

# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



## Newsletter

*Spring 2012  
Volume 5 No 1w*

### OPENING LINES

The earliest part of the year was mild, and some of the autumn colours lingered on; there was even an orchid recorded out in December. Today there's a thin layer of snow on the ground, more is forecast as the snowdrops and crocuses have appeared in flower. The snowdrop has a hard head to enable it to push up through ice or snow.

This year the group celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and has been able to achieve some fantastic results for wildlife and heritage on the Manhood Peninsula:

- An opening meeting was held to start the Selsey Parish Mapping Group;
- Baseline map of key habitat for Selsey was created. This has enabled the group to identify areas important for wildlife in the Parish and to make constructive comments on any planning application
- Poster made of the Parish for the millennium and for sale;
- The first UK Parish BAP plan was produced;
- Been used as a role model for local groups working on biodiversity for the local District Council;
- Built up to a membership of 150 volunteers working in 16 subgroups to include habitat restoration, and surveys;
- Raised funds to pay a part time worker. Sarah Hughes, has been a great asset for the group, and has subsequently been employed on a full time basis;
- Won various awards starting with the best green apple conservation project in 2006. The Queen's Award for voluntary service followed in 2010. Green Pennants and top gold for South East Britain in Bloom have been regularly achieved;
- Joined up with other parishes to work across the peninsula to become the MWHG;
- Produced an excellent range of leaflets using the words and artwork of the local community;
- Contributed all our records to the Sussex Biodiversity Local Records Centre;
- Worked with Chichester District Council on their recreational disturbance project;
- Staged regular events including exhibitions, BeachWatch, Open Farm Sunday, guided walks for Pagham Harbour and the Selsey Festival, and talks on local heritage;
- Raised £30,000 during 2010-2011 to fund a variety of projects supporting the subgroups working to enhance local ponds, hedges, ditches;
- Been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to work on water voles for 3 years from 2012-2015. The services of Jane Reeve, Water Vole Project Officer have been retained on a sessional basis;
- Worked in partnership with all those with an interest in the future of the Manhood peninsula and played a key role in discussions e.g. those on developing the Medmerry coastal realignment scheme;
- Contributed thousands of hours of voluntary work to safeguard the wildlife and heritage of our local environment.

Thank you everyone. Cheers and here's to the next 15 years!

*Jill Sutcliffe  
Chair*



## PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

It has been a cold start to the year, but regardless of the weather conditions working parties continue with the aim of improving the habitat and connectivity of sites. I am looking forward to joining some of the working parties and helping.

I have been busy working on material for displays, talks and presentations on 'recreational disturbance' and the 'impacts on wildlife'.

I attended a course on '*disturbance to birds on coast and estuaries*'. Over the last ten years as people have increased their love of the outdoors, our green spaces are getting smaller and our wildlife decimated. We all need to be aware of our impact on wildlife as we have a responsibility to safeguard it for future generations.

Human disturbance can change bird behaviour in accessible areas such as intertidal sand and mudflats. Disturbance to waterfowl in estuaries and near shore areas includes:-

- movements by people, dogs and horses;
- helicopters and light aircraft;
- water sports e.g. windsurfing, kite surfing, sand yachting and boating.

Chichester Harbour is one of our internationally protected wildlife areas. Each autumn and winter many thousands of waders and geese come from the Arctic and northern Europe to roost and feed here.

Research has shown that dogs and people disturb feeding and roosting birds, even accidentally. This happens much more frequently when dogs are off lead and running freely on the foreshore.



**Birds at Fishbourne**

*Photo © 2010 Sarah Hughes*

To minimise disturbance caused by dogs, Chichester District Council has introduced a **Dog Control Order** (by direction) in the Fishbourne area. This order means that if your dog(s) appears to be behaving in a way likely to cause disturbance to birds, you may be asked to clip your dog back onto its lead. If you refuse, it could result in a fine.

We are asking people to consider the following points when visiting areas: -

- keep to the designated footpaths when walking in the sensitive areas;
- keep your dog close to you and under control or on a lead;
- help by spreading the word about the importance of this area and how we can all play a part in protecting threatened birds;
- always pick up after your dog.

Birds view people and their dogs as potential predators. Repeated disturbance of the wading birds reduces their feeding time and increases the amount of energy they use as they fly away to avoid us. Regular disturbance can limit their ability to complete their long migration journeys.

