

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES: 5 (2018)

RIPPLES

&

REFLECTIONS

**The water world of two
Suffolk Nature Reserves**

EDITED FOR SUFFOLK FLORA PRESERVATION TRUST

BY

ROSE BATTYE & JANEY CULLEN

CONTENTS

- Editorial: The water world
1. A very small river. *Laurie Forsyth*
 2. Poetry pleases: Competition and results
Prize winning poem: 'Debris' *Kaaren Whitney*
Tim Gardiner
 3. Water quality measurements: Fromus, 2017-18
Will Akast, Adrian Chalkley & Gathorne Cranbrook
Poem: 'Bank on the River Fromus at Kelsale' *Ann Follows*
 4. Aquatic invertebrates
Poem: 'Predators' *Adrian Chalkley*
Sue Benbow
 5. Animals by the waterside
Junior prize winning poem: 'Inhabited' *Penny Hemphill*
Katherine Carpenter
 6. The 'young' pond at Orchid Glade *Gathorne Cranbrook*
 7. Molluscs
Poem: Land of the wandering snail' *Theo Tamblyn*
Caroline Gill
 8. A vision for Suffolk rivers *Will Akast*
 9. Reflections on a small Water World
List of Guardians (September 2018) *Lucy Morton*



Message from the Editors:

This will be the fifth annual volume published by the Guardians of Suffolk Flora Preservation Trust in the Adult Education Series. We decided that, for 2018, the theme should be the aquatic environment on our reserves or, as we shall call it, the Water World. We are pleased to have contributions from a talented group of writers. Chapter 1, by Honorary Guardian Laurie Forsyth, follows the course of the Fromus stream that bisects the Trust's reserve and flows on to join the river Alde at Snape Watering. In Chapter 2, Kaaren Whitney reminds the reader that the Water World is valued not only for nature conservation, but also for its aesthetic inspiration, reflected in this volume by the winning poems of the Trust's competition in 2017. The five poems are inserted to delight the reader at different points in the volume. The capacity of the freshwater habitats of the Fromus reserve to sustain aquatic life is shown in Chapter 3 by measurements of the quality indicators in 2017-18. In Chapter 4, Adrian Chalkley gives us comparative accounts of his surveys of the fabulous richness of small creatures in Spring

time in the stream and two important ponds, including some specialist rarities. Penny Hemphill, of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, next reports on other animals who left evidence of their passage through the Water World. Chapter 6 is a short account of the only aquatic feature of Orchid Glade, a shallow pond embedded in Suffolk clayland, showing how new ponds are adopted fairly rapidly by aquatic wildlife. In Chapter 7, Theo Tamblyn describes the molluscs he found, especially the difficult group of pea mussels. In Chapter 8, Will Akast outlines the Environment Agency's vision for Suffolk rivers, with illustrations of the variety of restorative works that can be undertaken. In conclusion, to round up this special volume on the Water World of our two Suffolk Nature reserves, in Chapter 9 we welcome the professional appraisal by Lucy Morton, hydrologist and global environment practice leader in a major international consultancy.

THIS NEW ANNUAL VOLUME will be available from the end of November (2018), with one free copy for collection at the AGM by all paid-up Guardians of our Flora Trust. Other orders can be placed by use of the form attached.

We hope that, for anyone interested in the natural history of Suffolk, or for those fascinated by details of the aquatic environment, the new information in the pages will make a good, modestly priced and timely seasonal gift.

We also like to think that our efforts may encourage other people, in other special places, to follow our example and take steps to safeguard a local stream or pond for wildlife.

Rose Battye & Janey Cullen

30 October 2018

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