

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage
Group



Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2018
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Photo © 2018 Brian Henham

MANAGEMENT MATTERS

I would like to start by welcoming Lesley Bromley, our new Trustee, to the Group. In the meetings she has attended she has already shown her knowledge, energy and enthusiasm and it is always valuable to have new ideas and approaches. She is particularly interested in helping to develop the heritage side of our work and is coordinating an exhibition, as part of the Selsey Festival, to celebrate Selsey's heritage over the last 100 years in relation to the sea and tourism. I know she would like some help with this so if you would like to be involved, do get in touch.

Many of you will have received your Volunteer Welcome Pack produced by Rebecca – our Communications & Engagement Officer. I hope that you are finding it informative and useful but do let us know if there are other things that should be included. If you are an active volunteer and have not received your pack yet, please let us know.

Another new publication is a leaflet to encourage wildlife-friendly gardening. This has been produced in association with Transition Chichester, as part of the Recreational Disturbance Mitigation Project. It has specifically been developed for residents moving into new housing developments but would be helpful for anyone with a garden. Copies are available at various locations including Selsey Town Council Offices and local libraries.

As most of you will know, the Group is now 20 years old and although this is obviously a good time to look back, it is also a time to look forward. What do we want the Group to be like in 10 or 20 years time and, more importantly perhaps, what do we want the Manhood Peninsula to look like? I'd really welcome your thoughts, as having a clear vision for the future makes action planning so much more exciting.

Talking about visions, a Selsey Vision Project is taking shape and I would encourage all those with an interest in Selsey to get involved when they are approached about how they would like Selsey to be in the future.

Finally, thank you to all of you who have already renewed your membership via the website.

Have a great summer!

Joe Savill

chairmt@mwhg.org.uk



TWO DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

A PARTY

Friday 14th September

Selsey Town Hall 6.30pm to 10.00pm

**To celebrate twenty years of the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group
working on the Peninsula**

MWHG Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 17th October

Selsey Town Hall

**Guest speaker - James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeologist
who will talk about the Early Bronze Age findings during the excavations at Medmerry.**

GUEST INTERVIEW WITH MWHG'S NEW TRUSTEE - DR LESLEY BROMLEY

On a recent blog profile, our new Trustee, Lesley Bromley, told us about her professional background as a consultant anaesthetist and her long connection with the area. MWHG are privileged to have someone with Lesley's standing and experience as a Trustee, and in this interview, Communications Officer Rebecca O'Dowd finds out more about Lesley's role, her motivations and hopes for the future.



Hi Lesley and thank-you for taking the time to answer our questions.

You have a long association with the Manhood Peninsula, but how did you first get involved with the MWHG?

I was told that the MWHG were looking for a new Trustee and contacted Joe Savill, we had a cup of tea in Chaplins in Selsey and he told me all about the role!

Becoming a Trustee is a big decision, was there something in particular that motivated you?

I am already a Trustee of another charity, called Specialists in Pain International Network, or SPIN we provide education for medical and nursing staff in the third world about managing patients in pain. So I was delighted to bring my previous experience to MWHG.

As a trustee, you are fulfilling a responsible position within MWHG, what do you expect the role to entail?

The role of the Trustee is of course to provide both governance of the charity's activities and to keep the Group up to the mark with all the legal requirements, but equally important is to bring a vision of the future for the group and a strategy for achieving that vision.

What particular strengths, personal and/or professional, do you bring to the role of Trustee?

I hope to bring, along with some previous experience, enthusiasm, and an ability to plan for the future and help achieve our vision.

Is there anything in particular that you would like to focus-on or achieve?

I would very much like to see a Heritage Centre on the Manhood, we have so much fascinating history and more is being discovered, for example new findings about early settlements discovered during the Medmerry alignment project. I would like to be able to offer a permanent home for what we know, and a good day out for our visitors to enjoy telling them about the area.

What do you see as the main challenge for the MWHG as an organisation, and what steps can we take to tackle it?

As always, the challenge we face is sustainability for the future. We have some excellent projects running now, but we need a strategic approach to rolling out and developing new projects and obtaining suitable funding. We don't know how wildlife and heritage projects will sustain themselves in a post Brexit Britain, but we want to be prepared for every eventuality.

