

# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



## Newsletter

*Autumn/Winter 2017*

*Volume 10 No 2*



## MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Firstly, I would like to welcome two new people to the FLOW team – Rebecca O’Dowd and Nikki Timney.

Rebecca has taken over from Kate as Communications & Engagement Officer and has hit the ground running. One of her first tasks is to produce a welcome pack for volunteers. She has already discussed its possible contents with key volunteers but if you have ideas about what would be of benefit, do get in touch.

Nikki has been appointed to develop and manage our website and presence on social media. The FLOW team see this as crucial to recruiting more volunteers as well as promoting and publicising the project. The Management Team also consider it essential for the Group’s development and view Nikki, with her proven abilities, enthusiasm and commitment, as ideal for the job. She will be providing training for members who, like me, are less proficient with IT and using social media, so look out for this.

Thanks to a grant from Operation Watershed [WSCC] for a container and the goodwill of Campbell Thorpe for allowing us to site it on his land in Almodington, we now have a second central storage facility for tools and equipment. This will enable easier access for those leading work parties in the surrounding area.

Another project I would like to bring to your attention is a leaflet being produced to promote wildlife gardening to new home owners. It is a partnership project with Transition Chichester and is part of our contribution to the Recreational Disturbance Mitigation Project that Sarah Hughes leads with CDC. The project seeks to benefit wildlife on the back of the new house building planned for the area.

As a Group, we are now achieving more than we have ever done, largely due to the staff that the FLOW grant from HLF has enabled us to employ. However, too much of our work still depends on too few key people. We vitally need additional Trustees, members of the Management Team and long-term volunteers. We cannot keep relying on the same people if the sustainability of the Group is to be ensured.

So, I would like to end with some requests. Please do consider becoming a Trustee or a member of the Management Team yourself or think who you know might be interested. Also, please explore your contacts for new volunteers and spread the word about us generally – thanks!

Just one volunteer can make a huge difference, as many of you have shown over the years.

Enjoy the festivities.

Joe Savill



## STOP PRESS

The Trustees of MWHG are pleased to announce that, following a meeting in early December, they have invited a new Trustee to join the team. She is Dr. Lesley Bromley, a retired GP and a resident of Selsey. She is a keen supporter of the Group with a particular interest in the heritage of the Manhood Peninsula and has experience of working with the Charities Commission, with a skillset that will enhance the management team. Dr. Bromley has been formally invited to join the Trustees and we await her reply.



# COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

We are so lucky to have many amazing people in the group; outstanding charities, community groups, all working in partnership to safeguard and connect our valuable and vulnerable wildlife.

In Southbourne, work continues with the Southbourne Environment Group, helping local people make a difference to their community, participating in working parties and events, from 'TCL for trees', which was completed in the National Tree Week, to litter picking around the parish.

Planning for the New Year, I am hoping to lay the hedgerow at Tuppenny Barn, Southbourne. This is an old hedgerow, which has not had regular maintenance, which means its benefit to wildlife has been reduced. My concern was that the hedge had become too tall for volunteers to reduce as branches were touching the overhead wires. With Health and Safety at the forefront of all working parties I knew this required rectifying prior to any volunteer working parties.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks came to my rescue and a team lead by Mark lowered the hedgerow. I am deeply grateful to the team for their time and work on this and special thanks goes to their Team Manager, Manolis Sindihakis.



The hedgerow working parties (planned for Jan & Feb 2018) will hopefully provide volunteers an overview of hedgerow management, including how to lay the hedge (which will be completed in the Sussex Style, using binders and stakes) and the importance of hedgerows as wildlife corridors.

Enthusiasm and working with young people on the importance of our wildlife is essential for preserving it for the future generation to enjoy and love.

All organisations that work with or come into contact with children should have safeguarding policies and procedures to ensure that every child, regardless of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity, can be protected from harm.

As part of National Safeguarding Week (commencing 27<sup>th</sup> November), we put on a bespoke course for volunteers who come into contact with vulnerable adults and children, which was well attended and led by Pam Bushby (Communities Interventions Manger from Chichester District Council).

