils 120 acres; Carrots / Parsnips 200 acres; Grassland 400 acres; Grass Margins 165 acres; Outdoor Pigs 120 acres.

10 Farm staff :- 1 Farm Manager, 1 Crop Manager, an Office Manager, and 7 tractor drivers.

6 Estate staff :- Gardener, Keeper, Secretary and 3 part time staff.

Ross Haddow
Farm Manager

The Single Payment Scheme and Environmental Stewardship

Under the England Rural Development Programme (ERDP), the government has been committed to reviewing existing agri-environment schemes such as Countryside Stewardship since 2000. Subsequently, the Curry report on the Future of Farming and Food advocated a more broadly based approach to schemes that would encourage much larger uptake over a wider area. Furthermore, the recommendations related to a move from direct production subsidies to more environmentally sensitive farming – through decoupling and modulation – as proposed under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform.

Following the CAP reform, a **Single Payment Scheme** (SPS) has been introduced since 1st January 2005 to replace the former IACS and subsidy systems, and is administered by the Rural Payment Agency. In order to qualify for the subsidy, farmers now have to comply with various existing environmental legislation, known as Statutory Management Requirements and carry out a basic level of environmental management, in order to demonstrate that land is being kept in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC standards). These relate to soil management and protection, and maintenance of various habitats and landscape features.

On 3rd March 2005, Defra launched a new agri-environment scheme for England – **Environmental Stewardship** (ES). Following widespread public consultation, the new scheme was designed in collaboration with representatives from stakeholder groups and organisations. It is run by the Rural Development Service and has three strands:

- Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)
- Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS)
- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

Environmental Stewardship is designed to complement the 'cross-compliance requirement' of SPS, and ES rewards farmers and land-managers who are prepared to go beyond this basic level of environmental management. ELS provides a 'broad and shallow' element, and is a relatively simple scheme offering a range of basic beneficial land management options which will go some way to addressing widespread environmental issues. OELS will offer similar options for organic farming systems. HLS is targeted at the most valuable environmental assets, including SSSIs, involving more demanding management options and capital works.

In general, the new schemes retain the existing four agri-environment scheme objectives – biodiversity conservation, landscape conservation, protection of the historic environment, and public access and understanding. There are also three new objectives - natural resource protection is aimed mainly at the prevention of soil erosion and the associated pollution of watercourses, while flood-risk management and genetic conservation are secondary objectives.

Details of the Single Payment Scheme are available from the Rural Payment Agency at www.rpa.gov.uk Further information on Environmental Stewardship may be obtained from the defra website at www.defra.gov.uk or by contacting the RDS East of England Regional office on 08456 024094.

Dave Weaver, Defra

Stiffkey Fen: The creation of a wetland.

Aubrey Buxton purchased Old Hall Farm at Stiffkey some 25 years ago. His aim was not only to have a wildlife friendly "working" 500 acre farm, but look to improve or create habitats to attract a range of birds. The first phase of his work started on the lower reaches of the River Stiffkey and its meadows; and the rolling hills of arable farmland which look over it and out to sea.

Over the years, Lord Buxton has planted some 14,000 trees, both as new copses and hedgerow. These are mixed native species, and after some 15-20 years the copses have attained some growth and maturity. These provide shelter, food and nesting sites for birds such as the yellow hammer, but also have an aesthetic value in landscape terms. The copses on the hilltops "frame" the views of the coast to east and west from the high land.

Along the course of the river pairs of groins were introduced with the support of the Environment Agency. These have the effect of increasing flow through the "pinch-point", which moves silt along and helps to keep the gravel bed clean on a "self-maintenance" basis. The introduction of two weirs gives a fall of water which improves the oxygen level in the river, and prevents very low water during droughts. The construction of the weirs used concrete blocks from Langham airfield.

A different regime was introduced on the water courses across the meadow and linked to the river. Instead of seeking to drain the land as quickly as possible, the sluices were used to hold up the water in the ditches and keep the meadows wet or in flood during the winter to attract waders and wildfowl. This increases the flood plain and reduces the risk upstream.