THE MWHG HLF FLOW PROJECT UPDATE APRIL 2018

Since winter 2017

Hedge and Ditch Survey work

We are now into the largest parish on peninsula - Sidlesham and with the help of some key brilliant volunteers we have been marching across the parish. We have had the benefit of knowing many of the landowners so have been able to get on with it in the north and centre of the parish.

Earnley Parish complete

Work to start surveying this parish began in May 2017 and we have completed the ditch and hedge surveying with 30 kms of ditches walked. Two new volunteers have been helping with data entry into spreadsheets and the GIS mapping work with Chris at the Selsey Office. The report for this parish was published in February 2018 with a result event held at Bracklesham Barn.



Physical improvement works

The winter season of improvement work has been busy with nearly twenty sites worked on by a brilliant group of MWHG FLOW volunteers, Seaford College students, Chichester Conservation Volunteers, and local residents.

West Wittering

We have continued with improvement work on a pond and wetland area at Hale Farm and Cakeham Manor estates. We have had a large number of local residents come and help us with our work near The Wad. As we are now working along the main route to the beach people stop us to discuss what we are up to and we have received lots of positive comments.



The Wad, March 2018

East Wittering and Bracklesham

This parish has kept us busy with wetland improvement work we identified in the FLOW report. We have tackled an amazing pond at Hilton Business park and because it is on roadside we have had lots of praise from passers-by.

Before - Oct 2017



After - March 2018



We have also worked in Spinney pond on Brackelsham corner, Stubcroft Lane pond and Regency House where we will continue our improvement work in the Autumn.

Earnley Parish

We have lost one of our landowners with the sale of Earnley Grange but have many other sites to work on. Chris and the team have carried out miracles at Sparrow Cottage with hedge planting, hedge laying, ditch digging and reprofiling and hacking back a forest of old willow. We have also worked on a long stretch of ditch at Tile Barn Lane and let some light onto the water. We have planted a hedge full of fruit trees and will continue to work here adding biodiversity. We plan some ditch digging and profiling here so that the water stays for longer.

West Itchenor Parish

We continue to work with the West Manhood Flood Group to improve drainage and the biodiversity value of the village pond. We have started the mapping and are gathering data for a management plan. This will be done with input from the CHC.

Birdham Parish

We worked on Kingfisher pond last year and are now turning our attentions to two other ponds in the same network. We have discussed this with CHC and they also see the value of increasing the size of the ponds, removing some of the trees and reinstating a bluebell wood. The summer will be spent gathering species information about these sites.

Sidlesham Parish

We have worked planting a hedge at Sidlesham recreation ground for the parish council. We had to remove huge boulders in the ground and it was sheer determination and muscle power that made this possible.



We have also worked on a large pond off Keynor Lane introducing some different wetland species and removing rubbish and asbestos.

Hunston Parish

We had a working session with the CCV to pull out reed mace from a pond in Church Lane and to cut back the invasive bramble. We had local residents join us and now have one as a regular FLOW volunteer.

Other work

Coir rolls

We had forty dry coir rolls delivered before Christmas to the Southend Farm container and these were then deployed across seven sites and planted with a range of wetland plant plugs. Huge thanks to Campbell who drove us around with his trailer dropping these rolls off.

Photo © 2018 Jane Reeve



Photo © 2018 Jane Reeve



The sites where the rolls were installed will now have greater plant biodiversity and they will hopefully thrive and spread into the surrounding ditches.

Levels work in Selsey

Money was granted by WSCC to carry out levels work of the ditches in the Selsey Parish. This was carried out and the information passed to CDC and WSCC.

New culvert in Sidlesham

Funding for a new culvert in Church Farm Lane has been granted by WSCC but ordinary watercourse consents will need to be applied for. Large feed and dairy lorries go through this lane twice daily and therefore having the lane closed while the replacement work takes place will be a challenge. Good communication and working with the landowners and the residents is going to be key.

Events

There will be a series of events over the summer with village fetes at North Mundham, Sidlesham, Bracklesham and the Selsey Lifeboat Day all attended to try and recruit more volunteers and to get the word out about the valuable work of the group.

Mink monitoring

We have been managing and carrying out mink monitoring across the area with financial support from Barfoots, RSPB and Vitacress. Key trained volunteers have been very diligent and committed in carrying out this work.

