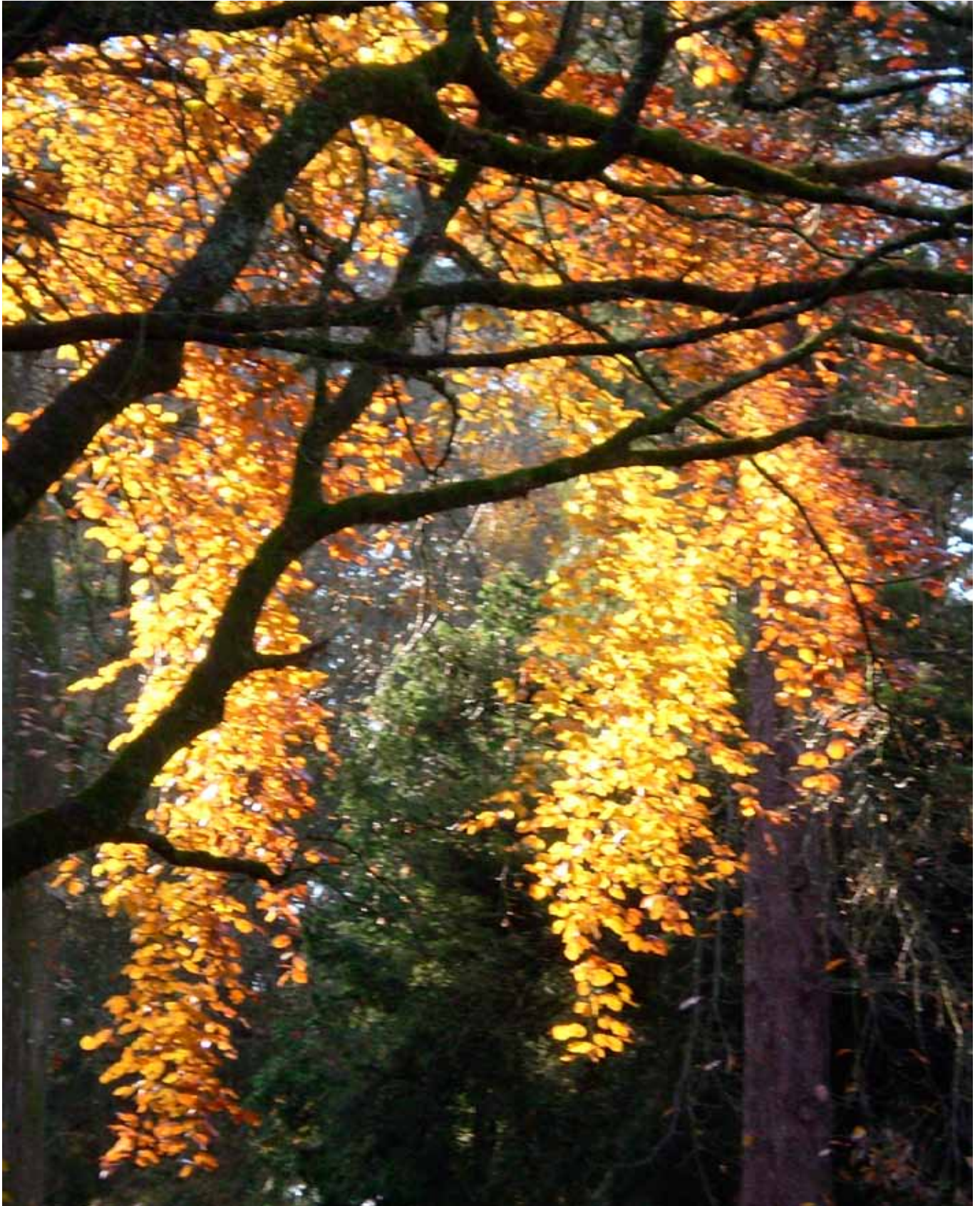


Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group



Newsletter

Autumn 2014
Volume 7 No 3



MANAGEMENT MATTERS

Since Dr Jill Sutcliffe stepped down as Chair earlier in the year, your Management Team [MT] has been exploring ways to take the group forward. Jill devoted a considerable amount of time, energy and enthusiasm to the role, underpinned by a wealth of knowledge and experience – a hard act to follow! No individual member of the team felt able to fulfil this role in the same way. Hence, it was decided that the Management Team, as a team, should lead the group, as opposed to a single person as Chair.