If your dog is off the lead and out of sight, it may be causing disturbance to wildlife, which can cause a decrease in bird populations. We all have a responsibility to protect birds at this site and we are asking dog owners to help us by keeping their dogs under control.

Our harbours are managed for the benefit of both people and wildlife. By acting responsibly during your visit and encouraging other visitors to do the same, you can help local wildlife thrive for future generations to enjoy. To find out more visit [www.chichester.gov.uk/protectingtheharbour](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/protectingtheharbour)

I continue to work closely with groups involved at the Graylingwell Park, putting on events to enthuse people about our wildlife and arranging walks and site visits.

We raised the profile of the group by taking displays to the 'Chichester District Annual Parish Meeting', the Sussex Wildlife Trust 'Water and Wetland Conference' and the 'Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre' (SxBRC) seminar. This last event was fantastic, as always. It gives me great karma to know that there are many people out there looking after/monitoring and improving biodiversity for future generations

It can sometimes appear that we are up against it, but working together and moving forward we can improve habitats for the benefit of all and enable wildlife to flourish.

*Sarah Hughes*

## GREEN TOURISM SPROUTING ON THE MANHOOD

Sometimes it takes a stranger to point out what you fail to recognise or appreciate.

Ten years ago residents of the Manhood Peninsula asked Dutch planners to look at their low-lying, vulnerable peninsula and find a sustainable way forward for their economy and community. The Dutch saw the wood from the trees immediately. The peninsula is a unique stretch of coast and hinterland in the south east. It offers visitors freedom, peace, scarce coastal habitat and wildlife. There are wide open views across flat agricultural fields, and a benign topography for walking and cycling. Green tourism is the obvious route forward to ensure a sustainable future, they advised.

A lot has happened here since 2001 that the Dutch would approve. New cycleways such as the Salterns Way and the Bill Way are encouraging residents and visitors onto their bikes, providing a wonderful holiday experience for old and young alike.

Management of Pagham Harbour has been transferred to the RSPB who has big plans for the area as a key birdwatching destination. The Environment Agency is constructing the largest open coast managed realignment in the country at Medmerry, creating new wetland habitat. This will include pathways, cycleways and bridleways linking the east and west of the peninsula, providing recreational routes for both tourists and locals.



*Photo © 2010 Carole Hampton*

Local tourist operators, working closely with Visit Chichester and Chichester University's tourism department, have produced a Destination Management Plan promoting green tourism. This document can be found on [www.peninsulapartnership.org.uk](http://www.peninsulapartnership.org.uk), the website of the Manhood Peninsula Partnership. The MPP, a partnership of community and agency representatives, has also produced a draft Integrated Coastal Zone Management plan, one of the first such plans in the country which put green tourism at the heart of the peninsula's future.

*Carolyn Cobbold*

# REPORT ON THE WATER VOLE PROJECT BY JANE REEVE

## INTRODUCTION

The Big Lottery Community Wildlife Fund of £10k grant was announced in December 2010 and awarded on 8 March 2011 to the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG) to undertake a range of activities relating to drawing up an Action Plan for the native population of water voles which live in rifes and ditches on the peninsula.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

Work programme March 2011-January 2012	
Month	Activity
March	Press release; Press coverage of Big Lottery Community wildlife fund award. Advertised, short listed, interviewed and appointment of PT Project Officer, Jane Reeve
April	Jane starts work – reviews <i>previous</i> work done by MWHG. Obtain publications and information published on Water Voles. Liaison with EA and RSPB in Worthing EA HQ prior to Medmerry realignment; and with all wildlife groups working on the MP who are doing work with water voles (Chi Volunteers; CHC, CNHS; PHLNR; NT; SWT; WSCC)
May	Training course, Contact with volunteers; Survey of Chichester Canal; WVPO attends MWHG Trustee meeting. Education: wrote lesson plans and presentations to fit in with National Curriculum Key Stages KS 1 + 2.
June	Education: Contact made with local schools; Contact with Parish Councils across MP. Obtained use of water vole photographs with permission from professional photographer Terry Whittaker. Mobile displays designed with input from Dr Anthony Preston, MWHG Hon Sec.
July	Training workshop with volunteers, planning surveying work for the autumn. Work with schools; Water vole poster competition. Talk given to Earnley Parish Council
August	Promotion: MWHG Annual exhibition <i>Wild About the Manhood Peninsula</i> held at the Selsey Centre. Featuring work on water voles and 2 mobile displays used; poster competition. Leaflet drawn up and designed about the project
September	Training course; Surveys, Surveying of sites across MP and identification of those needing to be improved and enhanced by use of coir rolls. Education, lessons in schools.
October	Surveys; Measurement of ditches per Parish. Preparation of report for Southend Farm. Mapping – via downloadable programme in order to swap data with other groups working on the MP.
November	Collating and preparation of data for mapping by QGIS Submission of survey data to Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre; Illustrations drawn up by local artist working in the field for inclusion in the Action Plan.
December	Production of leaflet; drawing up of management plan. Talk given to North Mundham Parish Council, further mapping work undertaken, contact with SWT about mapping data. Social event to feed back survey results to the volunteers and to discuss plans for 2012.
January	Attendance at <i>Wetlands Conference</i> at University of Brighton to promote the work taking displays, leaflet, copies of the Action Plan

