

### Main Work Party reports.

**3rd September—Howes Meadow**—75% of meadow cleared of cut vegetation mown on the 27th August. Hay turning machine used to row vegetation before forking onto sheet then to the spoil heaps.

**17th September—Southwood Church**—Whole area raked and cleared to spoil and fire sites. Hay turner used to row vegetation.

**1st October—Strumpshaw Stone-pit**—The whole area cut with 2 mowers, then raked and cleared to spoil site. The north facing bank also cleared of bramble and bracken and some coppicing carried out.

**15th October—Walsham Fen**—Area G raked and cleared to spoil heaps. Also, a small area within area E also cleared, along with 40% of the boardwalk.

**29th October—Buckenham Woods**—Raked, cleared and burnt vegetation from sunny bank area. Raked and cleared 30% of glade area, and cut back vegetation in NE corner of wood.

### Additional work carried out.

**9th September—Howes Meadow**—Remaining 25% of meadow cleared using Alligator mini 4X4.

**10th September—Southwood Church**—Churchyard cut using 3 mowers ready for main work party on 17th September.

**15th September—Howes Meadow**—Fire site on the east side of meadow burnt.

**19th September—Lingwood Church**—Areas left uncut from the first cut (18th June) due to the nice flora (Ox-eye daisy, harebell and knapweed), mown ready for clearance.

**24th September—Lingwood Church**—Areas cut on the 19th, raked, cleared and burnt.

**26th September—Southwood Church**—Spoil heap from main work party (17th September) burnt.

**27th September—Limpenhoe Church**—Raked and cleared.

**28th September - Blofield Church**—Whole churchyard mown ready for 'Green Gym'.

**4th October—Blofield Church**—Churchyard raked and cleared by 14 members of the 'Green Gym'.

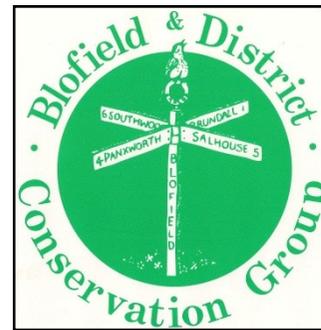
**10th October—Walsham Fen**—Area G cut ready for main work party. In addition, the boardwalk and a 1m strip either side of boardwalk mown.

**11th October—Lingwood Church**—75% of churchyard mown for its second cut.

**17th October—Lingwood Church**—Area mown on 11th October, raked and cleared to fire site ready for burning.

**21st October—Buckenham woods**—Large glade area cut by local farmer.

**22nd October—Buckenham Woods**—Sunny bank area mown ready for main work party.



## BADCOG NEWS.

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## Chairman's Annual Report 2016

2016 has been another busy and productive year and BADCOG continues to flourish.

Our remit is to manage our sites to the best of our ability and aid and encourage their wildlife potential. This is often labour intensive but this year the average work party attendance has been 9 as opposed to a little over 7 last year. A lot can be achieved in 2½ hrs.+ 9, and we still have time for a chat! Our wet June this year, 213% of average rainfall produced maximum growth but the more recent dry weather, combined with cutting a week beforehand has greatly aided the clearance of sites, particularly the wet ones. Recently, Howes Meadow is a good example. Tony McKie and I mowed all of the south side as an additional work party. A week later I rowed up the cut material while 13 turned up to clear it, leaving only 3½ rows at one end by lunch time. The weather stayed dry and we cleared these with the help of an all-terrain vehicle and a large sheet at another additional work party.

The same wet weather earlier in the Summer made our annual orchid count more difficult, due to abundant vegetation contributing to the lower numbers recorded.

Every year we try to have a hedge or tree planting session in the winter and this year was no exception; we planted 25 of my oaks along the roadside verge, Pedham Rd, Panxworth and 24 various replacements in Peter's Wood, Lingwood. The glade in Peter's Wood has become much more diverse and interesting since we spread 'green hay' there out of the adjoining Churchyard last year.

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## Chairman's report continued.

As always we enjoyed interesting talks, starting with our own Members Evening after the 2015 AGM. I also remember Jean Smith's fascinating talk on Linen and Hans and Sue's talk and pictures of their visit to India.