The course covered:-

Protecting people from harm

Looking after people who are vulnerable or unable to look after themselves

Preventing abuse and neglect from happening

Making sure Children and Adults are safe and healthy

Being aware of signs of abuse or neglect and reporting concerns

Covering the different types of abuse; spotting the signs and what to do if you have concerns regarding a Child or Adult.

Though this can be a difficult subject to highlight, Pam made the evening very interesting and much thanks goes to her for her time and effort on this.

Over the winter period (Sept – March) much of my time is spent out on site at Chichester Harbour engaging with dog walkers on the importance of the site for the 56,000 winter wading birds.

One in four homes has a dog and there are about 15,000 dogs in England. As a dog walker myself, it is important to provide positive dog experiences, which don't have a negative impact on our vulnerable wildlife.

I am in the midst of a 'Dog Activities Consultation', where we hope to provide alternative, exciting dog activities just outside of the AONB of Chichester Harbour. We hope to enthuse dog walkers to use alternative sites from the harbour over the winter months, to allow the winter waders the much needed rest and time to feed, prior to their migration to Africa and back again to the northern hemisphere.

We all need to be aware of our impact on our wildlife and especially at our harbours, which are designated for their international importance and are essential stepping stones along the migration routes.

Full details on the Dog Activity Consultation will be provided at the web site shortly. However, if you would like a hard copy please contact me.

I have highlighted the pressures on wildlife and the work we all do within the project to enthuse people on the importance of biodiversity and how to make a difference with talks to; Funtington Primary School; Southbourne Junior School; Barfoots; Yapton & District Cottage Gardeners Society; Chichester Priory Rotary; Chichester Harbour Rotary and Portsmouth Rotary.

Working together we can improve biodiversity for future generation to love and enjoy, whilst making friends and working with likeminded people.

Wishing you all health and happiness and a fantastic New Year.

*Sarah Hughes*



# **THE HISTORY OF THE SELSEY LIFEBOAT AND STATION**

## **from the records of RNLI Selsey**

*Our cover photograph is of an iconic landmark of the Selsey shoreline that after many years is no more. It was finally demolished in 2017 and has been replaced by a spanking new shore based lifeboat station which houses the spanking new Shannon class lifeboat 'The Denise and Eric' as well as the inshore lifeboat. Your editorial team feel that this is the right time to acknowledge the Selsey Lifeboat of which we are so proud, and record its history.*

The RNLI Journal dated **1<sup>st</sup> July 1861** included the following: 'The National Lifeboat Institution has recently placed a lifeboat at Selsey in Sussex for the protection of the crew of vessels which get stranded on the Ower's Bank and other shoals in the neighbourhood of Selsey Bill. Selsey being only a poor fishing village, a branch of the Institution has been formed at Chichester to aid in supporting this establishment, with the total of the Chichester and West Sussex Branch of the National Lifeboat Institution. A double-banked Lifeboat, 35 feet long and rowing 12 oars, was forwarded to Chichester, together with a transporting carriage, on the 5<sup>th</sup> June whence, after a public exhibition of some of her properties, she was borne to her station on her own carriage. The cost (£180) of the boat was presented to the Institution by some members of the Society of Friends.'

**1861** a Lifeboat house was erected at a cost of £19.

**1874:** Owing to the encroachment of the sea it was decided to keep the Lifeboat afloat.

**1884/96:** Two Lifeboats stationed at Selsey, the larger 'Lucy Newbon' for the outer shoals and the smaller 'Joan & Henry Skynner' for inshore work. Trials showed that the larger boat was suitable for all work, and the smaller boat was withdrawn.

**1920:** new Lifeboat house and slipway constructed at a cost of £200.

**1958: work commenced on construction of a new station made necessary as a consequence of coastal erosion.**

**1960: work on new station completed at a cost of £75,000. And new lifeboat house opened by the Duke of Richmond and Gordon on 18<sup>th</sup> July.**

**1968:** D Class Lifeboat sent to station in March.

**1984:** Re-dedication of the new Lifeboat 'City of London' funded by the City of London Special Appeal.

**1987:** Boathouse constructed to accommodate the D class inflatable lifeboat. This replaced the previous Hardun boathouse and contains a crewroom, store and souvenir shop.

