

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



Newsletter

Winter 2012
Volume 5 No 4w

OPENING LINES

This year the MWHG celebrated its 15th birthday. In preparing to give a short outline on the group highlights at the MWHG AGM held on 31 October 2012 I mused as to what my personal highlight had been over the last year. For me, it was the smile on Bert Wilkes' face in August, when I called in. He and Veronica Wilkes live in Almodington. We didn't need to say anything. For the previous three years the potential glasshouse development had cast a shadow over their lives as they live right on the road which would have served the proposed glasshouse at Easton Farm. The largest Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) would have made use of the lane. The outcome of the Public Enquiry was reported in the last newsletter.

A second highlight was the achievement that the group became a company limited by guarantee in May 2011 and a registered charity in May 2012. This change of status has led to a change in how we run and administer the group. Following the AGM there is now a group of three *Trustees* – Dr Anthony Preston, Hon Sec; Joe Savill, MWHG former chair who started the group; and myself – who will meet twice a year to oversee the legal and technical responsibilities of the group in line with its new charitable status and a *Management Committee* which will meet monthly to consider issues arising from day-to-day working of the group. These meetings take place courtesy of Ann and Richard Humphrey at St Andrew's Lodge in Selsey. This Management Committee includes representatives of each of the sub-groups, groups such as that working at East Beach Pond or Bracklesham Bay and Publications. There are always ways in which you can help so get in touch if you have time to offer the group. Richard Williamson, wildlife correspondent for the *Chichester Observer*, gave a lively and amusing presentation on *Sussex Wildlife and Walks* at the AGM. He prefaced his talk with fulsome praise for the work of the group stating that it is well known and respected for the great work it does.

A third highlight occurred for me In September, when I visited the world's largest wetland, the Pantanal which is located in the southwest corner of Brazil adjacent to Paraguay. We all associate the Brazil-nut with that part of the world and many nuts will be eaten over Christmas. This is a tall tree which grows scattered across the Amazon rainforest. In order to produce nuts the flower needs pollinating by a certain type of male bee which, in order to attract a female bee has to smell of a certain type of orchid which only grows on that tree. When the large "pot" of nuts drops to the ground the agouti, mammal, scatters them around to help spread the tree out. These trees cannot be grown as our apple trees in stands or orchards. If the land is cleared of rainforest it leads to the loss of this tree for which all these subtle connections play a vital part in its reproduction. That is the thrill of taking an interest in the natural world – no one can know it all and it is these "hidden" links which it is so important to understand.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED IN MWHG AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.

Particular thanks to Maggie Smith, who is moving with husband George to Worcestershire. We are delighted that she doesn't intend to cut all links with the group. She has been a great supporter of the group from the beginning and made a huge contribution.

Jill Sutcliffe



PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Over autumn and winter the natural world rewards every one of our senses with an explosion of colour, texture, sight and sounds. Animals and plants alike put on a final flourish before the cold winter sets in. Now that we are in the midst of winter, many people are in centrally-heated homes, sheltering from the snow, wind, cold, wet and darkness, so please encourage others to support our wildlife over the winter months; with feeders topped up and supplies of fresh water.

An incredible 1.5 million waders spend the winter on the UK's tidal mudflats. That's nearly half of all Europe's population!

We live in an area that is surrounded by internationally important sites for wading birds. Help wildlife at protected sites by being mindful of our impact on them. Disturbance by people and pets in the winter months means that birds burn vital fat reserves when they should be trying to feed, rest and conserve energy. We hope that dog owners would understand the need to be sympathetic towards wildlife.

Help us publicise and encourage people not to disturb wildlife and frighten them away from areas where they may find food, or cause them to use up unnecessary energy in flight - thank you!

I have been busy putting up seasonal signage at Fishbourne on how we can all play a part in protecting the threatened birds and how people can contribute positively when visiting our important harbours. I have had the pleasure of John Dewey (Rural Contractor) joining me on some of my site visits. Working with and learning from John makes me again appreciate the wealth of knowledge and understanding he and other members of the Group bring of how to work to work positively with Mother Nature.