In 1999 work started on the land north of the A149 to the flood protection embankment which houses the tidal sluice for the Stiffkey. The area is encircled by the

river to the sluice and the continuation which takes the flow when the sluice is closed. What was a 35 acre arable field used for cereal production was shaped to form, when flooded with water from the Stiffkey, an area of fresh water lagoon and islands. The excess spoil was used on site to form a raised ridge on the land to one side which both now looks natural and relates to the embankment which faces the new habitat on one side and the extensive salt marsh and Blakeney Point on the seaward side.

Reeds accessed from drainage ditches in the area were used in the planting of the reedbeds, which have taken

about five years to spread and become effective. The created habitat of open water, islands and reedbeds is now known as Stiffkey Fen.

The flooded meadows in winter attract c.300 wigeon duck and the spoonbill is a regular winter visitor. Ruff, godwits and snipe are present in the spring. Some 20 pair of lapwing now breed, and a pair of garganey duck have nested for five years. The great white egret has turned up over several years. An extension into June and July of the flooding of some of the meadows has seen the build up of a colony of about 60 breeding avocets.



The Fen is unique now in having a roost of up to 4,000 lapwing, one of Aubrey Buxton's favourite birds, on a winter's afternoon. There are now a number of water rails present, and bearded tit. The bittern has visited the Fen in winter. Last winter was notable for the presence for six months of a yellowshank, a very rare migrant from America.

It is very encouraging to see how some habitats can be improved or created for wildlife in a relatively short time span. Both the overall scale of the work and the elements within it provide a valuable experience base for others to draw upon. However, we should also recognise that there were some special factors at work here. First and foremost a landowner both passionate and extremely knowledgeable about wildlife, birds in particular. This, working in close collaboration with English Nature and the Environment Agency, gave a focussed direction and control over the work that was undertaken. It included "losing" a 35-acre field at no recompense to create the fenland area. The land on both sides of the lower Stiffkey was in the hands of one owner, which clearly eases both strategic and operating decisions and the timescale in which they are reached.

The lower Stiffkey Valley has now been gifted to the Buxton Conservation Trust, and is therefore secure for the future; and can be enjoyed from permissive and public footpaths without disturbing the wildlife.

Ian Shepherd

Conservation and farming.

In our second Newsletter (Autumn 2004) we listed our “top ten” conservation issues facing the Glaven, based on a collective experience of the river and the local countryside over many years. This Newsletter is a “farming” edition, and it is worth looking at the list in a little detail to see where agriculture does or can have a direct impact, or where there is a problem both for farming and the natural environment. In a re-ordered list the first four have a direct interaction with farming, albeit not necessarily an exclusive one; the fifth presents a problem for both. The overall list is:

- Water borne soil erosion.
- Water quality, and diffuse and point sources of pollution.
- Difficulties in grazing meadows.
- Loss and change of use of meadow habitat.
- Water quantity, availability.
- River habitat degradation, including over deepening or widening, and disconnection from the meadows by dredging spoil banks.
- Insufficient management in some areas, the river, lakes and ditches.
- Fishing lakes and stocking with non-native species.
- Alien and invasive species such as some aquatic and bank side plants, mink and signal crayfish.
- Inappropriate development.
- Disruption of normal flow regimes.

To meet the needs of this edition we only say something on the first five on the list. However, the News in Brief carries an item on the menace of Himalayan Balsam and the article on Letheringsett ford could be said to represent an example of the last issue, though it was framed in mind of permanent structures, for example the lack of a fish pass at Cley sluice.

In making our comments here we hope it helps to promote over time a friendly and fruitful dialogue with local farmers, and others. We recognise that the farming community has to work within a framework of EU and Government policies, and the demands of retailers and consumers. It is in all our interests that farming is sustainable in a financial sense as well as environmental and social. We also recognise that there have been some fundamental changes in the basis upon which farmers will be made payments by Government, that this will take some years perhaps to settle down, and thus farmers face a considerable degree of uncertainty at the present time.

However with the changes coming from the CAP review, and growing consumer awareness of the impact of their purchasing decisions, we stand a better chance of gradually making a collective difference than at any time in the past 40 years. So here goes with the first five on the list.