Last year we had a talk and slides by Geoff Doggett of the Waveney Valley Visitors Centre and River Trust and an invitation there, which we took up on a glorious Spring day in May. The Waveney is just far enough away for many of us not to know it very well, but it is a glorious river with abundant wildlife, and we greatly enjoyed our visit.

Briefly a few more things to note:-

- At the 'Wild about Norfolk' day at Easton College last October, our stand attracted a lot of attention but no new members.
- We had an excellent pre-Christmas local walk starting and finishing at the 'East Hills' café at Brundall Marina.
- Winter fen harvester work was again carried out by the Broads Authority at Howes Meadow and Walsham Fen.
- I attended Blofield Parish Council to remind them what BADCOG does in their area and to ask for a donation. A month later we received £500.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> May we again had an Open Day at Howes Meadow. Unfortunately, it was on the same day as a green event at Hemblington Church.
- We also had a meeting regarding Walsham Fen board walk, which is cracking up after only 10 yrs. Norfolk County Council has now put in a bid of £25,000 to replace, widen and make it more accessible to wheelchair users.

Finally, thanks to everyone who helps to make BADCOG the success that it is and best wishes to Matthew, who is now off to university in Portsmouth to study Geology.

Ernest Hoyos

## Great Yarmouth 'Green Gym' at Blofield Church.

4th October 2016

For the second time this year, the Great Yarmouth 'Green Gym' has come to the assistance of BADCOG to lend a hand at one of our sites.

Back in July of this year, the 'Green Gym' raked and cleared the remaining 50% of Blofield churchyard after a BADCOG main work party. In previous years, to cut, rake and clear this large churchyard required 2 consecutive work parties, however now with the help of the 'Green Gym', BADCOG just needs to do the one work party, leaving any remaining work to be completed by this group of enthusiastic and hard working volunteers.

This year it was decided to do a second cut at Blofield with the aim of trying to improve the flora here. After contacting the 'Green Gym', who were very willing to help us out again, we programmed into our plans a day to mow the whole churchyard ready for the 'Green Gym' to clear a few days later. This was duly done, with the mowing being carried out on the 28th September and on the afternoon of the 4th October, fourteen very keen members of 'Green Gym' turned up to rake and clear the churchyard. In addition, some members of the group set about clearing years of accumulated vegetation growth from gravestones, some of which had not seen the light of day for many a year.

It will be interesting to see if this second cut improves the flora next year, in any case it should benefit the churchyard with less vegetation to cut and clear next summer.

Our thanks go to the 'Green Gym' for their outstanding work and we look forward to seeing them again next year.

T.Mc



### BBC Country File calendar

I'm sure most of you spotted that for the second year running, Tony Howes, (a previous BADCOG member), has had a photograph chosen for the 2017 Country File calendar, a photo of a barn owl at dusk.

We bumped into him at, guess where, yes Strumpshaw Fen, photographing insects. His pictures for next years calendar was taken at Surlingham and he's sure its one of his babies as he has constructed and erected a lot of owl boxes up along the river side in this area.

Sheelagh Bowyer

*Footnote: I'm sure all BADCOG members would like to say 'well done Tony, keep it up and we hope to see many more of your outstanding wildlife photos in future calendars or other publications'.*

### Paul Marler 1961-2016.

Richard Bond

Not many of you will have known Paul Marler, but he was a friend of BADCOG. Paul was handy with a chainsaw and when a tree fell down he would come and clear it up, free of charge. Walsham Fen was the place which benefited most from Paul's labours. The picture shows him there in February 2015, tidying up the enormous willow near the main spoil heap. In April this year he was diagnosed with stomach cancer. He died in September. He will be sadly missed.

*Footnote: BADCOG was very fortunate to have had Paul as a friend, as without his handy work with a chainsaw and his energy in moving the cut timber, we would have struggled to keep on top of the extra work both at Walsham Fen and Jary's Meadow. We will be for ever grateful for his time and effort in helping us out.*



### *Boletus radicans* fungi.



On a recent visit to Howes Meadow, Ernest found this fungi along side the verge at Shack Lane. After taking a photo of the fungi, Ernest sent the recording off to Tony Leech, the Norfolk recorder for fungi and a specialist in this subject.