Photo © 2012 Sarah Hughes



Graylingwell area is going from strength to strength, with the Community Garden winning 1st & 2nd place awards in the Autumn Countryside Horticultural Show.

We had over thirty local residents join us for the Bat Walk & Survey, which was part of International Bat Night. It was great to see so many people of different ages and backgrounds ready to explore the night skies, but unfortunately the weather was against us and the continuous downpour dampened our survey. Luckily the moths took shelter in the moth traps, so the next day we were able to identify many different species.

We have had many working parties and events at Graylingwell, from a 'Hallow-e'en party', 'bug snug event' to the 'end-of-year final harvest'.

We have also been very fortunate to work with Paul Barnett (<http://www.paulbarnett-trees.com/>) our fruit-tree specialist, who provided us with a propagation course. Very sadly, the fruit trees, which had been originally grafted were accidentally destroyed. Not to be defeated, we have started the process again, but time is against us (as the site will be cleared for development) so I make an urgent plea, if you have any spare time, please join us with working parties at the old orchard, which is around the community garden at Graylingwell Park (full details on the website/diary of events).



Photo © 2012 Sarah Hughes

Propogation Course

As my role has evolved, I am now working in the Bourne area – looking at producing guided walks, improving eco networks and engaging the community to foster enthusiasm for biodiversity in this species rich area. I have been raising the profile of our project and the issues of recreational disturbance via talks and events across Chichester.

As always there are so many people that support me and the project, so THANK YOU and I would especially like to thank Gina and Felicity for their continued hard work.

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Sarah Hughes

Tree in Paul Barnett's garden which has 250 varieties of apple on one tree



Photo © 2012 Sarah Hughes

THE FIRST WINNER OF THE EILEEN SAVILL AWARD

On 4 October, a rare day of Autumn sunshine in a very wet week, a crowd gathered at Chichester Canal Basin to see the Eileen Savill Award 2012 presented to eighteen-year-old Matthew Totham, from Lavant.



The award was presented by the Leader of Chichester District Council, Cllr Heather Caird. Matthew received a certificate, and a carving of a Water Vole by Peter Warren. Matthew's hobby is canoeing and he also received a personal gift, a monogrammed paddle-bag for his canoe paddle.

Matthew was nominated by Carley Sitwell of the Chichester Canal Trust, who cited his regular attendance and significant contribution to conservation work parties at the Canal. Among the guests at the ceremony were members of his family, who were delighted for Matthew, who has Asperger's Syndrome.

Joe was present to see the first winner of the award set up by the Savill family to commemorate their Mother. Dr Jill Sutcliffe welcomed Cllr Caird and introduced Matthew. Tom Day from Chichester District Council and our very own Sarah, now Community Wildlife Officer, also attended, along with members of the MWHG Steering Group. Following the presentation the Canal Trust treated guests to a boat trip along the canal.

The Runner-Up for the Award, Ben Barnes, who helps out at Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve, received a Highly Commended Certificate and all other nominees had their efforts recognised.

Gina Scott



Photos © 2012 Sarah Hughes

TRANSITION CHICHESTER GREEN FAIR 13 OCTOBER 2012

For the second year running MWHG was invited to have a display at this event, run by Transition Chichester to put on show to the general public the many and varied activities and workshops they run, all with the aim of reducing fossil fuel consumption and supporting community activities. There is also an excellent Café, all produce being organic and home-made.

Sarah and I manned our display, with occasional help from David, who was also involved on the 'Energy' display. The event took place on the first floor of the Assembly Rooms in North Street. Our pitch was alongside the stage, which was soon utilised by the ever-resourceful Sarah, with Water Vole banners, our display boards and a variety of information and leaflets.