Water borne soil erosion.

This has been the ever-present and most fundamental conservation issue for the RGCG. Silt deposited in the

river adversely affects invertebrates, aquatic plants and the opportunity for fish to spawn by smothering the gravel bed of the river. In fact, the whole food chain up to the bird life is affected; and human anglers as well! The principal damage is done in heavy rain events with rapid “run-off” from the fields on to hard surfaces and from there into drainage ditches or more particularly direct into the river, especially from road or track surfaces where they cross or come close to the river.

We hope that the new system of payments, with the yield element gradually being phased out, can be tailored to bring in incentives for farming practices that will reduce the problem; and that Highways can also be encouraged to play a role.

Water quality, and diffuse (and point) sources of pollution.

Nitrate and phosphate nutrients promote the growth of algae in slow moving or static water in ponds and ditches. This deprives other aquatic plants of light and oxygen, the latter also affecting fish, and again in turn the wider wildlife food chain. The main sources of these nutrients are agricultural fertilisers and sewage treatment works, representing respectively diffuse and point pollution. (Agriculture can also represent a point source problem if there is a sudden and uncontrolled release of animal effluent). The STWs are progressively being “cleaned up”, certainly, the larger plants affecting EU status rivers (the Wensum). There remains smaller works such as that at Baconsthorpe, where we are seeking to interest Anglian Water in using a reed bed to reduce the nutrient load in the effluent which runs into Baconsthorpe Castle lake and hence into a Glaven tributary. The lake in recent years has deteriorated in wildlife value.

Clearly, farmers have a financial incentive to minimise on the use of fertilisers and pesticides and to avoid the loss from their land, through either run-off or penetration to groundwater. Again, however, with the new payments system moving progressively away from yield to environmental compliance and measures to protect water courses, then we have the expectation of continuing improvement.

Difficulties in grazing meadows.

Some of our river meadows are being badly affected by a lack of grazing. The single largest area of meadow of all has not been grazed for four years now and has large areas of “solid” rush incursion, much rank vegetation such as thistles and nettles, and grass which has grown long. Whilst for example thistle seeds can be a good food source for goldfinches, and nettles a plant food for some species of butterfly, there is overall a very substantial biodiversity loss. Meadow flora such as ragged robin and orchid are shaded or choked out. It is diminished as a barn owl hunting ground as the vegetation is too long to see and hear and “get at” rodents. In addition, there is a substantial diminution in the attractiveness as a landscape.

Contd over

Letheringsett Ford: Human and other species.

Letheringsett Ford, with its stone and gravel on the line of the ford (thanks to Highways) and also some way downstream (thanks to some strong flows, especially in winter), is a valuable site for some protected species of fish of national or European importance. Stone loach and bullhead are found there in good number, and the positive identification of the native white-clawed crayfish and brook lamprey have been made in the past year.

Just upstream of the ford water voles have been present for a number of years. Early one morning in July I stood quietly on the foot bridge and watched an adult for a while. It was perched on top of a big mass of water crowfoot, an aquatic plant which will root itself on a clean chalk-river bed. The downstream trail of the plant breaks the surface with an array of stems carrying an attractive white flower. The water vole was nibbling and eating strands of the plant.

The ford is also a popular place with people, particularly visitors with families in the summer. Most of us can remember having great fun as youngsters in and around rivers, including making some sort of dam in places. The greater problems can occur, when as

usually happens these days, the children are accompanied by adults. Some adults seem to be driven to make as high and effective a dam as possible. They scour the stretch of the river for every stone they can find, large and small, and place them in a tightly packed line in the river. One wonders how the fish living under and around the stones react and are affected by this.

Regular dispersing of the stones about the river bed does not last for long; another group will come along and repeat the dam building exercise. Those on the 1st and 2nd of August really excelled themselves. In addition to the re-build they completely pulled out both the large patches of crowsfoot on the water voles' territory, and used it to stuff in front of the stones to make a "tighter" dam. The impact of unthinking or unaware people remains a strong candidate for a number 11 place in our conservation issues.

Ian Shepherd.



