

# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



## Newsletter

Autumn 2012

Volume 5 No 3w

### OPENING LINES

**We won!!! The Inspector Claire Sherratt who presided over the Public Inquiry held into the proposed development of large glasshouses in which to grow lettuces at Easton Farm, Almodington announced her decision on 10 August.**

She supported the unanimous decision by Chichester District Council to turn down the proposed development as she agreed that it did not fit with development plan policy and would have a detrimental effect on the character of the area. The Inspector further raised concerns about highway safety and thus turned down the Appeal made by the company.

A truly herculean effort was made by CDC, the Almodington Association (TAA), the CPRE Sussex branch and ourselves supported by over 360 local letters objecting to the scheme as well as Parish Councils, Selsey Town Council and our local MP, Rt Hon Andrew Tyrie. CDC and TAA employed lawyers and called expert witnesses which involved vast costs and, to their tremendous credit, TAA raised over £140,000 to enable the local residents to employ a barrister plus call witnesses. The decision did not support the case made by MWHG BUT the outcome will mean that the area's unique wildlife has a much better future provided CDC acts to improve the connectivity between the sites. Heartfelt thanks to all who helped make the case to protect our local wildlife and heritage.

The Open Gardens day EVENT held this year on 17 June featured 15 gardens and led to the largest total raised to date of almost £6,000 as a consequence of a tremendous amount of work undertaken by that indefatigable duo, Ann Humphrey and Margaret Goodman. This year, the fund raising was undertaken in support of three charities – St Wilfrid's Hospice, the Alzheimer's Society and the MWHG. MWHG received a cheque for £1,333+ making a total in excess of £5,000 raised for us over the last three years. Such funding is absolutely crucial for a group of volunteers such as ours and heartfelt thanks go to Ann and Margaret for their tremendously hard work to achieve such outstanding results.

Jane Reeve, the MWHG's part time Water Vole project officer, has decided on a suitable logo for the project which has been drawn by local Birdham-based artist John Davis. That isn't unusual but Jane is getting it put on her car so wherever she goes people will know what she does!

Closer to home I'm delighted to report the successful breeding of a family of spotted flycatchers, now a red-listed bird which has been declining in the UK.

*Jill Sutcliffe*

*A small anecdote from Jill -*

*A friend of mine, Dave Lewis appeared at a PI in Cornwall for the Cornwall County Council environment unit concerning a proposed development on the Hayle Towans (dunes). Barrister: "Mr Lewis, please look at the map and tell us about the line." DL "This line is a footpath but you'll be aware that people spread out on sand dunes." Barrister, "But Mr Lewis, what does the line signify?". DL: "It is a footpath but at the beach in real life people tend to spread out and not use the footpath." After a third effort the Inspector leant forward and said "Mr Lewis, we are not concerned in a PI with real life but with planning!!"*

## HOW THE JET STREAM AFFECTS UK WEATHER

This year both April and June were the wettest in records dating back to 1910 for the UK and parts of this year's summer have been characterised by unsettled weather.

The jet stream, a narrow band of fast moving westerly winds high up in the atmosphere, played a role in bringing this particularly wet weather to our shores.

Weather (or low pressure) systems bearing rain and unsettled conditions move across the Atlantic on a regular basis and the jet stream influences their path.

In summer, we would expect the jet stream to be north of the UK – dragging those weather systems away from our shores to give us relatively settled weather.

At times during April and June it has been much further south, however, in a position we'd normally expect during winter when we are more accustomed to these wet conditions.

It's quite normal for the jet stream to move around, but it has been particularly persistent in holding that southern position at times this year – hence the prolonged unsettled weather.

This could be due to natural variability – which is the random nature of our weather – but climate scientists are conducting ongoing research to see if there are other factors at play.

Changes in sea surface temperatures due to natural cycles may be playing a part, or reducing amounts of Arctic sea-ice could be affecting weather patterns, but more research needs to be done in both areas to understand more.

The good news is there is no evidence to suggest this year's summer tells us anything about what weather to expect for the rest of the year, or even next year.