We had plenty of children's activities, and the display of skulls, owl pellets and various items of interest to naturalists of all ages drew much comment. As always 'Bertie the Badger' was a favourite, and led to frequent discussions of the recently introduced cull of badgers. I don't recall a single comment in favour of this – but also absent were farmers! There were slightly fewer exhibitors this year, probably due to the clash of dates with the Weald and Downland Autumn Show. However this made it easier for the public to circulate and visit everything. The time flew by, and soon it was time to pack up again. We issued a number of 'Conker Champion' certificates to busy children, distributed several Summer newsletters and met up with the Aunt of the Executive Director of 'Buglife', with whom we had communicated about the Giant Oak Aphids at Almodington. She was very interested, and took away a membership form – so we shall see!

Gina Scott

ASH DIEBACK *Chalara fraxinea*

There is growing concern for the future of the UK's Common Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, as an increasing number of trees are found showing symptoms of the Ash die back disease, caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea*. This fungus has already decimated Common Ash trees in many areas across continental Europe during the past decade.

The present outbreak was initially linked to infected nursery stock imported from the continent. More recently, diseased trees not associated with imported nursery stock were discovered in East Anglia. The symptoms on these trees suggested *C. fraxinea* may have been present on the site for several years.

On 29 October 2012 the government responded by imposing a ban restricting the importation of nursery trees from the continent, although this ban does not extend to imported timber. At present there is no effective method of controlling the condition once it is established.

The disease is spread by fungal spores and the symptoms to look for are suppurating diamond-shaped lesions on the bark of twigs and smaller limbs, leaf curl, and the premature browning of leaves, which would be noticeable in June/July, and in advanced cases, crown dieback, which shows as leafless branches protruding through the upper canopy.

To assist in the recognition of this disease the Forestry Research Centre has published a pictorial guide identifying the symptoms. This can be downloaded at plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

The public are asked to remain vigilant and report trees suspected of showing signs of the disease.



Photo © 2012 Dave Haldane

Dave Haldane



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: MYTHS AND LEGENDS

It is traditional at Christmastime to decorate our homes and doorways with greenery such as Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe and Pine cones and branches. We also make or buy 'Yule Log' cakes. These traditions began long before Christianity arrived, to celebrate the Winter Solstice, or Mean Geimhradh (pronounced Myawn Gevree) of the Celts and the festival of Saturnalia to the Romans. Here are some of them.

Yule Log: a large log of Oak, Ash or Beech, decorated with greenery, was dragged in to the central hearth. It was doused with cider or ale and sprinkled with corn or wheat flour. It would be kindled from the existing (old) fire and allowed to smoulder for 12 days before being ceremoniously extinguished. Some ash would be mixed into the livestock's drinking water; some would be preserved to add to seed for spring sowing and planting. An unburned portion would be attached to the plough to bless the earth. This was all about continuity; light at the darkest time of year, the old linking with the new, light and life will return, crops will be planted and grow.



Mistletoe: one of the prime plants sacred to the Druids, it was used throughout the year as protection from harm; hung above a newborn's crib, a sprig carried when travelling. Because of its unusual life cycle, with mature and immature leaves, green and ripe berries, flowers in bud and open appearing simultaneously, it was seen to symbolise the passage of one season to another, dusk and dawn, the earthly and spiritual existence. The berries ripen in mid-winter, and a sprig was hung near the entrance to symbolise love and peace, and a kiss was exchanged when passing beneath it. Only the berries are poisonous; in herbal medicine the leaves in a tincture or extract are used to reduce hypertension.

Holly: with its sharp, spiny leaves it was considered a plant of protection. It was used to repel unwanted animals and spirits. Bringing it indoors during midwinter symbolised a willingness to allow the 'nature spirits' to share a home at the harshest time of year. With its shiny leaves and red berries it was seen as an antidote to depression. It was bad luck to leave it inside after twelfth night, but a sprig could be fixed above the door outside as a safeguard against evil.

Ivy: this plant was under the influence of the sun, so it was a case of bringing the sun into the darkest part of the year. It also symbolised love, fidelity and friendship, and was woven into wreaths and bracelets. Of course, the flowers and fruits of ivy appear during the winter months, a vital source of food for birds and insects.