Contd from page 5

Whereas the new payments system should help on the first two issues, part of the CAP review entailed a loss of the subsidy of about £100 per head on beef cattle, which means the farmer now makes a loss in a global marketplace. However we hope a way can be found to make a payment through the new system, where as here, grazing has a large biodiversity benefit as well as the landscape attraction; and that this will be further helped by consumers connecting between how they spend their money and countryside that they value.

Loss and change of use of meadow habitat.

In recent years the loss and change of use of meadows has stabilised. But the negative return from grazing will again see pressures put on this type of habitat for alternative uses, perhaps for example for willow or other forms of biomass production in the case of water meadows. The resultant loss of typical flora would take decades to reverse if it can be achieved at all.

Water quantity.

This is a crucial issue, for both our natural environment and the value of irrigation to farmers and other growers. Basically it is the chalk aquifer which is the source of

water for our rivers and wetlands, agriculture and direct use by people through the public water supply. We have something of a three-way tug of war, but both the environment and agriculture are likely to come under increasingly severe pressure from both an in-migration population increase and higher levels of per capita consumption.

The Government looks for major growth in the East of England, greater than anywhere else and in the driest region in the country. Assumptions will be made that this expansion is possible if public consumption of water is reduced by 25% in all new properties, and by an 8% reduction in use in all existing properties. This is against the background of a doubling of consumption per head over the past 30 years; and currently we run at a national annual increase of 1% (but 3% in Essex, one of the areas to which water resource in Norfolk is "exported").

If the assumptions are to be believed, then perhaps we will all need a magic type of Defra grant; one that will make pigs fly. If not, then when we have a drought event, or worse a series of drought years, it is difficult to believe that any Government will resort to standpipes in our towns before agriculture and the natural environment is severely affected.

Navigating the Glaven (in 1886).

The Norfolk Records Office, now next to County Hall, has a series of maps from which some historic information on the river can be gleaned. These include Enclosure maps, showing land affected by the Enclosure Acts, circa 1880-1850; the Tithe Maps of Norfolk, circa 1840; old maps of estates; and the first edition Ordnance Survey maps of Norfolk of 1886.

Enclosure and Tithe maps are variable in level of detail, the scale and likely their accuracy. But for example the Tithe Map of 1841 for Bodham Parish at 3 chains:1 inch shows good detail of the shape and size of Sill Bridge Pond (the spelling used then), the course of the river, where there are plantations and meadows adjacent, the few buildings, and soaks (ponds), to the headwater of the river. It is interesting to compare these features with what is there on our modern 1:25000 OS maps.

The 1st edition OS maps of 1886 are on a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile. These are the most beautiful and detailed maps we are ever likely to see, unparalleled in scale and accuracy. The "footprint" plan of individual buildings is shown, coloured red for residential and grey for other functions. The garden paths,

including those to an outside lavatory, are shown by dotted double lines, and the positions of wells are marked with a W. The river and all water features are clearly marked in blue; and for example the channels, cuts, ponds and other features within the village of Hunworth are shown in amazing detail.

These 1st edition OS maps for Norfolk have been put on the web, albeit a considerable amount of the definition and clarity has been lost in the process. It has the advantage however of being able to look over a whole area with ease rather than hopping from one map to the next on the originals. The detail is still sufficiently good to register changes in the river (in particular where straightening of the course and removal of bends has taken place), and the meadow and field boundaries.

The web site can be accessed at <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk>. From the home page of the site go to the home page for the 1st edition OS map and click on Select Area. You can then select by typing in a place name, post code or grid reference. For example type in Holt, follow the road down to Letheringsett, and work your way up and down the course of the river. The navigation from overlapped section to section is done by clicking on the appropriate arrowhead on the 8-point compass.

Also on the web site, and similarly easy to navigate, is the 1946 aerial photographic survey, and another made (in colour) in 1988. They can be viewed to show the identical area together for the two different years. Amongst other things, this can illustrate how quickly alder trees can grow!