The future work schedule

The schedule for ditch and hedgerow surveying is:

	2018	2019	2020
January	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
February	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
March	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
April	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
May	Sidlesham	Hunston	Apuldram
June	Sidlesham	N Mundham	Apuldram
July	Sidlesham	N Mundham	Apuldram
August	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
September	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
October	Selsey	N Mundham	MP summary report and an event to mark project finish
November	Selsey	N Mundham	
December	Hunston	Donnington	

WE STILL NEED HELP!

We have a huge burden of survey work to complete - it will require a great deal of volunteer help, especially in the bigger parish of Sidlesham. The key support initially in each parish is the Parish Council and their help in identifying landowners and historic flooding and drainage information, but it is the volunteers carrying out the surveys that make the biggest difference. While the surveys take place, we work in other parishes to carry out identified improvement works, build relationships with new landowners, help in drainage or biodiversity projects, to act as an advisor in riparian management and to publicise the FLOW project. Lots to do!

BIG THANKS

Thanks go to all the volunteers that have helped us with surveying, admin work, events, tools, physical work, refreshments, mink monitoring, carrying equipment, turning up whatever the weather, the smiles, laughter and support.

Photos © 2018 Jane Reeve



‘Seas The Day’

Photo © 2018 J Cunningham



A project about the Selsey fishing industry called ‘Seas The Day’ has just been awarded funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project will be run by Selsey Town Council, supported by the Selsey Fisherman’s Association, Chichester District Council and the MPP.

The Selsey fishing industry predates the town of Selsey, and the history of fishing is also the history of the town. The project aim is to re-engage the town with its fishing heritage by creating a permanent record of the fishermen. This will be achieved by producing:

- Oral history archive of the fishermen and their families. The Selsey Fishermen’s Association is supporting the project with knowledge and expertise.
- Short Film (6-10 minutes): using transcriptions from the oral history interviews as a basis.
- Book using transcriptions of the original oral history interviews.
- Recipe cards featuring crab and lobster recipes.
- Pull-up banners featuring photographs of fishermen at work.
- A nine month exhibition in Chichester’s Novium Museum starting Easter 2019.
- West Sussex Record Office will curate the project in perpetuity

We will need volunteers to do the essential task of recording interviews with the fishermen and transcribing them. Can you help please? Training will be provided by Gillian Edom who has interesting and extensive experience of oral history projects.

To register interest and help the Selsey fishermen ‘Seas the Day’, please contact me, Jane Cunningham, by email: jcunningham@chichester.gov.uk

GUEST INTERVIEW WITH BARBARA AND GERRY, SELSEY BEACH CLEAN VOLUNTEERS AND CO-ORDINATORS

Marine pollution and in particular, pollution from plastics, has been a hot topic in the media recently and is generating increasing awareness about its effects on marine life and our own health. A potent reminder of this problem is seen on our local beaches, where plastics and other waste are washed ashore, polluting the coastal environment and creating an unsightly mess. We should all be able to enjoy beaches free from garbage, and thanks to local beach clean organisers, Barbara and Gerry, residents of Selsey are luckier than most. MWHG Communications Officer Rebecca O'Dowd went to meet them during a beach clean at Selsey Bill, to find out more about the work they do and how it all started.

When did you first start cleaning the beach at Selsey?

I (Gerry) always used to take a carrier bag down to the beach to collect litter when we went for a walk, but during a MWHG volunteer meeting, Wildlife Officer Sarah Hughes put out a plea for the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) beach clean campaign. The MCS asks volunteers to adopt 100m of beach and I thought 'we could do that!' and I put our names down. We adopted 7 x 100m of beach around the Bill Head in 2005 which, following a risk assessment, was reduced to 4 x 100m when the sea wall was breached. We continue with this 400m section to this day.



Gerry (Left) and Barbara (Middle) with a volunteer (Ann Haldane) at their beach clean in Selsey in April.

Do you get much help?

We don't advertise widely for volunteers because we probably couldn't cope with too many. We mainly just have a little core from the MWHG East Beach Pond group. Local residents have also joined us, who initially passed us by as we've been cleaning and offered their services for next time. The numbers we have vary between cleans. We average about 9-10 people and we find that manageable.

Do people show an interest when they see you out here?

Yes, they are always saying 'good on you' or 'what are you doing'. They don't necessarily want to join in with us but it's always a chance to explain what we doing.

What is the most common type of litter you find?