**2005:** Following her refit towards the end of the year ON146 'Voluntary Worker' replaced ON1074 'City of London' after 22 years' exemplary service.

**2008:** the new D Class inshore lifeboat 'Betty and Thomas Moore' was placed on service on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

**2011:** Anniversary Vellum acknowledging 150 years of service as a lifeboat station.

So following this proud record we wish the present Lifeboats and their crew of volunteers the very best for their future service and keep safe!

*Compiled by Gina Scott*

# THE MWHG HLF FLOW PROJECT UPDATE NOVEMBER 2017

## SINCE SPRING 2017

### Hedge and Ditch Survey work

#### East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish

While carrying out survey work in East Wittering and Bracklesham we walked 11km of ditches, and 2km of hedges. We identified 13 different tree species and recorded the locations of 91 Ash trees. We found the ditches to be in mainly in moderate condition but to have low plant diversity. There were four opportunities identified for drainage improvements and nine for environmental ones and an action plan was written and costed that showed that all the works would cost approx. £17,000. However, in kind and non-cash contributions and work by landowners would bring these costs down.

A results session was held at Bracklesham Barn at the start of June 2017 to publicize the findings for East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish and was attended by WSCC, CDC, landowners and residents.



#### Earnley Parish

Work to start surveying this parish began in May 2017 and we have nearly completed the ditch and hedge surveying with 38 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 should be published and a result event held at Bracklesham Barn mid-December 2017.

#### Physical improvement works

While the surveying has been carried out by volunteers and FLOW staff, there has been a summer program of biological recording (please see Chris' separate report) and now a winter program of physical improvement of sites identified in reports.



### **West Wittering**

We have carried out pond and wetland recovery 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 and we hope that future sessions will attract more interest.

### **East Wittering and Bracklesham**

We have new ponds and ditches to tackle in this parish, identified in the recent report, and have made a start at Stubcroft, Lane pond, Hilton Business Park pond (with the help of the Chichester Conservation Volunteers), and the spinney pond on a tight bend the B2198. We have plans to work in Tile Barn Lane, on the ditch at Bracklesham Barn, and hope for a new potential orchard at Seafeld Close.



### **Earnley**

We carried out hedge laying and planting at Somerley House, and have created a basic management plan for the pond and surrounding area at Earnley Grange pond.

### **West Itchenor Parish**

We are working with the West Manhood Flood Group to improve drainage and the biodiversity value of the village pond. We are mapping all the trees in the adjacent wet woodland and hope to create a management plan with a coppicing regime and improvements. This will be done with input from the CHC.

### **Birdham Parish**

We carried out work installing coir rolls in the spring at Kingfisher pond in Birdham. This pond is part of a larger network that make up a wetland wildlife corridor that can be improved for wildlife as well as help tank water from the roads.

## **Other work**

### **Levels work**

We have applied for money (West Sussex County Council Operation Watershed WSCC OW) to pay for levels work in Selsey so that ditch and pond improvement work can be carried out with the knowledge that flow direction is understood and where problems lie and possibly why. We also hope to support Birdham Parish Council with this process too as this information will be invaluable in helping to inform their long-term surface water management schemes.

### **New Tools**

WSCC OW fund has paid for new tools to be used by the group in our work. We had a working party to unwrap and assemble the tools, and to divide them up so that all the groups benefited from this grant.



*Photo © 2017 Jane Reeve*

### **Container**

A new small container has been paid for by WSCC OW fund to store the new tools and to create another storage area for equipment. This gives us greater capacity to securely hold tools across the MP for wider use.



*Photo © 2017 Jane Reeve*



**Events**

We had stalls at the Sidlesham village fete (despite the rain) the North Mundham village fete, the Selsey Lifeboat Day and the Brewery Fields open day. We provided information about local wildlife and activities.