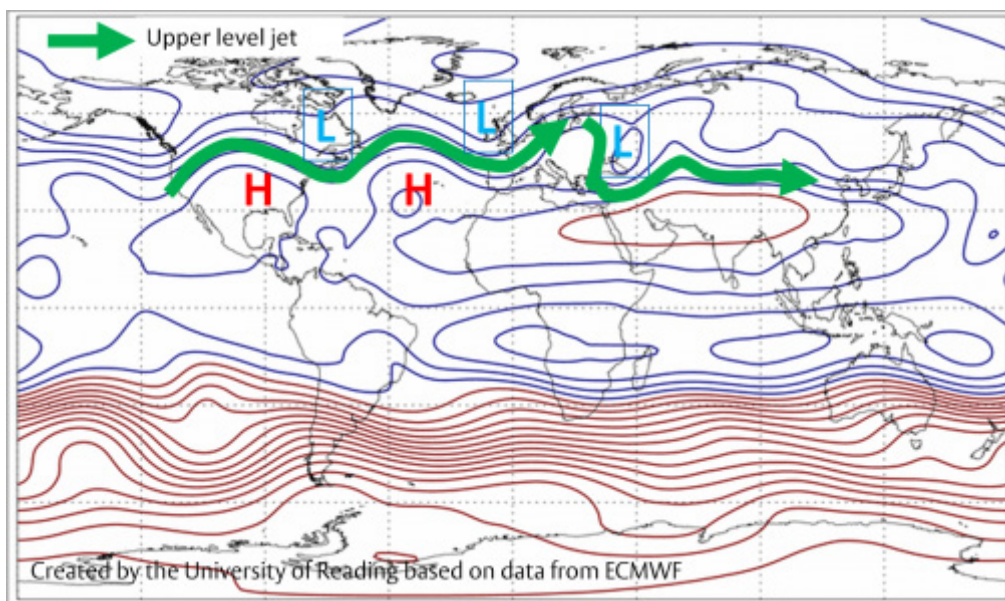


Figure shows upper level wind patterns in early July 2012, with the northern hemisphere jet stream marked with arrows going to the south of the UK.

*Dan Williams*  
*Met Office*

## ALBINO, PARTIAL ALBINO AND LEUCISTIC BIRDS

There have been references to albino birds in the local press and queries arise as to the difference between albinism and leucism. David Howey of the Sussex Ornithological Society explains -

Leucism is an abnormal plumage condition in which normally dark feathers are pale and is most noticeable in birds in which some or all feathers are white. The commonest form of leucism is probably partial albinism resulting in a piebald appearance. In partial albino birds the white feathers are generally symmetrical and the extent of white feathering can increase with age. Partially albino birds retain their normal colouration of the bill, legs and eyes. Birds with entirely white plumage but with normally coloured legs, bill and eye are generally referred to as leucistic.

True albinism is much rarer in birds and when it does occur, not only are all the feathers white but the bill, legs and eye are pink.

Leucism is caused when melanin deposition is interrupted resulting in the failure of pigmentation to reach certain feathers. This may be genetic or may be caused by dietary deficiencies at the nestling stage or through disease. Leucistic, partial albino and true albino birds are more vulnerable to predation as they are robbed of their protective camouflage thus making them stand out in a flock and prime targets for Sparrowhawks. Colours often play an important role in courtship so albino birds are less likely to breed successfully.

Leucism and partial albinism has been recorded in over 160 species of British birds but for some reason appears to be more prevalent in Blackbirds and Starlings.

*David H Howey*

*Photo © 2012 Martin Woolgar*



## PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to work in this incredibly flora and fauna-rich area. Part of my role is to get local people excited about the wealth of biodiversity on their doorstep and encourage them to interact positively with our environment.

### Fishbourne Area

I continue to raise the issues of Recreational Disturbance and we have displays out in the local area. Weekly visits enable me to get to know and understand the importance of this area for local people and the flora and fauna it supports.

### Graylingwell Area

We have been busy researching opportunities of biodiversity in and around Graylingwell. At the Graylingwell Community Garden the team work hard and we hope to use this site to put on the propagation course for the remainder orchard trees. We are now using the site for events, which have included Bat & Moth identification; Bug Inn and working parties.