Bay Laurel: another herb under the influence of the sun, bringing a touch of summer into the darkest days. It was also a potent protection against illness and curses.

Pine: a tree of peace, thought to banish ill temper and restore harmony. Used as decoration and for burning on the hearth it was seen as a purifier and a source of healing and joy. In herbal medicine it is used as an infusion or tincture to treat coughs and chest infections. Chewing the resin helps to clear blocked sinuses and ease sore throats.

So when you bring out the decorations this Christmas you could think about their ancient meaning; and when you clear them away at twelfth night, you will know why!

Gina Scott

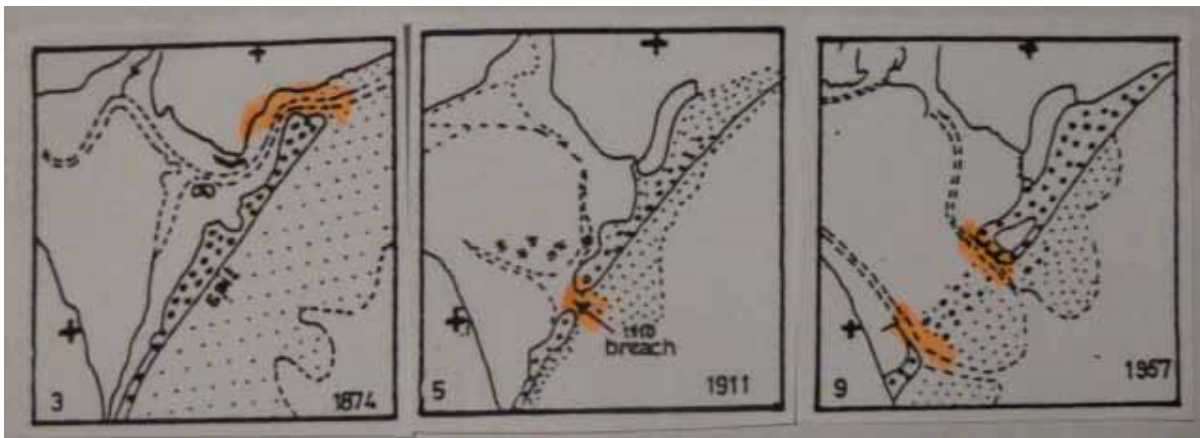


© 2012 Gina Scott

MIND THE GAPS

In August Sarah and I led a walk on Pagham Spit which went around the edge of Pagham Lagoon and explored the mouth of the harbour.

In March 2013 a breach will be made in the shingle bank at Medmerry, west of Selsey as part of the coastal realignment project. This breach will be man-made undertaken by the Environment Agency, but it was the sea itself that breached the shingle bank between Church Norton and Pagham creating several different entrances to the harbour during the past 140 years. The lagoon itself was a former entrance and other breaches have been recorded at various places. There have also been several attempts to reclaim farmland within the harbour - in 1875 a seawall was built across the entrance and again in 1909 walls were constructed within the harbour, but each time a great storm broke through the man-made defences.



Nowadays at low tide Church Norton Spit can be clearly seen extending further towards Pagham. The channel forming the entrance to the harbour, which could be crossed on foot at the very lowest tide only a few years ago, is now too deep to permit such a venture.

It will be interesting to see what changes occur at Medmerry as the shingle bank either side of the initial breach will not be protected.

Dr Bill Martin

References:

The Natural History of Pagham (1975), edited by RW Raynes, Bognor Regis Natural Science Society.

The Harbour Entrances of Poole, Christchurch and Pagham (1955) A.H.W. Robinson, Geography Journal 121, 33-50.

Aerial Photo of Pagham Harbour by Harrier Productions for Arun District Council.