*Photo © 2017 Jane Reeve*

**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:

	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>January</b>	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
<b>February</b>	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
<b>March</b>	E Wittering + B	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
<b>April</b>	Earnley	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington
<b>May</b>	Earnley	Sidlesham	Hunston	Apuldram
<b>June</b>	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
<b>July</b>	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
<b>August</b>	Earnley	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
<b>September</b>	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	Apuldram
<b>October</b>	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	MP summary report and an event to mark project finish
<b>November</b>	Sidlesham	Selsey	N Mundham	
<b>December</b>	Sidlesham	Hunston	Donnington	

# WE 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!

## **The FLOW team**

The FLOW project now has a bigger team with as the new Communications and Engagement Officer, Rebecca O'Dowd, our Field Officer Christopher Drake, with Nikki Timney on the MWHG website and social media, and Paul Sadler as group fundraiser. We just need volunteers to help us with data entry, GIS, hedge and ditch surveys.

## **Reports written by the FLOW project**

Reports can be seen at [www.mwhg.co.uk](http://www.mwhg.co.uk) for the West Wittering Management Plan and the East Wittering and Bracklesham Management Plan.

## **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.

*Jane Reeve*





# FUNDING THE FLOW PROJECT

## Fixing and linking our Wetlands

Two years in and the Flow Project has established itself as one of the major activities of the Group, but its origins and financial arrangements may not be so well known.

The Project was born out of Jill Sutcliffe's vision for a Manhood Peninsula restored and properly managed. The waterways will be linked to provide a natural and controlled flow of water, reducing flood risk; they will be properly managed to enable free and safe movement for wildlife, distribution of species and greater biodiversity. Add to this vision the wish for the Group to realise its ambition to have a presence in each Parish and to establish a secure future and this provided Jill with the basis on which to seek funding support.

Sheer determination, much hard work and skilful negotiation was rewarded in summer 2015 with a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund of £35,800 towards an initial six month Development Project, total value £52,800, with a further in principle offer of £576,400 over five years for a Delivery Phase.

The purpose of the first part was to establish the team, Project Manager and Field Officer to be employed by the Group to develop methodology for the project and an Action Plan; then to test the processes in one Parish, West Wittering, where the Parish Council was very keen to see improvements to their flood risk conditions. Successful completion of the Development Phase would allow the Group to submit for the remaining Delivery Phase funding.

Of course, the HLF expect their recipients to contribute a share towards the total cost; for the first phase this amounted to £17K of the total of £52,800. The total project value includes the value of volunteer time involved and non-cash contributions received. These make up a large proportion of our contribution, £9K of £17K in the first phase. Our bid had included funding we had been promised (£5K from the Manhood Peninsula Partnership, CDC, SLA and Nature's Way) so the actual financial requirement from Group funds was quite small, £500.

The HLF have different ways of paying their grants, depending on the amount. £100K or less are paid in % instalments; 50, 40, 10. The last 10% is paid after completion, to ensure that the full recipient contribution has been made and spent. If this has not happened the result is a proportionate reduction in the final HLF payment.

Successful completion of the initial Phase allowed us to develop our bid for the remainder of the Project. We had by now established a good relationship with our Case Officer, Heather Turvey and she provided invaluable advice on how to include additional elements required, highlighted during the Development stage; for example, the need for people to look after Community and Engagement aspects (Volunteers) and a Fundraising Officer. She also ensured that those elements of particular concern to the HLF, being practical Conservation, Volunteers and Training, were all adequately funded. Heather would not be part of the awards panel but was able to advise us on the level and content which would be accepted.

The resulting, successful, bid raised the Project value to £714,470 with an HLF grant of £514,300. The difference, partnership funding, is £169,170, of which £103K is derived from the value of Volunteer time and non-cash contributions. This leaves £66,170 of external funding to be found over the project period, half of which requires fundraising effort. To date, external funding has contributed £15,837 of the total spend of approximately £70K.