### Training

In August I was fortunate to attend a 'Reptile Surveying & Handling Course', which was fantastic and increased my knowledge and understanding of these striking creatures.

Reptiles are characterised by their dry, scaly skin that can retain water, allowing them to inhabit some of the driest places on earth. They usually mate on land and depending on the species, either lay eggs (eg grass snake and sand lizard) or give birth to live young (viviparous) that are a miniature version of the adult.

The UK has six terrestrial species of reptile, comprising of three lizard species: common lizard; sand lizard; and slow worm, and three snake species: grass snake; adder; and smooth snake.

Snakes – have no legs but slither on numerous ribs. Their jaws can be dislocated. They are unable to blink, eyes have fixed lens and instead of eyelids, snakes have a transparent scale protecting their eye. This is called the 'ocular' scale. They have a forked tongue, which is long and thin, flicked out regularly. They use their tongue to smell, which is used to sense movement, distance, prey and predators.



Grass snake *Natrix natrix* - Typically green to brown or grey but variable and a yellow and back stripe behind the head. They can grow up to 120cm long and their young hatch from eggs. They eat frogs, lizards and small mammals. They live in grassy places, can swim, climb trees and are quite common. Partially protected.

Adder (Viper) *Vipera berus* - Is a shorter and stockier snake, with a distinctive central zig-zag pattern down the back. They can grow up to 65cm long and give birth to live young. They eat lizards and small mammals and live in many different habitats. They are poisonous, and widespread. Partially protected.

Smooth snake *Caronella austriaca* - Grow up to 60cm long and give birth to live young. They eat lizards and live on sandy heathlands and heaths. They are very rare and have full protection.

Lizards – the tail may be regrown if damaged and toes have sharp claws.

Common lizard *Lacerta vivipara* - Grows up to 13.5 cm (tail = 7cm) and gives birth to live young. They eat invertebrates. Widespread and found on grassland, heathland and gardens. Partially protected.



Sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* - Grows up to 18cm (tail = 9cm) and the young hatch from eggs. They eat invertebrates and live on sand dunes and heathland. Endangered and has full protection.

Slow worm *Anguis fragilis* - Grows up to 50cm long and gives birth to live young. Eats slugs and other small animals. Widespread and found in woodland, meadows, heathlands and gardens. Partially protected.



Reptiles and the law: The sand lizard and smooth snake are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (Section 9) and Regulation 89 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 against killing, injuring, capture, damaging or destroying a breeding or resting site, intentionally obstructing access to a place used for shelter, keeping, transporting or selling. This means that not only are the animals themselves protected but so are their habitats. Common lizard, slow worm, adder and grass snake are all protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 against injuring, killing or selling.

*Sarah Hughes*

## WATER VOLE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

After a spring and summer dominated by the Madestein Public Inquiry it is great to have it out of the way (hurrah we won) and the chance to focus again on wildlife and for me, water voles.

It has been a very mixed year weatherwise and although local farmers have been tearing their hair out and high food prices are forecast, water voles have fared a bit better. The mild winter of last year seems to have resulted in a lower mortality rate and so in the spring there were a large number of water vole sightings across the peninsula. The rains and flooding in June were a cause for concern as many burrows were flooded out and some young water voles may have drowned in their nesting chambers. On the good side, there has been plenty of water in farm ditches through the summer months and so water voles and their youngsters will have had a good chance of migrating and establishing new territories.

I have been teaching in Primary schools again this year and enthusing more children with tales of water voles and their habitats. The feedback has been very positive and I hope that we can build on this year on year and be more visible in all the local schools.

Autumn is looking busy with water vole surveys due. We have a good relationship with some large farms in the centre of the peninsula that will be a good start and then I have a couple of new sites in mind – look out for diary dates on email! We also have Rowena visiting us again in October with more water vole trapping on Chichester Canal so we can see if we re-catch any of the individuals we caught in May.

You will have to keep your eye out soon for the new 'Water Vole Patrol' logo on my car. This cheeky chappy, as well as the MWHG and Heritage Lottery Grant logos, will be sprayed on to my car, with the MWHG website details, to raise the profile of the work we do.