Fishing line and bits of rope and mixed plastic are the most common. The bits of plastic can be very small and this is the stuff that gets swallowed by sea creatures. We record everything we find on a survey sheet provided by the MCS, which grades the plastics by size. Sometimes it is hard to recognise what the individual bits of plastic are. The most unusual things we find are these little nets (see picture below). When we first started we were picking these up endlessly. The MCS can't identify them either, and although we find less now, it would be great to know what they are!



One of the mysterious nets that Barbara and Gerry have found so many of- do you know what it is?

How often do you do a beach clean?

Beach Cleans for the MCS are scheduled 4 times a year, which includes the Autumn National Clean. We do our best to meet these targets which we cannot always make due to the weather. For instance the last couple of years we called off our January Winter Clean. We don't expect people to come out in the wind and rain.

Does the litter vary with the season?

The summer is the worst with more people coming on holidays and leaving their litter on the beach, in particular sweet wrappers, plastic bottles, bottle caps and cans.

Have you noticed a difference in the litter on the beach over the years?

It roughly stays the same. When we first started there was a lot of litter as it hadn't been cleaned much, but doing it regularly seems to keep it under control.

Marine pollution is a huge issue, do you think you are making a difference?

We'd like to think we are. Walking along the beach and seeing it clean we think 'we've done this!'. It's like everything, it's a bit of pride and if we, and others like us, didn't do it we'd be knee deep in litter. Apart from keeping on top of the litter, we also have a strong social aspect to what we do. We have tea and cake and time to all talk together...and not necessarily always about the rubbish! It has become a little like a job and we don't want to let each other down and we like to think that the others in the group enjoy coming too.

Can anyone do a beach clean and how can they get started?

The MCS has a website www.mcs.uk.org/beachwatch and they've got all the necessary information on there. You can request a 100m stretch of beach and if it's not been allocated then you can adopt it to clean.

What is the single easiest thing the public at Selsey could do to make your job easier?

Take their litter home. If people bring it to the beach in a plastic bag, they can take it away again, and its much smaller and lighter after they've eaten anyway.

COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

We live in a fantastic and diverse district, which is home to an array of rare and protected species. Working with amazing volunteers we continue to safeguard this special area for future generations to enjoy and cherish.

Blue Planet 2 highlighted the issues of plastics in our seas and a recent study by Chichester Harbour Conservancy found micro plastics in our harbour, which in turn has had a really negative effect on harbour wildlife. Sir David Attenborough has shown that we all need to rethink our use of plastics and the need to use recycled plastic/compostable items rather than adding to the staggering amount of plastic that is our seas and on our planet. Our planet and our wildlife is under pressure and modifying the way we live can have a positive impact on nature.

I am concerned about the amount of proposed development in the local area, so I used the council's 'open door policy' to see the Chief Executive. My main issue is that if wildlife corridors between the South Downs National Park and the Chichester Coastal Plain are not safeguarded then this could have a devastating effect on the gene pool of our wildlife, which in turn would eventually mean species dying out locally.

The meeting has been well received by Chichester District Council and numerous projects/plans have now been put in place. We (the Environment Projection Team) have been mapping the important wildlife corridors, which will feed into the Local Plan. In addition to this, we have been able to readdress the council's biodiversity duty and how every department can have a positive impact to our district's biodiversity.

Communication is the key to safeguarding this fantastic area for the future. I have been lucky to be involved with a range of meetings/projects, which include the dog activities; protected species guidance; working with local charities and volunteer groups. Recently I have been working with the Selsey Community Forum on the Selsey to Chichester cycle network and overseeing the range of ecological surveys. This information is very valuable to the Manhood as some species are under recorded in the area.

I value the opportunity to work with young people as they are the future 'ecologists' and 'decision makers'. My work has ranged from regular school sessions at Southbourne Junior School, to working with the Mini Youth Conference at Chichester; school talks and hedge planting at Funtington Primary School and providing a thought provoking talk to Bourne Community College Year 9 students on wildlife matters.



There are so many sites which I hold dear and are little gems for wildlife to flourish across from Chichester to Southbourne.

Over the winter and spring we have completed many working parties and surveys, which have included; pond and hedgerow work at Apuldram; tree TLC at Southbourne; hedgerow planting in Chichester and Southbourne; footpath and ditch enhancement; litter picking and surveying around the area.