## WATER VOLE SURVEYING RESULTS 2011

Water Vole surveys were carried out by a very committed team of volunteers, who had undertaken two training workshops, in September, October and November 2011. The sites that were chosen for surveying were selected, in part, for:

historical record of water vole signs being found in previous years, their suitability as water vole habitat, their location as a possible linking site which would help the mammal move across the Peninsula in light of climate change and/or the realignment at Medmerry to the west of Selsey and the presence of water. Of the sites surveyed, over 80% showed evidence of the presence of water voles. The ones lacking evidence of any signs had shown positive signs on the last occasion they had been surveyed and often there was a clear reason why evidence was lacking this time eg, dried out ditch.

## CONCLUSIONS

The job is far from finished but what the grant has enabled the MWHG to do is to produce an Action Plan to guide its work until 2020, identify and enthuse a core group of volunteers to work on water vole conservation; test out interest in local schools which is considerable; promote the plight of the water vole to local communities on the Manhood Peninsula and to work with all those with an interest in the conservation of this Endangered mammal.

Outputs include: Water Vole leaflet; Presentation for local community and lessons for school pupils; Teaching aids for workshop surveyors; advice for volunteers; Action Plan for future work

Outcomes include: A core of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers committed to surveying for water voles; a positive plan by which the MWHG can carry out the necessary work for the future; a platform for raising the profile of the importance of a healthy environment; continue to raise the profile of the species; MWHG as a respected organisation to be involved in plans and discussions.

## THE FUTURE

With the success of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid the 2011–2010 Action Plan recommendations can be implemented:

The continued employment of a Water Vole Project Officer.

Mink control.

Create a water vole forum for the Manhood Peninsula of all interested parties.

To create a coherent forward plan of water vole surveying and ditch assessment.

Increase the number of sites surveyed for water voles.

Identify and carry out habitat improvement work with practical conservation.

Research and develop a set of ditch assessment criteria.

Initiate and implement a condition assessment of rife and ditch riparian habitats within parish boundaries on the Manhood Peninsula, with a view to creating Parish Habitat Action Plans for each one.

Work with the Environment Agency and the RSPB to assess the impact of the re-alignment work at the Medmerry site on the water vole population.

To actively increase the profile of the water in schools, where fits in with curriculum area.



*Photo © 2008 Terry Whitaker*

## FORWARD PLAN TIMESCALES:

2012	Recruit more volunteers, run training courses and work on list of local landowners; Draw up draft Vision for future of the MP via workshops; Draw up Ditch Condition assessment form. Identify gaps in coverage; Survey 1 Parish fully and report results to Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre.
2013	Consolidate production and trialling of educational resources and begin MP wide waterways survey.
2014	Pursue Vision for MP using water voles to promote the repair and enhancement of the environment.
2015	Establish a lead water vole volunteer attached to each Parish.

## OUR GARDEN BIRDS - TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED?

The mild start to the year has meant that territorial behaviour and nest building is in full swing; today I watched a female Blackbird, a pair of Long-Tailed tits and a Song Thrush collecting nest material - not bad for a very urban garden! The recommendation from the 'Experts' used to be not to feed during the nesting season because the wrong food could choke nestlings. However our birds still need help through, for instance, periods of drought, when food is scarce and difficult to access. So here are the current recommendations as a reminder:

### **Winter (December-February):**

high energy foods, peanuts, fat balls (in a metal feeder, not net, as birds' feet can get caught up in them with tragic results), cooked rice. Any bread should be in very fine crumbs. Goldfinches love black niger seeds.