Thanks again for all your support!

*Jane Reeve*

## EIGHT QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIR ON BECOMING A CHARITY

*The Editorial team put the following most-asked questions to Dr Jill Sutcliffe and here are her responses.*

**Q** Why have you attached so much importance to and invested so much time and effort into achieving charitable status? Is it a matter of prestige or are there advantages for MWHG and/or its members?

**A** Charitable status enables us to apply for funds from additional Trusts which require such status. It does also raise our status in line with the role we are now playing.

**Q** Why was this not done earlier? Have we not missed out on benefits over all these years?

**A** We took the decision to apply for charitable status at the AGM in August 2010. The intervening time has passed in discussion with the Charities Commission to ensure MWHG satisfied their criteria.

**Q** What has the process cost us in fees for lawyers and accountants?

**A** It has cost us nothing. There will be an annual fee of £15 for filing accounts.

**Q** Will there be additional administrative requirements as a charity – books, records and reports, or more formalities? Who in MWHG knows about these matters and can we make sure we are in compliance with all the legal rules?

**A** It does require some extras; an Annual Report, which we instigated in 2011 to provide a trial run before it became a necessity. Richard Whittle, an accountant who has tackled a lot of these issues previously, has advised us throughout and has listed the rules we need to follow. David Scott, our Honorary Treasurer, has also had previous experience in dealing with the Charities Commission.

**Q** Will the Trustees face additional penalties or risks beyond those attached to their directorships?

**A** No. We will become a company limited by guarantee and so now any of the Trustees would be liable only to the sum of £10 - UNLESS any one of us ran off with the money, which is highly unlikely, and, with the astute eye of our Hon. Treasure, not possible.

**Q** Is this it? Or are there further changes in the pipeline?

**A** We will aim to put the AGM on an annual basis to tidy up and to put us in sync with the annual accounts. We would also put a suggestion for a small change in governance to separate those with legal positions, ie. Trustees/Directors and establish a group of 3 or 5 Trustees meeting twice a year who will oversee the finances and legal aspects, and a separate Management Committee of 12 which continues to meet monthly to oversee and agree the work of the MWHG. One of the Trustees, Dr Anthony Preston, has experience in working this way.

**Q** Are there any tax advantages now available?

**A** Most of the income and gains received by charities are exempt from Income Tax and Corporation Tax provided that the money is used for charitable purposes only. Also Gift Aid can be claimed back on donations.

**Q** Can we claim Gift Aid retrospectively?

**A** It may be possible to claim the tax back from the date we are recognised as a Charity by HMRC.



## TRUSTEE PROFILE - DR ANTHONY PRESTON

I am, basically, a local boy. Failing the '11 plus' and leaving school without qualifications, I was told by the careers officer that I "*wasn't fit for anything ...*" - words haunting me to this day. Eventually I served an apprenticeship at Chichester Cathedral in interior decoration, heraldry and gold leaf work. On completion the pay wasn't enough to live on. I therefore changed direction and doubled my salary training as a civil engineer. Once qualified, having gained experience, I was approached to apply for a post at Chichester College teaching on a new civil and traffic engineering course.

I spent 27 years at the college undertaking many varied roles. In 1982 the vice principal asked me to establish a new unit for students with special needs; a new venture in FE and a fantastic teaching experience with great students. During this 8-year period I also worked on a two-year European funded project on computer-based learning for pupils with low reading ages.

I retired early due to three open heart surgery procedures in one year. By this time I had gained an Honours degree in education, an MA, followed by a Master of Philosophy degree, all from Southampton University. While on the MPhil I saw a very new, interesting, Master of Science degree in Geographic Information Land Management and Mapping, at Portsmouth, so studied for the MSc following it with a PhD in atmospheric pollution – thank you careers officer!

After my recovery I spent time in Chichester Cathedral library restoring and cataloguing books. In addition I became involved with the hedgerow survey of Selsey. Currently I am the MWHG biodiversity recorder and for the past five years have also been monitoring and recording the biodiversity growth of an undeveloped section of land. I am also converting the weather records of Sir Patrick Moore to a computer based system which when completed will be available on our website.