Training is an essential aspect of our group, to make sure that we are up-to-date with procedures; providing awareness and overviews etc. We were able to provide volunteers; ‘Safeguarding Course’ and ‘Water Vole Training Course’. I continue my own development and I have taken advantage of; ‘Working near Water’; ‘Electrical Awareness Course’ and ‘Dog walker engagement training’.

We have highlighted the project through a range of talks to local landowners, history groups; within the council and at events.

Volunteers are at the core of my role, without them I couldn't do my job, so a big thank you to all that give their time freely for the benefit of others and for our incredible wildlife.

Sarah Hughes



David Devereux



It was with great sadness that the Selsey volunteers heard the news that David had died suddenly on 5th May.

David was an active volunteer at Manor Green Park for some years and became particularly concerned with the lack of growth of the trees in the orchard. He spent many hours giving the trees TLC and was very pleased to see the effort that went into improving conditions there last Autumn. He was also very supportive of the East Beach Pond Group, giving assistance at our Open Days and on many other occasions.

Being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease a few years ago did not deter him, but he did become less active when arthritis in his knees made him unsteady on his legs. He was making a good recovery from his second knee operation earlier this year and was in good spirits when he joined us for coffee in April.

As you will realize, David was a valued member of our group, always full of interesting tales and enthusiasm, and we will miss him. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Susie and all his family.

David at the South and South East in Bloom Award ceremony in 2012

THE GREEN CROSS CODE FOR WILDLIFE SURVEYORS

Over my years with MWHG I have had the pleasure of participating in all sorts of surveys from trees, hedgerows and wild flowers to pond dips, ditches, water voles, moth trapping, bat walks and the odd beach clean. By the time you read this, we will also be well into our second year of breeding bird, butterfly and reptile surveys on FLOW Fridays.

Volunteering with the FLOW project brings an interesting mix of activities depending on the time of year. During the autumn and winter months, Jane Reeve and Christopher Drake lead working parties aimed at 'Fixing and Linking our Wetlands'. We undertake clearance work to open up relic/overgrown ponds and ditches (dead hedge laying and planting some new along the way). This work is doubly beneficial in that it improves habitat for wildlife, including the endangered water vole, whilst also helping to alleviate local flooding issues. It is very rewarding to see the physical difference we've made by the end of the season. Come the spring and summer, we return to monitor progress at some of these sites. In small teams we visit on a weekly basis to carry out surveys, walking the same route each time. It is really gratifying to see a cleared area bounce back so quickly over the growing season. I keep an eye out for any new plant species emerging and am often adding to the botanical list. Some coir rolls containing aquatic marginal plug-plants were installed earlier this spring and I'm looking forward to seeing how well they thrive.

Our record sheets are divided into columns so that species numbers are logged by transect we move from one type of habitat (hedgerow, woodland, grassland, wetland, etc) to another at each site. After a few weeks, we get to know what we might expect to encounter where en route but there are often a few surprises to pique our interest. Lacking experience and a good ear for a tune, I find the BTO breeding bird survey rather challenging. However, gradually my repertoire is increasing from rattling Wren and repetitive Chiffchaff to the scratchy call of the Whitethroat and fluty Blackcap. New volunteers are welcome to join us, whether you already possess good id skills or, like me, are keen to learn more.

Weather permitting, we also carry out butterfly counts over the same route. Numbers fluctuate as different species take to the wing. At their peak, we totted up over 200 meadow browns in one grassy field. Another highlight last year was seeing Brown Argus as well as Common Blues on Bird's-foot Trefoil. This was in a field that had previously been the subject of a strict mowing regime but where wildflowers had been allowed to grow back, making this a far richer habitat for wildlife.



Brown Argus

At the start of the season, corrugated iron reptile sheets are deployed at various locations and these we investigate as we make our way round. There is a frisson of excitement - what will lurk beneath? One site proved very good for grass snakes and slow worms, others less so. But even then we found other creatures that had taken refuge, such as frogs, toads and small mammals.

We also make a note of anything else of interest that we come across (deer, fox, other invertebrate species that we can identify, etc). By the time autumn returns, a wealth of survey data has been collected. Christopher has a busy time report writing and ensuring that all has been logged for future reference with the Biodiversity Records Centre.