The Project budget is divided into three sections; Capital, Activity and Other Costs. Capital costs include repair and conservation, equipment and materials and fees relating to specialist help for the project - mentoring, evaluation and finance. Activity costs cover staff, travel, training, activity related equipment and specialist fees related to training. The third section, Other Costs, covers recruitment, publicity and promotion, overheads and sums to allow for contingencies and inflation.

As it is over £100K, the Delivery grant is paid retrospectively, on the basis of payment requests we submit. The submissions schedule all project expenses under the various budget headings to establish a total request. However, to ensure our contribution is included, the HLF pay only the percentage of the request that the grant is of the cash value of the project (total value less volunteer time and non-cash contributions). In this case it is 89%, the remaining 11% being the value of external funding.

All this sounds very complicated! It is relatively straightforward but, as we are always paying in advance, it does require careful bookkeeping and management to ensure our payment requests are accurate and complete. A price worth paying, as we are privileged to have public money to use and the opportunity to make an important contribution to our environment.

*David Scott*  
*Hon. Treasurer*

*East Beach Pond before and after  
clearing work by volunteers*



*Photo © 2016 Dave Haldane*



*Photo © 2016 Dave Haldane*



## OUR VERY OWN COMMUNITY CHAMP!

Our Selsey Groups have always featured successfully in the annual South and South East in Bloom Event but there was an extra surprise for us this year. The Judges had 300 contenders for a Community Champion award – an individual who has made a significant contribution to their community – and they chose only three. One of them was our very own Dave Haldane! ‘Others seemed to know what was coming’ said Dave, ‘but I didn’t! I think I said something like ‘oh this is such a surprise!’”

We are very fortunate to have him in our membership as well as a valuable part of our Management Team. Dave’s knowledge and experience honed over many years as a warden and in various posts at Wimbledon Common has been behind the work of our excellent Selsey team.

Congratulations Dave, you deserve the Award and we are all very proud of you.

*Gina Scott*



# THE EILEEN SAVILL AWARD 2017

The theme for the competition this year was ‘Minibeasts’ and competitors were asked to produce a rap or poem on this subject.

The Award ceremony took place at the Selsey Centre on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group members, family and friends of the winners and of course the winning children. Both winners were in the youngest category, aged seven and eight, and they both wrote and beautifully illustrated poems. The Judges finally decided to award first prize to Lilah for her poem as they felt that she had written how the butterfly would feel as it experienced the various stages of its life cycle and she had a good understanding of her subject. Mia’s poem about Minibeasts came a close second, and the Judges particularly liked her illustrations.

The prizes were presented by Community Champion and MWHG Management Team Member Dave Haldane, an experienced naturalist and long term member of the Selsey sub-groups working on several sites in the town. Both children received certificates, cash vouchers, and activity books about mini-beasts, and the winner also received an anthology of childrens’ poetry and the beautiful carving of a diving Kingfisher by MWHG Member Peter Warren. Following the presentation everyone tucked into biscuits and home-made cakes before they went home.

The Eileen Savill Award is kindly sponsored by Vitacress of Runcton.

*Gina Scott*



*Photo © 2017 David Scott*





## LILAH'S WINNING POEM.

She starts by saying 'did you know? Butterflies only live for 2 weeks!

I was a caterpillar to begin. Gradually I shed my skin.  
I ate and ate again, during sun, wind and rain.  
Until one day I hung upon a twig. I felt as though I was really big.  
Then I'm shocked that I could fly and after that I flew to the sky,  
until I saw to my belief another butterfly on a leaf.  
My life felt complete even if it was brief.

## MIA'S POEM IN SECOND PLACE.

Minibeasts, Minibeasts  
Everywhere in the green,  
Some hiding in bushes,  
and some hiding in trees,  
There are many different types,  
Like butterflys and bugs,  
And others who crawl,  
Like snails and slugs.  
Some lay eggs and some do not,  
Some collect pollen and some have dots.  
Some crawl on the floor,  
And some fly by,  
Like bees and bugs and dragonflies.  
Minibeasts, Minibeasts,  
Everywhere we go,  
Some big, some small,  
Some high, some low.