Tony was able to confirm that the fungi was *Boletus radican* (Rooting Bolete). He went on say, '*Boletus radican* is almost always found near oak. Nationally it is uncommon rather

than rare but there are relatively few Norfolk records, the first being at Wolterton (2003) and the second at Wheatfen (2007). But in 2009 there were four more records - and none since (until this record). It is a southern species so maybe the climate suits it better now'.

*Note: The guide book doesn't mention that it is an none edible fungi, but it is not recommended, as it has a bitter to sour taste!*

### Work Party Dates 2016 -17

All work parties start at 10:30am, finishing at 1.00pm.  
12th November—Jary's Meadow (Cut back hedge and bank)

26th November—Snowdrop Acre

10th December—Railway Wood

7th January—Lingwood Pond

21st January—Howe's Meadow (Cut back inside of hedge)

A good turnout at our two CWS is requested as there is always plenty to do.

### BADCOG Winter Walk

Saturday 3rd December 10.30am

A local walk in and around Acle.

The aim is to start and finish at the Kings Head PH Acle.

Details are still in the planning stage.

More details will be available at the next talk on the 11th November or via the web site.

### Lingwood Church Turtle Dove.

Some may recall that in the last BADCOG News Letter I wrote about a pair of turtle doves which have been seen in the surrounding area of Lingwood Church. After reading articles in the EDP and other publications on the 'State of Nature 2016' report, which highlighted a major decline in farmland birds due to climate change, production-driven farming practices and the loss of habitat, to name just a few, it got me thinking into why are we so lucky to still have a pair of turtle doves on our 'patch'?

When you look at the area around Lingwood Church it's quite interesting. First, opposite the church is a derelict bungalow and garden, which over the years has been reclaimed by nature. The hedges and shrubs in this once well kept garden have been allowed to grow into a thicket, offering the ideal habitat which turtle doves prefer.

Secondly, turtle dove staple diet is 'weed seed'. This is seeds from plants that farmers and gardeners would regard as weeds, such as; fumitory, knotgrass, fat hen, chickweed, charlock and redshank and try to eradicate these 'weeds' from fields under cultivation. Interestingly, there are some awkward pieces of farmland around the derelict bungalow, areas which the farmer must find difficult to cultivate and therefore ignores and leaves fallow. There are also some marginal habitants in the area such as hedgerows, large field margins and roadside verges, all areas where wild flowers and grasses grow in abundance with little or no controls.

All this uncultivated and unkempt land is just what the turtle dove needs to feed on. Interestingly during harvest, cultivated seed (wheat, barley etc) is part of this bird's diet, but research had found that the nutritional value of seed from weeds is greater than that of cultivated seed. There are also some unkempt areas around the allotments, a place where turtle dove have also been heard. Therefore, if you were to add up all these little areas and take into consideration the thicket around the bungalow, it could offer all the conditions required to support a pair of turtle doves.

I may be totally wrong and the reason why we have these birds at Lingwood Church may be for some other reason. It would be very interesting to know if anyone else had any other thoughts on the matter.

T.Mc

Right: Derelict bungalow & garden



### Membership Renewal

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership so promptly. To those of you who wish to renew (**individual £5, family £10**) and have not done so, please forward any cheques made payable to BADCOG to:

**Frances Milliken, 45 Heathway, Blofield Corner Road,  
Norwich NR13 4RS, or**  
if preferred, pay cash at our next evening meeting.

### BADCOG Meetings and Talks 2016/17

Talks normally take place on the 2nd Friday of the month starting at 7.30pm, in the Lingwood Methodist School Room, Chapel Road.  
**11th November: Bird watching in Cuba by Ann Martin**  
Refreshments taken after talks.

### NOTE:

On Friday **9th December at 7.30pm**, in the Methodist Chapel School Room, there will be a pre-Christmas BADCOG get together where there will bring and share buffet.

**For further detail contact John Laycock on 720125**