I am the membership secretary for the British Brick Society and a member of The Sussex Archaeological, and Industrial Archaeological Societies. I love history, geology, photography, art, astronomy and write technical book reviews for professional societies. Before Parliament dissolved it, I was chair of a statutory body inspecting and monitoring St Richard's Hospital, in which I maintain an interest.

***Dr Anthony Preston***



# ARCHAEOLOGY ON THE MANHOOD PENINSULA

## NOTES FROM A TALK GIVEN BY JAMES KENNY, CDC ARCHAEOLOGIST, 27 JUNE 2012, SIDLESHAM CHURCH HALL AND INFORMATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WEBSITE.

### BACKGROUND

The name, the Manhood Peninsula, is thought to have come from the Anglo-Saxon *maene-wudu* meaning 'common wood'. It contains concentrations of archaeological sites and find-spots of the palaeolithic, mesolithic and neolithic periods. Of particular note, the landscape reveals the medieval field patterns which underlie everything we now see. The ones around Selsey were included on the MWHG Millennium Parish poster.

The exiled Northumbrian Bishop Wilfrid was granted most of the Manhood Peninsula, including a former royal residence, by the Saxon king *Æthelwealh* in the late 7th century. The Selsey war memorial contains several Anglo-Saxon cross fragments from Church Norton – considered to have been the site of Wilfrid's monastery and subsequently the Anglo-Saxon cathedral of the diocese of Sussex. The peninsula itself formed a unit of late Anglo-Saxon administration known as a 'Hundred'. The northern boundary was marked by a ditch known as 'Brimsdyke' and the area referred to as the MP falls short of Chichester.

### MEDMERRY COASTAL REALIGNMENT

As the construction works for the Medmerry coastal realignment site have opened up new areas more finds are being made. A bund to hold back the seawater is being made out of the clay being excavated and the area is being monitored by the CDC archaeologist and the University College London archaeology unit. The dig has revealed an area which is probably a Bronze Age settlement belonging to one family. What has been found are the holes which would have held the huts' wooden support poles. The distribution of some roundhouses rather resembles today's spread of small villages across the peninsula. This is the second most important find in the county.

### METHODS USED

The methods have involved geophysical surveys undertaken by the Chichester District Archaeological Society (CDAS) and by commercial organisations, field walking – following the fields being ploughed, metal detecting surveys, evaluation, excavation and watching briefs. This work was split into community and commercially led work. The community has led the geophysics (by CDAS) and the metal detector surveys (Selsey Searchers). The geophysics has shown a range of archaeological activity ranging from very little to intense in the borrow-pits. The metal detectors have found lots of shell casings from the WWII firing range and other findings such as coins and buttons etc. commercial organisations are leading the evaluation work.

There are strip trenches (30x3m) which give a representative sample of an area. If something is found in the stripped area further investigation is undertaken. So far the team have opened up an field of archaeology that is very exciting. It is a wonderful opportunity for archaeology. Archaeology South-East (ASE), from University College London, has been undertaking fieldwork and has discovered some amazing finds.



## **LATER PREHISTORIC (C. 4000BC - 45AD) NEOLITHIC (C. 4000 - 2500 BC)**

The Neolithic represents a revolution in the way in which people lived in Britain with an abandonment of the previous hunter/gatherer way of life for one linked to domestic animals and farming. In Sussex we have some of the earliest British Neolithic monuments (such as the Flint Mines at Cissbury Ring, Findon and Causewayed Enclosures at the Trundle, near Chichester) but we lack information relating to Neolithic people's daily lives and the impact they had on their environment. Any evidence relating to this period is therefore extremely rare. So far at Medmerry, several small assemblages of Early Neolithic pottery have been recovered from archaeological features. This has already doubled the number of known features of this date from non-monumental sites on the Sussex Coastal Plain and is an important development in understanding the nature of the Sussex Neolithic.