© Harrier Productions/ Arun District Council (August 2011)

WATER VOLE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

We have had a very busy couple of months with lots of water vole surveys across the peninsula. Luckily many volunteers have been out, in somewhat mixed weather sometimes, to help me survey new and old sites. Overall the news is good with water vole signs evident as the weather has been ideal for water voles, less so for people and dormice! We had a great experience at Chichester Golf Course where we surveyed the Bremere Rife. This site had the most beautiful riparian habitat and appears to support a large population of water voles. This will be a super place to carry out follow-up surveys especially as the EA appear to manage the site with great care.

At the beginning of October we also had Rowenna and Pete with us to carry out water vole trapping at Chichester canal. This is always such an exciting event as it is a chance to see water voles up close and to help out in this new research. I always view this as a great team-building event for the water vole patrol



as we carry traps, empty them, get bitten, get wet and have a lot of laughs all together. This time we also had the pleasure (!) of a BBC crew as they are filming a new series about endangered British wildlife and one of the episodes is going to be about water voles. They wanted to meet volunteers and to focus on the conservation projects that are being carried out to save the species. Rowenna kindly described us to the BBC Producer as her 5-star volunteers as we are always so helpful, supportive and fun. She never has to carry anything, wonder if anyone is coming to help or who exactly is going to turn up. She said that we are the best group of volunteers that she has ever worked with, very professional!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have been out with me over the last couple of months, and to the new team members that have put themselves in my care, got a bit muddy and rained on, but have come out again and again regardless!

Jane Reeve

Water Vole peeping out



Photos © 2012 Bill Martin

MEDMERRY RE-ALIGNMENT SCHEME BLOG FROM THE BOG - AN 'INSIDER'S' VIEW

Standing in monsoon conditions, knee-deep in mud, struggling with gale force winds, bombarded by hail stones, at risk of sunstroke and choking on the dust bowls churned up by huge mechanical dinosaur looking vehicles that tossed huge granite blocks like pebbles. This was my first experiences of my new role working as a part-time internship volunteer for the RSPB, helping the appointed professional ecologists in their mitigation work at the Medmerry site. All this in the first few weeks and not even being paid! Working with Guy Benstead, an independent ecologist who was our invaluable mentor, and fellow RSPB volunteer Pippa Hamshaw, our main duties were to observe 'destructive searches' and to set traps for four of the six UK reptiles: the Common lizard (*Lacerta vivipara*), Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) and the Adder (*Vipera berus*) and Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*).

During each day we had to visit a number of dedicated locations situated around the Medmerry site, but primarily near the rifes behind the seafront between Selsey and Bracklesham (due to their imminent danger when the beach is to be breached - planned for Spring 2013). The days were long, sometimes 12-14 hours, as early-morning and late-afternoon visits during ideal basking conditions were required.

Trapping was by hand which reminded me of my childhood days when catching reptiles, but in a less graceful fashion, and must have made for a comical and amusing sight when one was throwing one-self around on the steep uneven rife bank sides. To increase the chances of success, 'felts' were used to encourage basking and sightings of these fast-moving critters and when conditions were too warm they would be even more elusive! Those captured would be identified for taxa, sex (if adult) and age (adult or juvenile) and then transferred to the designated and purposely designed (ie log piles) translocation site near Earnley, where they would be safely released.



Photo © 2012 Pippa Hamshaw

Juvenile Grass Snake captured at Medmerry and (good news) they are very good swimmers!

Other tasks included: checking a number of badger (*Meles meles*) setts around the site for any badger activity, which meant very long treks in heavy size-13 toe-capped mud-caked boots; surveying a pond on a miserable late night for the endangered Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) using torchlight, bottle traps and netting techniques; placing a number of feed stations with a mixture of peanut butter and peanuts to encourage migration); and checking for encouraging signs of potential commuting between the active badger setts and the new artificial setts, so they can relocate when their setts are eventually purposely closed off to allow them to find and use their new homes in plenty of time before the flood waters arrive.



Photo © 2012 Pippa Hamshaw

Grass Snake regurgitating his breakfast. In this case an unfortunate Newt.