**Spring (March-May):** if the weather is cold continue with high energy foods but avoid loose peanuts or chunky foods. Add dried mealworms (live ones if you can store them). Soak the dried ones to reconstitute them. As the birds begin to find more natural food make sure to clear away unwanted food promptly to avoid disease.

**Summer (June-August):** high-protein foods, especially as birds start to moult; sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, mealworms, waxworms, mixes for insectivorous birds. Soft apples, pears cut up, bananas, soaked raisins and currants are a welcome addition especially during dry spells. Continue to avoid chunky food, and watch fat balls as they can go rancid in hot weather.

### **Autumn (September-November):**

hopefully your garden will contain some fruit and berry bearing shrubs and trees such as Rowan, Hawthorn and blackberries. Manage them so that you don't trim them back too early. Leave seed heads on flowering plants as long as possible. Jacket Potato skins and left-over rice are useful. As days shorten and it turns colder begin to stock up feeders regularly again.

**Remember:** always provide fresh, clean water; keep feeders clean by washing in mild soapy water; it is worth paying a little more for 'no mess' products as anything falling from the feeders or bird table will be edible and quickly demolished by species that prefer to feed on the ground.

*Gina Scott*

*Drawing © Eileen Savill*



# TRUSTEE PROFILE

## JOHN HISCOCK

Life began at an early age on a dark and windy Wednesday night in 1945, if I recall correctly. I decided to make an early appearance at two months premature. There were lots of inherent medical problems for both Mother and Son which gave rise in later life for Mum to indicate to those present whenever displeasure was felt, to state 'two months of his brains missing you know'. We lived in Hilldrop Crescent in Holloway. Our claim to fame is that Dr Crippen had lived there too!

At about fourteen you were expected to make a decision whether to become an Oily or an Inky that i.e. Engineering or Commerce. Technical Drawing and Engineering based subjects were followed and I was able to convince the Post Office Engineering Dept that an apprentice would be appropriate. So I did my time as they say. I spent a long time on secondment with the Post Office Engineering Union holding various Assistant Secretary posts, Communications (editing the magazine), Organisation, Legal and Safety matters and was also a Conference delegate.

A spell in local politics proved not for me but it did enable me to sit as a school governor at the primary school I had attended which aroused interest. I joined a voluntary community group and spent thirteen years as the secretary. We negotiated a lease on a building (think Selsey Centre) with the City of London Corporation. We built a bar, obtained a Drinks Licence and covered all activities for young and old alike. We had a great team and I represented them twice at the Lord Mayor's Dinner at the Guildhall for voluntary service.

Most of my working life was spent at the BT Tower as a Technical Officer. However with the advent of new technology (System X) we were sent to darkest Staffordshire for sixteen weeks and then let loose in Central London to apply our new found expertise. A long spell of working shifts and being on call followed. We had been told that the new technology only needed 'one man and a dog'. We assumed the man would be the engineer but it was pointed out by the accountants that the purpose of the man was to take the dog for a walk! So I took a walk and was able to take a brown envelope full of cash, a good pension and rode off into the sunset aged 54. Life is not always a bitch!

We decided to sell up and moved to Selsey. I enjoyed sailing and had a dinghy. I sailed at Itchenor and also crewed on an Oysterman on regular passages from Dartmouth to Cornwall, as well as to the Gaffers festival at Yarmouth. The skipper indicated that it wasn't my sailing prowess but my ability to get him back from boozy functions that was useful!

A keen interest in walking took me to the Lakes, Highlands, Skye, Alps and Polish Tatras. For those who doubt that I once was built for speed and not the current endurance profile - I have the photos!

*John Hiscock*

### **Amusing small anecdote from my time with BT -**

The night the IRA planted the bomb was interesting....My mate had an old rusty car which he patched up with filler over the years, when the bomb went off big lumps of concrete hit the roof and it ended up looking somewhat like a colander, we fell about laughing he cried, and to cap it all on the way home someone jumped a red light and smashed into the drivers door, the subsequent insurers assessors report was hilarious ...act of god...with an Irish accent and a plonker who didn't realise that red meant stop.