**BRONZE AGE (2500-750 BC)** The Bronze Age marks the, "first golden or international age", with ideas, trade, goods and technology travelling across Europe, including monuments such as Stonehenge and an increasing pressure on the most valued and productive land. Funerary practices altered through the period with later Bronze Age burials becoming more associated with the working landscape of the living rather than within barrow monuments on more marginal land. Environmental change is suspected to have significantly affected communities during this period and a greater risk of flooding may have precipitated an abandonment of the Sussex Coastal Plain at the end of the period.

Numerous features from this period have so far been uncovered at Medmerry including: three large and two small circular houses/structures, enclosures and field systems, water management features, 'burnt' mounds and a cremation cemetery. It would appear that a large area of Bronze Age landscape has been preserved at Medmerry under alluvial and storm beach deposits and the site has the potential to preserve wooden structures, such as a section of wattle work recorded at the base of a Bronze Age well, which has been dated to c. 1,100 BC. Other features were dated by finds of Bronze Age pottery, some of which were decorated.

## **IRON AGE (750 BC TO AD 43) AND ROMAN (AD 43-410)**

The Iron Age and early Roman remains uncovered to date are notable for their absence, with only one ditch containing a single shard of Iron Age pottery. This may suggest that the lower lying areas of the site were regularly flooded during this period making them unsuitable for settlement and other uses which would leave an archaeological signature. The area could still have been used as pasture with settlement in these periods most likely lying to the north on higher ground. A large amount of mid-Roman high-status pottery, a cremation with ancillary vessels and a large millstone suggest that there may have been a high-status settlement near to the site during the later Roman period.

## **MEDIEVAL (AD 1066-1485)**

Several features including substantial ditches and wells suggest a differing pattern of settlement during the medieval period around Easton and Ham farms. One of the wells was chalk lined and a timber ring template in very good condition was recovered from the base. The quality of construction suggests that the well was for domestic use but historic maps dating back to the mid 18th century do not show settlement in this area.

## **POST-MEDIEVAL (POST-1485)**

A series of enclosure and drainage ditches have been recorded across the site, most of which appear to confirm the presence of features recorded in the Yeake and Gardner map of the mid 18th century.

**WWII** The site contains several important WWII components, including, a series of defences put in place to defend the south coast from German invasion, as evidenced on site by a series of pill boxes. Prior to the D-day landings the site was also developed as an air-to-ground gunnery range, training pilots ahead of military action in Europe. The gunnery range continued in use into the cold war period and some of the first jet fighters were tested on the site.

## ERRATICS

Three erratics or large boulders have been found at Medmerry which would have been carried here by floating drift ice or icebergs at the onset of an Ice Age, possibly around 200,000 years ago. They were stranded at a time of higher sea levels when the climate was deteriorating but could have been moved during coastal erosion or changing sea levels. Those found so far are different rock types, which is quite common. They are an important find because they represent tangible evidence of climatic changes and our geological past. There is a lot to still understand about these boulders, which is why it is so important to preserve them and understand the context in which they are found.



*Erratic outside the visitors' centre at Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve*

*Photos © 2012 Gina Scott*

**FUTURE PLANS** discussed at the MStAG group in February include preservation of the roundhouse *in situ*. The team are taking as much away as possible so that they can reconstruct the area in pictures. Once the fieldwork is complete, the archaeological project will produce academic and popular publications and the archive of artefacts and data will be submitted to Chichester Museum. While the site is producing important archaeological data there is little to see and no items of any monetary value have been uncovered. All the excavations are taking place within the construction area of the scheme and are in potentially dangerous locations and there is NO public access.

### **Keep in touch**

You can follow progress at Medmerry by signing up for our free e-newsletter – just email [medmerry@environmentagency.co.uk](mailto:medmerry@environmentagency.co.uk), and say that you would like to receive it. The newsletter will also give you information about events and walks as they are arranged.

For more information please visit the project website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/medmerry](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/medmerry) or e-mail the project team at the address given about.



## ALDER SAWFLY

In early June I was walking along a section of the Chichester canal that runs between the Crosbie Bridge Donnington and Cutfield Bridge/A286 when my attention was drawn to a large insect that in appearance resembled a hornet. It was clinging to a reed close to the water's edge and I managed to take a couple of photos. The winged insect was about 2.5 cm in length (see photo) and a species I didn't recognise.