## THE ENTERPRISING WOOD MICE

Bird feeders are an essential part of my garden. I have them dotted in an around the garden shrubs with a small amount of seed in each one. The resident house sparrows are regular visitors and highly territorial, squabbling among themselves and bullying the tits who have the audacity to sneak in and steal the seed. This regular rough and tumble around the feeder invariably leads to seed spillage, which in turn feeds the wood pigeons, dunnock and wood mice.

Lately however the wood mice, not content with the scattered pickings, have taken to visiting the feeders. A natural climber and opportunist they have little difficulty in reaching those feeders that are positioned within the bushes. The standard cylinder shaped wire mesh feeder offers this dexterous rodent an easily gripped surface. With a feeding session lasting up to an hour this incenses the local sparrows, who band together and repeatedly chide the mouse, with little effect I might add.

Having resigned myself to provisioning the wire feeder with increasing frequency, I was surprised one morning to observe a wood mouse, this time ensconced within a plastic cylinder type feeder. This standard feeder is designed with small circular feeding apertures and plastic perches. The apertures unintentionally also provide an entry and exit point for adventurous small rodents. It brought a smile to my face to see this furry creature nibbling away at the seed, while protected by a plastic cocoon suspended some two metres above the ground.

The mouse was still feeding when I returned thirty minutes later and I noticed that the level of corn in the cylinder had dropped by at least 5cm. This time my presence startled the creature. It stared out at me, probably summing up its options before deciding that flight would be the wisest move. Unfortunately leaving was not as straight forward as entering, as its body must have expanded as a result of its marathon banquet. Despite several attempts it seemed unable to squeeze its hind quarters through the hole, and so, resigned to its fate hung there with its head and front feet protruding from the feeder. Now it's a well-known fact that in moments of crisis the body is capable of remarkable feats. I decided to put this to the test and moving slowly forward I waved my arms. I swear that the creatures face registered shock\* and in that moment it summoned up enough propulsion to shoot out of the feeder like a cork from a bottle.

\*please allow a degree of amorphous licence.

Dave Haldane





## DONNINGTON AND APULDRAM

Since topping/relaying the Mile Pond Farm hedgerow (behind The Apuldrum Centre) at the beginning of the year, I have carried out a couple of monitoring visits. For a second year running there is evidence of hawthorn button-top gall. This causes stunted and distorted shoot tips, leading to weakened growth. It has allowed the willow to become even more dominant, so this will require cutting back hard to keep it in check.

It was a mild and very pleasant day for my 1st November visit. The hedgerow shone with hints of autumn colour and Red Admiral butterflies were in flight. Inspection duties over, I decided to stroll further along the Salterns Way to the River Lavant. En route I came across another butterfly, this time a Comma sunning itself on a hazel leaf.

*Felicity McStea*



**Hawthorne button-top gall**



**Willow overtopping hawthorne**



**Comma on hazel**



## MANOR GREEN PARK, SENSORY GARDEN AND EAST BEACH POND

I am sure all of us feel the same when we say that we don't know where time goes to. It seems amazing that it is time for the South and South East in Bloom Awards again.

Selsey Town Council once again entered Selsey as a whole and Manor Green Park, the Sensory Garden and East Beach Pond separately. All areas maintained their standards, with the same Awards as last year:

Selsey in Bloom - Silver Gilt

Manor Green Park – Silver Gilt

Sensory Garden – Thriving

East Beach Pond – Gold

We were disappointed that the Sensory Garden had not gone up to the top category after all the hard work we had put in last year, paying particular attention to the judges' comments and advice. We were only one mark off last year and can only think that the new judges marked things differently to those last year. We will receive the score sheets for this year in due course so will know where our weaknesses are and will try to improve in future.

The Sensory Garden, particularly, had new planting this year and we were very pleased with the effect on an area which had always been trampled on by children in the past. A couple of new bushes and under planting transformed it!



