

Share your news, photos and videos with us. Visit iwitness24.co.uk or download our smartphone app



INTERESTED IN PLACING AN ADVERT?

call our sales team on 01603 693853

Blooming lovely show in shadow of football ground

By Steve Downes

steve.downes@archant.co.uk

One of Norwich's most beautiful natural shows is bee-ing staged again.

An area of land at Big Yellow, in the shadow of Norwich City's Carrow Road ground, has become an eye-catching nature spot, featuring bee orchids, ragged robin, common blue butterflies and other wildlife.

And this year is no exception, with many of the flowers coming into their own right now.

Chris Durdin, a former RSPB press officer, said: "I first noticed bee orchids here in 2009, just before a man with a strimmer reached them.

"That year they were left uncut, marked with a stick but the grass cut round them.

"From that small step forward, I've been encouraging the Big Yellow team to leave more and more grass uncut.

"This year it's all been left and it's created a wonderful meadow

in the heart of Norwich.

"I counted 15 bee orchids here on June 5 and perhaps missed some, but the supporting cast is also strong.

"Sheets of ox-eye daisies dominate, there is ragged robin in the corner facing Morrisons supermarket and today a common blue butterfly caught my eye.

"There are meadow ants, bees and often birds forage in the long grass."

The unexpected wildlife refuge has been tended and encouraged to thrive by unlikely conservation hero Helder de Sousa, who works at the Big Yellow Self Storage company on Canary Way.

Mr Durdin added: "Do pop along, perhaps when you're shopping in Norwich.

"And please call in and say 'well done' to Helder and his colleagues – it deserves encouragement."

■ **Mr Durdin leads monthly wildlife walks at NWT Thorpe Marshes. Visit www.honeyguide.co.uk/thorpemarshes**



■ The bee orchids which grew at Big Yellow Storage centre on Carrow Road last year, watched by sales assistant Helder de Sousa. Pictures by Simon Finlay.