Photo © 2017 Chris Drake

Grass Snake

Where does the 'Green Cross Code' feature in all of this? Well, our surveys involve *stop, look and listen* but it is also a matter of *don't get cross* when the noise of lawnmowers, chain saws and traffic makes it almost impossible to hear the birdsong. And I'm sure we've all felt the frustration of id failures and the knowledge that what we observe is only the tip of the iceberg. Nevertheless, being out of doors to appreciate all that nature has to offer is a real privilege and taking part in these surveys adds value and purpose to the experience.

Whether volunteering with us or in your own back garden or local patch, please consider taking part. Help to inform our knowledge of what lives or grows on the Manhood Peninsula (or beyond) by keeping a note of your wildlife sightings and submitting your survey records. You can now do this via the Manhood & Heritage Website at www.mwhg.org.uk

Felicity McStea

100 SWALKS

SIDLESHAM WALK & LUNCH CLUB



In August 2009 nine friends walked from Sidlesham Quay to the Lamb at Pagham for lunch and back again – our first SWALK (Sidlesham Walk & Lunch Klub).

Our inspiration came on a visit to friends in France and an invitation to join them with their walking group, although we were somewhat surprised when two fifty-seater coaches pulled into their village car park!

In 2013 we introduced a summer BBQ and a Boxing Day walk. In December 2017 we added an evening Advent Calendar Window walk.

In March 2018 we visited the Lamb at Pagham again. This time there were 27 of us to celebrate our 100th SWALK.

Between 2009 and 2018 we have visited 13 pubs The Anchor (Sidlesham), The Lamb (Pagham), The George (Eartham), Lifeboat (Selsey), Walnut Tree (Runcton), The Ship (Itchenor), Old House at Home (Chidham), Hare & Hounds (Stoughton), Royal Oak (Hooksway), Spotted Cow (Hunston), The Partridge (Singleton), Crown & Anchor (Dell Quay) and The Black Rabbit (Arundel) as well as 6 restaurants/cafes Piggery (Norton), Russell's Garden Centre, Wellies (West Lavant), Canal Basin, Boat House (Marina) & The Forge (Slindon). In the summer months we have had picnics at Pagham Spit, Church Norton, Emsworth Nature Reserve, Thorney Island, Sidlesham Beach (before the Medmerry realignment), Bosham/Itchenor Ferry, The Trundle, East Head & Halnaker Windmill.

Amblers rather than ramblers we discover hidden local history with new friendships being forged in more often than not stunning sunshine. More than 120 people have participated in SWALKs, with an average attendance of 17 walkers. Distances vary between 5 and 8 miles with the total mileage covered in the 9 years being 675 miles, the equivalent of walking from Sidlesham to The Lake District and back again! 'Walks around Sidlesham' has sold 400 copies and is now on its fifth reprint. 500 copies of 'All Aboard', exploring railway carriage homes in Selsey, and 600 copies of Sidlesham LSA Heritage Trail have also been sold, raising funds for the MWHG. Copies of these publications are available at RSPB Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre & The Novium Museum in Chichester.

Bill and Sue Martin

SWT COFFEE MORNING

It must have been a great relief to Sheila and Bruce, all their helpers and visitors, when Saturday 7 April dawned in Selsey with no rain on the cards (albeit overcast with a rather chilly breeze). Their back lawn had dried out sufficiently for gazebos to be erected, stall holders were ready to tempt us with their wares and the kettle was freshly boiled for refreshments. Their annual coffee morning in aid of the Sussex Wildlife Trust was underway.

After paying my £1 entrance fee (hot drink and tasty home-made biscuit included) and purchasing a strip of raffle tickets, I looked about me. The pretty garden was full of familiar faces and it was lovely to see some MWHG members that I don't meet that often. In between catch-ups, there was plenty of browsing to be done. I didn't buy any books but my purse came out at the bric-a-brac, home-baking and plant stalls. Then it was time to sit down for more of a natter and be offered a coffee refill from our charming and efficient young waitress whilst her grandmother helped behind the scenes in the kitchen.

Our hosts deserve a huge 'thank you' as do all the others who worked so hard to make the morning such a success. Evidently I was not the only one who made a purchase here and there. Sheila reported that their event raised the brilliant sum of £500 for the SWT, so very well done indeed!

Felicity McStea



Photo © 2018 Sarah Hughes

We don't know which one Dave bought!