*Photo © 2017 Sheila Wilkinson*

**New planting June 2017**



Working at the different areas remains a pleasure throughout the year. We know ourselves how much our work is appreciated by the comments we get from the public.

Dave Haldane is the projects manager at EBP and his suggestion as how we might provide a stepping stone style path using the rings cut from a felled White Poplar, has added an attractive feature to a site regularly prone to flooding. Work continues on improvements to this area.



*Photo © 2017 Barbara Bond*

### **New path: A work in progress, Spring 2017**

Another addition to the pond this year is the new sign. It has been a constant comment by the judges of South and South East in Bloom over the years that we needed a sign at the car park entrance to the pond. MWHG found the funds to do this and the new sign was installed by Chichester District Council in August.

*Sheila Wilkinson*

## INTRODUCTION TO REBECCA O'DOWD

Hello, I'm Rebecca and I started in the post of Communications and Engagement Officer with the MWHG in September. I am fairly new to the area, having moved here in March with my husband Barry, who is a warden for the RSPB on their Pagham and Medmerry reserves. Previous to that we have both been quite nomadic, balancing work in conservation with our love for travelling and long distance walking.

Most of my conservation-based experience comes from being an RSPB warden in Orkney, where I helped manage their Onziebust and Trumland reserves. Living on a remote island for 5 years was a unique and inspiring experience, particularly the summer season, when being out on the moorlands counting red-throated divers, hen harriers and Arctic skuas was a joy.

Coming to live on the Manhood Peninsula, I have been impressed by just how proud people of their local area, and part of my role is to help tap into that pride and encourage more of them to volunteer with MWHG! The MWHG is doing some fantastic work and I look forward to helping promote this and raise our profile on the Peninsula. In addition, I hope to encourage local businesses to get more involved in our work by offering team 'away days'- ideal when we have lots of practical work to do on a site. There are also some key projects in the pipeline, such as developing a new volunteer welcome pack and leaflet, which will keep me busy over the winter.



*Rebecca and Oscar*

## SAD NEWS ABOUT EARNLEY GRANGE

Unfortunately the Owners' retrospective planning application to keep their delightful Cafe open and hold events at the Grange has been turned down.

How lucky we were to have held our summer barbecue at this beautiful site. Reason given was the number of cars using the entrance which is on a sharp bend and the number of cars parked on site at any one time. It is known that there were some local objections but there are many like us, for example, walking and cycling groups, who will miss the home-made food and beautiful surroundings.

The good news is that the ASHE Group will continue to work there, helping to manage this interesting site, so no doubt informal hot drinks and cake will be consumed at these work parties.

Our commiserations with owners Celia and Richard.

*The Editors*



# Sidlesham Heritage Trail

The exhibition about the Land Settlement Association (LSA) in Sidlesham is still being displayed at the Novium.

An LSA house has been dismantled and is in storage at the Weald and Downland Museum. It will be re-erected once funding becomes available and an exhibition there will ensure that the legacy of the 120 unemployed miners and shipbuilders who came to Sidlesham from the north-east of England and South Wales in the late 1930s will have a permanent home.

There have been several amazing co-incidences during the research of this project - our film was made by the great grandson of an original, one family named their daughter LiSA, after the closure No 39 was named El-Es-EAy and now a house, previously the home of Godfrey Shirt, one of the managers in charge of Central Services on the LSA, including transport. It was LSA lorries which brought some of the first buildings to the Weald and Downland Museum when it first opened in the 1960s. Godfrey then became a founder volunteer steward at the museum and there is a plaque with his name outside Bayleaf House . . . . and now his LSA property will follow him there!

Check out our website for more information. The 'Timeline' has copies of the 1937 archive film about the origins of the LSA as well as our version made in 2015 with interviews of ex-tenants and LSA staff. The 'Stories' section tells the history of all the smallholdings, with names of tenants. Can you fill in any of the gaps/names?