We would encourage members to navigate the 1886 map in particular, but also the post war survey, and look at the parts of the river they know well and its surrounding area. We would like to hear of any observations on changes that you may notice between then and now.
Ian Shepherd

Soil – why it's important to keep it on the land

The water quality of the River Glaven can be affected when rain or irrigation water doesn't soak into the land but runs off into the river via a ditch or a road.

The type of soils and the rural landscape around this river means that it is at particular risk from this type of pollution.

Everyone needs to ensure that they do not cause pollution and many landowners and farmers have already taken steps to protect the river. Any measures that help rainfall to soak into the land will obviously help reduce runoff.

When water runs off land, anything which has recently been applied such as fertiliser or pesticide can be lost, along with silt and soil, into the river.

The environmental effects of fertilisers and pesticides in rivers is well known but silt and soil themselves also cause lasting damage by

- Smothering the bed of the river and clogging any gravel beds so destroying the sites that fish use for spawning
- Building up within the river and increasing the risk of flooding
- Destroying insect habitats on the riverbed
- Affecting aquatic plant growth, which limits the oxygen supply in the water

On certain light soil types such as over large areas of the Glaven valley, run-off can occur in even moderate rainfall, and damage to rivers can be caused without any telltale eroded field gullies being seen. Obviously there is also a greater risk of runoff with more sloping land. Certain management practices can minimise this pollution and the Environment Agency is keen to encourage all landowners to look at their land and identify which areas could cause runoff and then take steps to minimise this risk.

There has been a lot of useful guidance about soil protection produced in the last few years. For copies of DEFRA leaflets on controlling soil erosion contact Lisa Turner of the Environment Agency on 01473 706572. For agriculture, there will also be workshops funded by DEFRA in the autumn, which should provide further advice on how to protect soils.

Useful website addresses are as follows -
<http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk/> (guidance and workshops in the area)
<http://www.landcareuk.net/site/1.asp> (newsletters and valuable advice on soil protection)
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/es/> (agricultural stewardship scheme information)

Lisa Turner; Environment Agency



NEWSLETTER

News in brief.

- † The Rural Development Service is running local workshops in the autumn for farmers on soil protection. Last year some sessions for agronomists were held by the Environment Agency on the reduction of water borne soil erosion and diffuse pollution.
- † Halcrow, on behalf of the Environment Agency, are carrying out construction works to realign a stretch of the River Glaven through Blakeney Freshes, and improve the drainage of Cley and Salthouse Marshes. These works will take place from August 2005 to February 2006. The plans featured (Changing Course) in our Spring Newsletter, Number 3.
- † A brook lamprey was caught at Letheringsett Ford on the 1st May by Carl Sayer and two colleagues at UCL. Carl had not seen one on the Glaven since the time as a youngster he saw a shoal of them. This species shows its prehistoric origins; a thin “wriggly” body, a sucker pad on the throat, and most of all in the flat reptilian head with small eyes.
- † Brian Singleton of the North Norfolk Camera Club has contacted us to say that their topic for their annual summer competition is the Glaven. Carl gave them some information on how to view or access at various points. We hope to be able to show some of their pictures in future Newsletters.
- † Himalayan balsam, an invasive non-native plant species with a liking for river banks (see Newsletter 2), continues to be a problem and needs to be removed where present before the task gets too big to control. The Environment Agency has published a booklet on the “Guidance for the control of invasive weeds in or near freshwater”. The species dealt with are Himalayan balsam; Australian swamp stonecrop; floating pennywort; giant hogweed; Japanese knotweed; and Parrot’s feather, which like the stonecrop and pennywort will smother ponds and lakes and ditches. Such plants can transform ecosystems, and seriously threaten nature and endangered species. The responsibility for dealing with invasive plants rests with individual landowners.

**Next committee date is
19th September**

Please contact a committee member with any issues you wish to raise before this date.

Web site www.riverglaven.org.uk

Please do look at our site and remember to use the Message Board to tell us your thoughts. A colour version of this Newsletter in PDF format is available on the Visitors Page.

Robin Combe Chairman 01263 712058;
Ian Shepherd Secretary 01263 713370;
Len Bentley Treasurer & Membership Secretary 01263 741076.
magavelda@freeuk.com