I have agreed to co-ordinate and chair the MT meetings and Bill Martin will continue to do the same for the Team Leader meetings. Implementing the Action Plan, drawn up to guide the group's work, is the focus for MT meetings and Team Leader meetings provide an opportunity for the MT to share ideas and actions from this plan and gather feedback, and for Team Leaders to share ideas, achievements and problems generally. Jill continues to lead on major fundraising, at present, and is, primarily, seeking to retain Jane Reeve, as Water Vole Project Officer, and Tony Burnand, as Wetlands Community Education Project Officer. She also continues to manage these very successful projects.

A sub-group of the MT meets monthly with Chichester District Council to manage the Recreational Disturbance Mitigation Project, which Sarah leads on, and this sub-group has direct responsibility for delivering this on the Manhood Peninsula.

Finally, the group, as a charity and company, has three trustees: Gina Scott, Dr Anthony Preston and me, who oversee the activities of the group as a whole.

I hope this has clarified our management structure to some degree. If you do have any questions, ideas or concerns, do feel free to contact me, via the details below, or Anthony, our secretary, via the website. As always, thank you for all your hard work and support.

Joe Savill



Important:

**MWHG AGM will take place on
Wednesday 8th October at Selsey Town Hall;
followed by an illustrated update on Water Vole work
by
Water Vole Officer Jane Reeve
and
PhD Student Rowena who has been working with her**

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Over the summer holidays we have had many events at both Tuppenny Barn and Graylingwell/Roussillon Park, encouraging people to embrace and cherish the incredible wildlife that is on our doorstep. Events ranged from moth trapping (as part of 'National Moth Week'), to wildlife activities (as part of the 'National Play Day event').

Michael Blencowe ran a 'Butterflies of Sussex Identification Course', which was excellent and stimulating. We also attended the Tuppenny Barn Open Day, showing the wealth of wildlife locally, wildlife quizzes/paintings and of course the collection of skulls, pellets and other interesting finds.

I also helped with Tuppenny Barn's Crowdfunding project by doing the voice-over to their film. It is a revolutionary grand design that is rich in environmental content and contains a blueprint for the way future generations can enjoy healthy and sustainable lifestyles. If successful, the Crowdfunding project will open the doors of the Tuppenny Barn Education Centre to local schools, community groups and the public. It will offer a diverse programme of events and courses designed to stimulate interest in the production of healthy, nutritious food and the promotion of environmentally-friendly practices. Well worth a visit.



Privet Hawk Moth at Tuppenny Barn

Photo © 2014 Sarah Hughes



Water Scorpion at Peter Pond

Photo © 2014 Sarah Hughes

In addition to this, we have been very lucky to work with David Gattrell, who manages Peter Pond, which is on the east side of Emsworth and the most westerly pond in Chichester District. Pond dipping is so exciting and we found a water scorpion *Nepa cinerea*. This fascinating creature is an underwater predator, which hides among dead leaves and waits to ambush its prey (including tadpoles and small fish) with its grabbing pincers. It is not a true scorpion and is a poor swimmer, preferring to move by walking. Mating takes place in spring and the females lay their eggs at night among algae or plants just below the surface of the water. The larvae hatch and progress to adulthood through a series of moults known as an 'incomplete metamorphosis'.

We attended the 'Big Launch' event to celebrate the opening of the new Community Hall at Roussillon Park and we attended the 'Graylingwell Garden Party'. Special thanks go to Chris Cole (for his awesome fossil collection), Brent Lodge, and the Pet Pantry.

I have been raising the profile of Recreation Disturbance issues, working with PDSA on the wellbeing checks for dogs. I am also involved with the 'Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project - task-and-finish group on dog initiatives', which is an exciting project which we hope will have a positive impact on the Solent Area.

The Selsey Festival guided walk was well attended and provided us with the opportunity to continue partnership working with the RSPB. Special thanks go to Pam, Carole, Rob, Dave & Ann, for their knowledge, humour and support.

Working together, locally and bridging the generation gap, we all have the ability to make a difference. Thanks to all the groups, organisations and people who support the work we do.

Sarah Hughes

WATER VOLE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

We have had a very busy summer and an equally busy autumn is planned too.

The early summer is a key time to carry out water vole surveys and we tried to focus on the areas just outside the Medmerry site where ditches and rifes travel onto the site. Water vole signs were patchy after a very wet winter and it has taken a while for them to spread out. The autumn surveys will be very informative.