STOP PRESS - FREE ENERGY ADVICE FROM SELSEYWORKS

Did you know that free help and advice on saving energy and reducing bills is available most Thursdays at Selsey Town Hall?

“This service is available due to Selseyworks receiving a grant from the Community Benefit Fund of the Ferry Farm Community Solar Farm” Tom Broughton of energy co-operative Solesco told us. “Recently we helped a Sidlesham resident, already fully engaged in helping the environment by cutting fuel consumption, shave a further £150 per annum from her bills.”

You can make an appointment to see Tom by calling 01243-200975 or you can just drop in to the Town Council Offices one Thursday.

To find out more about the service visit www.selseyworks.co.uk/people/home-energy-advice.

The Selsey to Chichester Greenway Cyclepath

The Background: There is no safe cycle route from Selsey to Chichester as the B2145 is overloaded and very dangerous and Selsey residents have been campaigning for a safe route since the 90's. Selsey Community Forum took over this project in 2015 and have gained the support of all local Parishes, Chichester District and West Sussex County. A route avoiding the B2145 was identified and proved feasible some time ago. This is approximately 50% on minor roads and existing footpaths which will have to be upgraded to cycle paths, or round field borders, thanks to the generosity of farmers and the RSPB. But where is the money to come from?

The Government has made infrastructure funds available to help sustainable projects in rural and coastal areas that will help the local economy and promote tourism. To qualify for this money, applicants have to demonstrate that they can have their project fully built before 2021. Projects applying have to show that they are 'oven-ready', ie feasibility studies done and that there are no obstacles to planning permission. We meet all the criteria and have handed our dossier over to West Sussex who will decide which cycle schemes it will put forward and then support the successful applicants for the funding bid and beyond. We are told that we have a very good chance of being selected as our project meets all the criteria. These are that Planning Permission is likely to be granted as we have landowners' permission for the actual route and for the necessary ecological studies which will be done at the appropriate time, so ensuring that protected species are not endangered. Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group is surveying 18 ponds and the remaining few are being done by Sustrans. The Great Crested Newt Pond Survey will start next week. Almost all Landowners have signed Letters of Intent that they will give permission for the route. The Greenway Team is most grateful to MWHG and especially to Gina, Joe, Jane, Sarah and Nick for all their help.

Glenda Baum

FINALLY, TWO UNUSUAL VIEWS OF A WATER VOLE TRAINING SESSION -

Sarah says it looks as if she is leading a cult!



Photo © 2018 Siriol and Roy Seabrook



Photo © 2018 Siriol and Roy Seabrook



COMING SOON

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION!

CASH PRIZES FOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE
WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE OF THE MANHOOD
PENINSULA!

£50 FOR THE WINNERS IN BOTH CATEGORIES

£25 RUNNER-UP IN EACH AGE GROUP

£100 FOR THE OVERALL WINNER OF THE
JUDGES' CHOICE FOR BEST PHOTOGRAPH!

WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
FURTHER DETAILS, DATES AND
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.



WALKS LEAFLETS OUTLETS

Our walks leaflets can be purchased from the following places:-

Chichester District Council, Selsey Office
Hunston Post Office (Tramway Walks only)
Raycraft, High Street, Selsey
RSPB Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
Selsey Printing and Publishing
Selsey Town Council Office

MWHG Website
www.mwhg.org.uk

New content and updates are regularly required for example on wildlife, heritage, etc.

All contributions welcome.

email: facebook@mwhg.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at
“mwhgpage”

USEFUL WEBSITES

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group -
<http://www.mwhg.org.uk>
Recording the changing seasons -
<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/>
Local wood recycling - http://www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk/services_recycling.htm
Local - Bags made from 100% recycled clothing - <http://www.thegreendoor.co.uk/>
Sussex Bat Group -
<http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk/>
UK moths - <http://ukmoths.org.uk/>
Bug life - <http://www.buglife.org.uk/>
Mammal Society - <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/mammal/>
Green shop - <http://www.greenshop.co.uk/>
Environmental calendar -
www.countmeincalendar.info
Swift Conservation -
<http://www.swift-conservation.org/>
Wildcare Shop for products relating to ecology, Park management or conservation. -
<http://www.wildcareshop.com>

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member please go to
www.mwhg.org.uk/get-involved/membership/

VOLUNTEERING

Subscribe to our volunteering opportunities and get involved at www.mwhg.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/ or see the attached form

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