# Extraordinary General Meeting Reminder

**Notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Manhood Wildlife and Heritage  
on Wednesday 11 April 2012  
from 6.30pm to 7.15pm  
at Selsey Town Hall (large hall), Selsey, West Sussex.**

The Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group (MWHG) has, for some time, been working towards becoming a registered charity. This is a two part process, first to become a company limited by guarantee, and then to gain charitable status for the company through the Charity Commission.

We have now reached a stage in our application to the Charity Commission where we need to hold an extraordinary general meeting to vote on resolutions to change the wording of our organisation's 'Objects' so that they are more clearly defined as having charitable purposes, and also to approve the updated Memorandum and Articles of Association as our governing document.

It is very important that members have an opportunity to vote on the resolutions. This can either be done by attending the meeting or by proxy as explained in the email sent out to Members on 20 March 2012.

The official EGM will run from 6.30pm, and we hope to conclude by 7.15pm. It will include a summary of the status of our application to become a charity and voting on the two Resolutions.

The address of the venue is:  
Selsey Town Hall (large hall), 55 High Street, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 0RB

If you have any queries please email [mwhgEGM@hotmail.com](mailto:mwhgEGM@hotmail.com)

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## CORRESPONDENCE

Jill Sutcliffe writes:-

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sussex Wildlife Recorders' Seminar I met up with Tony Hutson who handed me a lovely booklet about the wildlife of Plumpton, an initiative inspired by MWHG and he subsequently sent me an email.

*To put it into context I should say that originally I was keen to do a biodiversity action plan (I was heavily involved in such things at various levels for one group of animals - bats!) - as your original Selsey group had done. Others here were not so keen but the SWT was at the time encouraging local parish Phase 1 surveys and handling the data. So that's what we did - and again used the Selsey map as an example to encourage local participation.*

*I was also particularly struck by the odd bits of habitat that the people of Selsey found important, whereas I would have expected them to find them an eyesore (such as some of the scrub along the east beach between life boat and the amenity area).*

*All this was before we set up the Plumpton Wildlife & Habitat Group but the production of the draft map and the results of a general village action plan was incentive for that and the group is now in its third year. Again I got a copy of your constitution as one of the examples we used to model ours. So, my presenting our booklet to your group was sort of by way of a thank you for help with getting us started!*



# Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



## Volunteers' News

### ASHE GROUP

We have continued to work at the two pond sites in Almodington, and started work at a new venue, the Sidlesham Recreation Ground.

It is good to see Hayden's Pond full of water again. We held a successful pond dip there - successful because although the pond was dry for most of the summer, and winter is the least propitious time to search for pond life, we were able to record several invertebrates - were they dormant in the mud or did they arrive via the ditch?

A pond dip at Morgan's Pond was even more successful; it is deeper, and has retained water throughout the year. Here we found Hydra, a creature that is particular about water quality. Shortly we will be putting up nest boxes in the bordering trees here.

At Sidlesham we have cleared rubbish, created a woodland path winding through the trees beside the Childrens' Play Area, tidied hedges and planted a selection of spring bulbs. We will be continuing this work, and an orchard is planned.

*Veronica Wilkes and Gina Scott*



### BRACKLESHAM PARK

The Working Party has met on two days a month throughout the winter. The fence which was repaired before Christmas is still in very good condition. Rubbish was removed from the main ditch although this was better than it had been previously. Some of the overhanging branches were removed to allow light in to the ditch to encourage lower plants to grow. A number of branches had been blown down in the high winds, so these were removed. Brambles were removed from the main bank. No water voles were seen, however there was some evidence of recent feeding.

Most of the work concentrates on the ditch which forms the south border of the park, but on this occasion some work was also done on the ditch to the south east as this had become quite neglected. It is hoped that with time more people will become aware of the importance of the ditch and will do their best to keep it free of rubbish

*Alison Livesey*

## CRABLANDS MEADOW

The Group has continued its coppicing programme to provide willow for the fishermen's lobster pots.

Maintenance of the meadow continues in order to encourage higher numbers of the Southern Marsh Orchid in May and June. We hope the number counted last June, which was up on the previous year, can be exceeded.

A protected area has been created in the centre of the meadow in the form of a tunnel to encourage smaller birds.

Up to twenty snipes at a time have been seen flying over the meadow as well as regular visits from the resident Heron.