Later at home I waded through several reference books but was unable to match anything with my photo. I thought at first it might be the very elusive New Forest Cicada but as it happened my guess was way out. Nothing ventured, nothing gained, so I sent my observation and thoughts on the subject to the experts at Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre. They were really helpful and I received a fairly quick reply. I was told that the insect was a quite rare species of Sawfly, the Large Alder Sawfly *Cimbex connatus*. Although in the past this species was common in the southern counties of the UK, it dropped off the radar around 1904 and for almost a century there were no reported sightings. It was not until 1997, when a single specimen of the Large Alder Sawfly was recorded in Wiltshire, that this elusive insect was again added to the UK list.

In recent years there has been an increase in reports and photographic evidence which suggest the Large Alder Sawfly is making a comeback, although it is early days and its status remains as scarce. I have been unable to find any reference to previous sightings on the Manhood Peninsula so it is definitely a species to watch out for. Despite its rarity *C. connatus* and the similar and equally rare Willow Sawfly *C. luteus* receive no special protection as they are recognised as horticultural pests.

The larva of both the above-mentioned species are active between July and September feeding on their preferred food plant. Images of the larva can be found at [www.radleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.radleyvillage.org.uk)

*Dave Haldane*

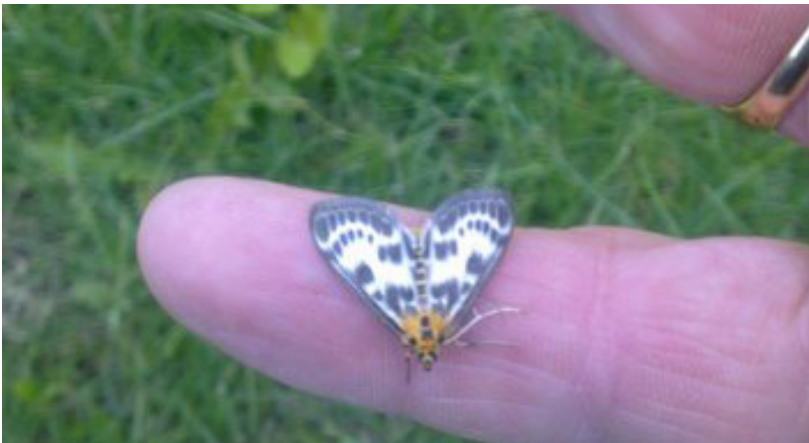
# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



## Volunteers' News

### BRACKLESHAM BAY

The working party has met less frequently over the summer to avoid disturbance of the wildlife. However, the news from the ditch is good. During the June visit a water vole was spotted while the group were having their lunch. There had been some concern that the very heavy rain at this time may have been detrimental to them. There was also good evidence of water vole feeding and of moorhens breeding - a chick was seen.



Other species of note were a small magpie moth (*Eurrhynx hortulata*)

and a longhorn beetle (*Strangalia maculata*).

It is very good news that the wildlife is surviving well in the ditch, as the park and Bracklesham Barn which are adjacent to the ditch are in constant use. The group will continue to meet monthly to protect the habitat for the water voles.

*Alison Livesey*



*Photos © 2012 Trevor Gibson-Poole*

## ASHE GROUP

During the summer months we carried out bat and moth surveys at various venues in Almodington, Sidlesham, Highleigh and Earnley. Weather conditions have not always been helpful, and it has been a poor year for bats. However the highlight was when we visited Colin and Chris Field's lovely home in Sidlesham, where Common Pipistrelles have a roost in the cottage eaves; we watched 51 bats leaving it to hunt for food on 10 August. All records go to the Sussex Biodiversity Database.



*Colin and Chris Field's Wildlife Pond*

*Photo © 2012 Veronica Wilkes*

Autumn/Winter work parties commenced with a visit to Sidlesham Recreation Ground on 25 August. A party of ten litter-picked and identified tree species in the wooded area. The wood chip path laid last year will need clearing and restoring. Morgan's Pond flooded to road level during the record rainfall in June. The fallen tree logs placed to form seats and a table were washed away and will require retrieving. Hopefully the Water Voles escaped to neighbouring ditches. Winter work will include positioning planted coir rolls to enhance Water Vole habitat.