<http://sidleshamheritagetrail.co.uk/trail>

## *Bill Martin*



*Now you see it .....*



*.....Now you don't!*

## SPECIES SURVEYING ON THE MANHOOD PENINSULA

From April to September 2017, together with our dedicated band of volunteers, we surveyed four new sites across the Selsey Peninsula: West Itchenor, Hale Farm, The Wad (West Wittering) and Earnley Grange. No previous data has been collected for these sites, so it is important to collect base line data. This will help us develop a methodology to plan and enhance the habitat management for each site. Five different species surveys were carried out: butterflies, reptiles, bats, birds and flora/fauna.

I also undertook a one day introductory training course in Kent on Dormice handling and Licensing.

Dormice are generally under threat in the UK, due predominantly to habitat loss and disturbance. They prefer a mixed habitat of native trees and shrubs that produce fruits and berries, for example Bramble, Hazel, Buckthorn, Oak, Spindle, Crab Apple, Sweet chestnut, Hawthorn, Rowan, Blackthorn, Rose Hip, Honeysuckle, and Field Maple.

Dormice particularly favour various trees in their coppice cycle. For instance Hazel with three years' growth will produce good pollen and nutrients. Older trees will have a good crop of nuts in the autumn. Bramble bushes generate flowers in the summer, from which Dormice take the pollen. In the autumn berries and fruits are plentiful and they collect food for their young.

Dormice tend to spend most of their time off the ground during the spring and summer, foraging on Hazel pollen and nuts. During the winter months they will hibernate in tree holes and old nesting boxes, building their hibernation nest of oak leaves, grass and moss before the wintry weather comes. The body temperature drops to that of the surroundings and heart and breathing rate are often reduced by 90% or more. This saves energy and allows the dormouse to survive for about six months on its body fat. As the weather warms up, the body temperature begins to rise, and it takes about twenty minutes for it to become fully awake.

Depending on the type of spring Dormice have their litter of four young from May to June and sometimes a second litter in September. They are very susceptible to temperature change and if the night time temperature drops below 5°C, their metabolic rate slows and young may perish from the lack of food. Their lifespan is generally five years in optimum conditions.

*Chris Drake*  
*FLOW Field Officer*



*Photo © 2017 Chris Drake*

*Jersey Tiger Moth West Itchenor*



*Photo © 2017 Chris Drake*

*Speckled Wood West Itchenor*



*Photo © 2017 Chris Drake*

*Brown Argus Cakeham Manor*



## Developing the MWHG Website and Social Media Presence

In the last few months, I have been working to utilize our website and social media pages to better promote the Group and showcase the work we do. Since releasing the social media poll to members in August, I have been guided by this feedback to make improvements and to ensure members are kept up to date of our online activities. Many thanks to those who took the poll.

Some of the major feature changes to the website include our new online membership form, interactive events calendar and a re-vamped homepage using fantastic pictures from our members. Through the new Website & Social Media e-Bulletins, I will make short announcements about any important additions to the website and provide snippets of our popular online content. You can expect to see the members section continue to evolve, and an increase in content from all online platforms.

A Writing Group has been created to co-ordinate our blog content and encourage members and volunteers to write about all aspects of the MWHG. The Writing Group is made up of myself (Nikki), Communications and Engagement Officer Rebecca and Pam and Gina, who are part of the team that make our wonderful MWHG Newsletter, amongst other projects. If you would like to share your writing with our supporters, email us your post with a related photo. Once checked over, we will publish your post on the website. You can find the Writing Group's contact details in the members section of our website.

In the next few months I will be developing the projects section of the website to fully recognize the achievements of our volunteers' efforts. Additionally, I will be providing training sessions for our project leaders and organizers, on effective ways to promote events and volunteering opportunities, with an online audience in mind.

You can support the MWHG by following us on Facebook and Twitter at "mwhgpage".

*Nikki Timney*



## 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

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**MWHG Website**  
[www.mwhg.org.uk](http://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](mailto:facebook@mwhg.org.uk)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at  
“mwhgpage”

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## NEW MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to become a member please either download the form from our website or email [chairmt@mwhg.org.uk](mailto:chairmt@mwhg.org.uk)

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**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

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## 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](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](http://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>

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