*Jane and John Reeve*

## EAST BEACH POND



Through the winter weeks the storm damaged trees have received attention and log piles have been created from some of the spoil to create habitats for “mini beasts”. The control of the Alexanders has also continued and new nest boxes have been made for installation around the pond.

Work is ongoing on the peninsula to remove the reed roots and level the area. We are currently reviewing the planting of green manure red clover and lupins to improve the nitrogen content of the soil.

The resident swans that had been absent for a couple of months, are now back. Initially two adults and seven surviving cygnets returned but within a day the number of young were reduced to five. As there were no reports of fatalities it is believed that their parting was a natural severance from the family group. Before the spring the other young adults will also be given their marching orders, although occasionally a young female (pen) may remain and be tolerated.

Mallard numbers remain in the region of sixty birds at a ratio of approximately five males to one female.

*Barbara Bond*

## SELSEY COMMON

### The Common

Volunteers from the EBPG assist once a month with maintenance work at Selsey Common.

The most recent project was to create a path through a section of the common that previously consisted of extensive and impenetrable bramble. Once established the path will allow volunteers to reach and manage a wider area. This will improve bird survey work and in the event of a further invasion of the Brown Tail Moth, such as the one experienced in 2011, enable volunteers to physically remove the web tents containing caterpillars and reduce the need for chemical control.

*Barbara Bond*

# PAGHAM HARBOUR UPDATE

The Avocet has landed .....

The management of Pagham Harbour transferred from West Sussex County Council to the RSPB on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.

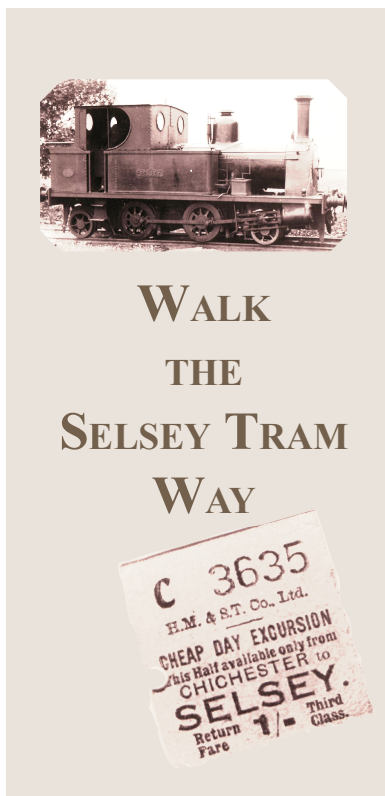


Several Friends of Pagham Harbour act as stewards at the Visitor Centre, join work parties on The Reserve, carry out surveys or assist with open days and other events. Although these volunteer roles will now be co-ordinated by the RSPB, The Friends of Pagham Harbour, some of whom are also members of MWHG, will continue to perform important monitoring and fund raising roles linked to the emerging development plans for the future management of The Nature Reserve as well as the Medmerry scheme which will also be managed by the RSPB.

*Bill Martin*  
*Friends of Pagham Harbour Membership Secretary & MWHG Committee member.*

## PUBLICATIONS

### THE SELSEY TRAM WAY



Now that the clocks have changed and Spring is on its way, the thought of going for a walk becomes more inviting. A good local option is to retrace, as close as is possible these days, the route of the ‘Hundred of Manhood and Selsey Tramway’ which used to run between Selsey and Chichester.

On a bright morning a couple of months ago the two of us set off from East Beach to do just that. We took with us the MWHG walk leaflet which details the route starting from Chichester but reversed the directions as we went along.

The walk covers a variety of environments including beach, open farmland, salt marsh, golf course, quiet lanes, churchyard and finally the Chichester Canal.

At every turn opportunities abound to see the varied wildlife of the Peninsula. You might even be very lucky and spot a water vole! This time a grey heron posed on the bank of the canal long enough for us to take several photos.

We walked the whole route which is eleven miles. This took us about five hours which included a sandwich lunch stop in peaceful Sidlesham Churchyard. However, for anyone who doesn't want to walk the whole route in one go, it can be split down into shorter sections as detailed in the leaflet. Each section ends near a bus stop for return to either Chichester or Selsey.

We have now done this walk several times and each time notice different things such as visible evidence of the old tram line. In particular Chalder Station platform and the foundations of a lift bridge over the canal at Hunston.