We have received a shed for a tool store (donated by Gina and David). It will be situated by kind permission of Campbell Thorpe on his land adjacent to Morgan's Pond.

*Veronica Wilkes and Gina Scott*

**It is 12 years since the group produced the Parish Map of Selsey sales of which have helped to fund the activities of the group. Given the expansion of the group to work across the Manhood Peninsula a new poster has been produced featuring the wildlife found here and designed to assist with the need for ongoing fund raising (£5 each + p+p).**

## EAST BEACH POND

East Beach Pond held another successful Open Day on 24 July. The day dawned hot and sunny, one of the first of the Summer, and we were delighted that so many children and families came to enjoy our activities in spite of the call of the beach not far away!



Photo © 2012 Barbara Bond

### MAKING BIRD FEEDERS ON OPEN DAY

The exceptionally wet weather earlier in the year meant grass and nettles in particular just didn't stop growing. It was a constant battle to keep the young hedge along the west side from being choked by weeds and to try to stop the whole area looking too overgrown and neglected. We couldn't have done too bad a job as the Pond once again gained the Green Flag Award, recognizing it as a valuable, well maintained and attractive community asset. We will have the results of the South and South East in Bloom Awards in September, so there may be a Stop Press somewhere announcing those!

Six of the nine cygnets hatched at the end of April have survived and are almost fully grown now. One disappeared without trace (possibly victim of a fox), one had a bad leg which couldn't be repaired so had to be put down and the third was taken to Brent Lodge with apparent gastric problems and didn't survive the night there. Initially, ducklings seemed to do better than in previous years, but we are not sure if many survived to maturity.

The wildflowers on the peninsula are spreading and we have continued to add plants as they become available. We hope by next year that all the bare earth will be covered.

*Sheila Wilkinson*

**STOP PRESS - SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM AWARDS**

**East Beach Pond and Manor Green Park have both won GOLD medals again.**

## SELSEY GARDENS OPEN DAY

### FANTASTIC FUND RAISING

Despite June 2012 being the wettest month since records began, on Sunday 17 June, a perfect summer's day arrived for Selsey Gardens Open Day.

Over 600 visitors enjoyed taking the garden trail around the town and coastline to view the fifteen private gardens on display. Every garden owner was delighted to be able to share their love of gardening with enthusiastic visitors, who came from as far afield as Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Kent and Yorkshire.

The event raised £5,786.36 shared between St Wilfrid's Hospice, Alzheimer's Society (West Sussex) and the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group.

Huge thanks to all the garden owners who kindly opened their gardens for the day; the many local businesses who generously donated gifts for the Prize Draw and ingredients for the ploughman's lunches and everybody else who helped make the day such a resounding success.

If you would like to open your garden for charity in 2013, call Margaret Goodman 01243 605276.

*Margaret Goodman and Ann Humphrey*



*Photo © 2012 Jerry Goodman*

Cheque presented by Margaret Goodman (and on behalf of Ann Humphrey)  
Left to right - Anita Avery (Alzheimer's Society), Jill Dennison (St Wilfrid's Hospice),  
Jill Sutcliffe (MWHG), Margaret Goodman

## 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. Andrews Lodge, Selsey  
Selsey Printing and Publishing  
Selsey Town Council Office  
Tourist Information Centre, South Street, Chichester  
Tourist Information Centre, Midhurst



## 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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## MWHG Website

[www.mwhg.org.uk](http://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](mailto:newsletter@mwhg.org)

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## 2012/13 DEADLINES

10 November (Winter)

10 February (Spring)

10 May (Summer)

10 August (Autumn)

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## EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

Gina Scott

[newsletter@mwhg.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mwhg.org.uk)

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## The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



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Editorial and illustration team -

Gina Scott (co-Editor), Christine Hardy (co-editor),

Pam Barnes, Peter Driscoll, Carole Hampton, Peter White