For the monitoring of badgers at the site, Video cameras had been previously used by the ecology team to confirm the presence of badgers at the site and they recorded the sighting of two badger cubs in the Spring. However, further important potential evidence was sadly unavailable following the pointless theft of the expensive specialized cameras.

However, it wasn't all just tiring work. Some of my magic moments included hearing and watching the arrival of the cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus*); having my first experience of seeing a regurgitating grass snake; and best of all, seeing in close up (another first), a short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) stalking the reptile-trapping site and obviously making the most of the facilities provided (and probably the real reason why the numbers of reptiles were falling!). Other moments included the early sunny morning walks along the seafront, and deserved visits to the Surf Café in East Wittering for scrummy bacon sandwich and coffee.

The best, as always, was meeting and working with people including the likes of Barry Holt, site



Photo © 2012 Barry Holt

From the right - Author 2nd, Pippa and Guy 4th and 5th in our 'blend in the background' uniform

Projects Manager, who looked after us, Eddie Bradbrook of Jacobs Ecology who always had time for us to explain anything we wanted to know/learn about the project from an ecology point of view and of course Guy who had to put up with our 'amateurish' techniques and incessant questions ('why's that, Guy'), and fellow volunteer Pippa whose help was immensely appreciated, especially to a slow, large 'reptile' trapper!

The Medmerry site as a coastal saline lagoon looks very promising, especially with the number of listed species inhabiting the site and the habitat features that are being designed and provided such as the new rifes and ditches which look superb for water voles. So the future looks very bright not only for the protection of present species and the encouragement of new flora and fauna, but most importantly for the local people and visitors to enjoy for years to come.

How I wish to be back there now.

Adam Johnson

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Pippa (Photo 1, 2, and 4) and Barry (Photo 3) who kindly permitted the use of the photos.

To Sarah Hughes for bringing this opportunity to my attention; Pippa Lewis, Environment Agency; and Adrian Thomas, RSPB who decided, in their wisdom, to give me this fantastic opportunity and experience!

As we see the site today - Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) hunting in the early morning sunshine

Photo © 2012 Pippa Hamshaw



Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



Volunteers' News

ASHE GROUP

A very dull day was considerably brightened by ten young members of the Environment Agency who had accepted Sarah's invitation to join us for the day on 2 October.



We met at Sidlesham recreation ground where the trees were cleared of unwanted vegetation (nettles etc), the path was re-established and litter was picked up. By noon our thoughts turned to food and we all headed to St. Mary's church hall and ate our packed lunches.

Florence Pond was then our next task. Plants growing in and around the pond were identified and recorded and trees were named. Interestingly, most trees carried a tree preservation order dating back many years.

Water voles live on the banks of Florence Pond, but none graced us with their presence. We walked Church Farm Lane identifying trees and even discovered a patch of Japanese Knotweed.

Everyone enjoyed the day, and the Environment Agency members expressed a hope that Sarah will invite them to join us again in the new year.

Gina Scott and Veronica Wilkes



EAST BEACH POND

Another prestigious award for group

This year's South & South East in Bloom Annual Award ceremony was held in the magnificent Ferneham Hall, at Fareham. Sheila Wilkinson and I were representing the East Beach Pond entry. With such a high standard set in previous years by the group, we were delighted to be called forward, once again, to accept a Gold Award. It just goes to show what can be achieved by a handful of dedicated volunteers.

As a 'newcomer' to the area, I am still getting used to the remarkably sunny summer weather enjoyed in Selsey, which is taken for granted by the 'locals'. I can only remember a couple of Tuesdays since the spring this year when the working party gathering had to be called off, due to inclement weather. Mind you, there were a few 'close shaves' (one of which shown here, happened when the working party had just finished for the day.)



Our happy band of (slightly damp) pilgrims

Photos © 2012 Barbara Bond



Taking the cuttings back to the mainland.

The team has been busy recently dealing with some overgrown shrubbery and trees on the island.