At the end of a perfect walk we wandered into Chichester for well-earned tea and cake before cheating and returning by bus!

*(The walk leaflet can be purchased at the outlets detailed at the end of this newsletter.)*

Happy Rambling!

*Carole Hampton and Pam Barnes*

## **SWALK**

(Sidlesham Walk & Lunch Klub)

January's SWALK was our biggest yet – 27 managed to cram into The Bell at Birdham having come across the fields from Sidlesham spotting Land Settlement Association properties en route.



### **SWALK needs you . . . . .**

The MWHG Group are producing a booklet of SWALKs and we need volunteers to walk the routes and check out the accuracy of the descriptions before publication. If you can help email me at [SWALK@mwhg.org.uk](mailto:SWALK@mwhg.org.uk)

*Bill Martin*

## A TASTE OF HONEY

**NIGEL CANNING WILL TALK ABOUT KEEPING BEES  
A CHANCE TO TASTE SOME LOCAL PRODUCE  
DEMONSTRATION HIVE**

**THURSDAY APRIL 5TH 2012  
7.30.PM AT SIDLESHAM CHURCH HALL  
£2 ON THE DOOR WHICH INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS**

## PLEASE SUPPORT - JUBILEE PICNIC

**East Beach Pond Group, on behalf of Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group, has been asked to contribute to the Parish Picnic to be held at East Beach, Selsey on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June from 3pm to 5.30pm.**

**If we are to do justice to the MWHG, we will need extra support.**

**Please let Sheila (email: [sheila@pbwilkinson.plus.com](mailto:sheila@pbwilkinson.plus.com)) know if you are able to help as soon as possible. Your response will enable us to let Selsey Town Council know what we can offer in the way of activities for publicity purposes.**

## SELSEY GARDENS OPEN DAY

We are “over the moon” to have 14 gardens opening this year, including Sir Patrick Moore CBE, FRS world famous observatory garden.

The star-studded trail meanders through the town visiting cottage, courtyard and organic vegetable gardens; continuing towards the sea via the stargazer’s garden before reaching fully exposed coastal gardens running down to the beach enjoying spectacular sea views across The Solent.

Do come along to enjoy and support this event which has become very much part of Selsey’s Summer Season!

**Open Day, Sunday 17th June 2012, 11am-5pm: entry Adults £5 (under 12s free)**  
Ploughman’s lunches, tea and cakes on sale during the day.

**Admission Programme and Prize Draw tickets on sale from 5th May at:  
RSPB Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve; St Andrews Lodge; Selsey Town News;  
The Selsey Florist and participating gardens on the day.**

**Ann Humphrey and Margaret Goodman      Selsey Garden Open Day Organisers**

## EAST BEACH POND OPEN DAY 2012

**TUESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 11AM-3PM (SETTING UP FROM 8.30AM!)**

If you can spare any time that day, please come along and support the Pond Group. We will need help with Willow Weaving, Pond dipping, Crafts, etc. as well as general information spreading and helper co-ordination.

**Help is desperately needed to make this a successful day for both East Beach Pond and the Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group as a whole. The event has proved a very popular and enjoyable day for two years now and we do not want to lose the positive interaction with the local community which has been developed.**

Please let Sheila (email: [sheila@pbwilkinson.plus.com](mailto:sheila@pbwilkinson.plus.com)) know of any help you are able to offer.

## WALKS LEAFLETS OUTLETS

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

Chichester District Council, Selsey Office  
Hunston Post Office (Tramway Walks only)  
RSPB Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve  
St. Andrews Lodge, Selsey  
Selsey Arts and Crafts, High Street, Selsey  
Selsey Printing and Publishing  
Selsey Town Council Office  
Tourist Information Centre, South Street Chichester  
Tourist Information Centre, Midhurst

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We would like to remind Members that membership of the Group should be renewed every year.

To continue to be a Member please complete and return the Membership Renewal form before the end of April.

If we do not receive a renewal form from you before then we will assume you no longer wish to be a member of the group.

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### MARGARET'S GARDEN AT LAST YEAR'S OPEN GARDEN EVENT

*Photo © 2011 Margaret Goodman*



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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)

## 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)  
Wildcare Shop for products relating to ecology, Park management or conservation. - <http://www.wildcareshop.com>

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### 2012/13 DEADLINES

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

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Copy date for next issue May 10th 2012



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