With a prevailing wind, the enthusiastic working party will continue to keep this little gem of wildlife in good order. This will ensure that Selsey folk and visitors alike can visit and enjoy the peace and quiet of this area at any time of the year.

David Devereux

THE 'AUTUMN INTERLUDE' BIRDWATCHING WALK

Led by Ray Chiverton, the walk took place at the RSPB Pagham Harbour reserve on Saturday 20 October. The weather was overcast but enjoyable, mild and although there was plenty of evidence of water underfoot, we remained dry! For the first time in many months, the reserve was well populated with birds and the crowd was soon absorbed with the tits and finches feeding on the peanuts as we left the centre and headed to the Ferry Pond hide. The whole area seemed full of robins and dunnocks.

The hide is usually a pleasant viewing point but it is so noisy when the windows are open. A lone buzzard perched on a distant post, and after enjoying the numerous lapwings, wigeon and black headed gulls, punctuated by a single black tailed godwit, we headed for the calmer parts of the reserve. There was evidence of a very high tide with tidal debris washed up onto the edges, but the big surprise was that the remaining puddles were full of tiny fish that had been left behind after the water receded. We continued down past the Ferry Small Pool and the Ferry Long Pool as more wigeon flew overhead. The extensive reed beds no longer held the summer warblers but plenty of reed buntings are in residence, along with mallards and tufted ducks. Oddly, and not for the first time, the pools seemed empty of grebes.



Photo © 2012 Jill Bartlett



Reed Bunting

Photo © 2012 Jill Bartlett

At the end of the path running past the pools there is a small path that took us towards the edge of the tidal mud. Here were the redshanks, grey plovers and curlews although not as numerous as I would have expected. More wigeon were visible with a small posse of moorhens and the odd heron, and very obvious little egrets. However, the eagle-eyed amongst us did spot the two avocets at long range!

A short walk took us around Thrift Shelf and down the West Side. Here, in the past, one has been able to see along the many channels in the salt marsh: but not today. So we turned back and retraced our steps back towards the Ferry Pool. On the way the group gradually split into two groups and as I, with the front group, waited for the others to catch up, I had a split-second view of a bird diving into the reeds. It was clearly a bearded tit (Reedling). However, the view I had was so short that I

had to tell the group that I was absolutely confident that I had seen one. As we discussed this, the second group arrived and apologised for keeping us waiting as they had been watching two bearded tits slightly upstream from us! What a coincidence.....but it proved my sighting was accurate! In the meantime, we also saw a male blackcap and several long-tailed tits.

Continuing towards Yeoman's Field on the other side of the harbour, looking up we saw around twenty swallows. On the harbour side the problem with the visibility of channels in the salt marsh mentioned earlier was much worse. The whole area is overgrown with grass. One of our party reliably informed us that the grass, which is a hybrid British/Japanese fast-growing variety, was first planted in Poole Harbour to consolidate mud, and had spread. Let's hope it can be controlled. We had a short discussion about the identity of the butterfly we saw, with little skipper being the favourite. There was just enough time to see a very fit looking female sparrowhawk glide past before, reluctantly, we ended up back at the centre.

Ray Chiverton



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From the Publications Team

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
St. Andrew's Lodge, Selsey
Selsey Printing and Publishing
Selsey Town Council Office
Tourist Information Centre, South Street, Chichester
Tourist Information Centre, Midhurst

MWHG Website

www.mwhg.org.uk

At the moment, the only section which is regularly being updated is the "Current Programmes" page. New content and updates are regularly required for example on wildlife, heritage, etc.

All contributions welcome.

email: newsletter@mwhg.org

2013 DEADLINES

10 February (Spring)
10 May (Summer)
10 August (Autumn)
10 November (Winter)

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>

EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

Gina Scott
newsletter@mwhg.org.uk
Copy date for next issue 10 February 2013



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



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Editorial and illustration team -
Gina Scott (Editor),
Pam Barnes, Peter Driscoll, Carole Hampton, Peter White*

Registered Charity Number 1147335
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