Many MWHG volunteers helped us to put together pond-dipping and informative displays at the Open Farm Sunday event on 8 June at Chalder Farm. It was an extremely hot day and very busy with lots of interested children and families. We had plenty of takers for the dipping as the shade of the trees by the pond provided the coolest spot. We found lots of water daphnia, blood worms and leeches, and Tony brought along tadpoles and sticklebacks from his home pond. It was great to see the enthusiasm and interest of the children first hand as they tried to find as many different creatures as possible. Caroline Spiby of Chalder Farm thought that it was the busiest year yet and we were run off our feet! I still owe my team an ice cream as we didn't ever get anywhere near the farm!



Photo © 2014 Jane Reeve



Photo © 2014 Jane Reeve

The Water Vole Patrol were involved with a work party in Church Farm Lane, Sidlesham, clearing an area of overgrown ditch that has formed a bottleneck within a network that carries water to Pagham Harbour. The work included a substation owned by SSE so a group of their chaps and equipment were persuaded to come and clear their land. They didn't do anything by halves and vans kept arriving with more and more men and two JCBs on trailers. We had a fantastic day and achieved a great deal. Veronica was on refreshments so everyone left happy. We also carried out a pond dip of Florence Pond and greeted two new potential young members.

This autumn we will have a water vole trapping session at the new Medmerry realignment site with Rowenna Baker of Brighton University. This will be the last trapping session for the foreseeable future as Rowenna comes to the end of her PhD. There may be continuous monitoring of the water vole population on site but this may just take the form of surveys. After the success of last year there will be Trust for Conservation Volunteers to keep occupied in October carrying out water vole habitat improvement work at different sites across the peninsula. Last year we managed to achieve an enormous amount and I am hoping that with the help of lots of MWHG volunteers this year as support we will do more.

Thank you for all your help, support and humour!

Jane Reeve

ANTHONY BURNAND - A Brief History

My first home was in Chichester, a Victorian terrace house with a small back yard. I was a timid little chap and school was a nightmare. Playtimes were spent with me standing in a corner of the playground between two drain pipes. Nobody took any notice. Walking down roads it appeared to my mum that I was scared of tall buildings, particularly the Cathedral. When my mum went to the post office, I would cling to her like a limpet.



At seven years old I moved to the family bungalow in East Wittering. The large garden seemed to be teeming with wildlife, and I saw my first lizard in an upturned broken umbrella. When I was eight years old my mum was struggling to get me to pose for a picture playing football with my older brother when she realised I had Agoraphobia. This was to affect the rest of my life.

Around that time, I began bird watching, collecting eggs, collecting butterflies, catching newts, and breeding peacock butterflies. But my favourite amphibian - "Rana temporaria," the common frog - eluded me. My dad stopped the car at almost every ditch and pond where he remembered having seen tadpoles while growing up in Chichester. One holiday, while camping in Cornwall, I discovered frogs everywhere. They were moving in the long grass and in the pond nearby. I brought three adult frogs home in a bucket, and from that day on frogs have been seen all over East Wittering, including my garden.

We had a grassy ditch in the front garden and there and in the surrounding fields were short-tailed voles, lizards and slow worms, but one by one the fields were built on. It was always my brother and I that cleared the grassy ditch each summer, with a hook and a sickle, and helped dad cut the hedges. I moved out of East Wittering when I was twenty four, and after a few years a house was being built on an allotment opposite our old bungalow. My dad didn't really understand nature in the same way that I did, and he asked the contractors to put the spoil from the foundations into the ditch, and fill it up.

Ironically, my first job was as an apprentice electrician for Chichester Cathedral, and I walked the triforium, clear-stories, roof-spaces and battlements of this iconic 900-year-old building of worship. I became an Electrical Engineer and later went into teaching at Chichester College. In 2010, while I was working at Northbrook College, cutbacks were making the job very uncomfortable. Northbrook made me an offer that I couldn't refuse, and I left. This was to be a life-changing moment. I decided to join the WWT at Arundel, the Earnley Garden Centre, the RSPB, and more importantly the RSPB Chichester local group. The area manager of the RSPB gave a presentation, where he talked about the society buying swathes of land, rich in biodiversity, for conservation management. I posed the question to him about back gardens rich in biodiversity, which met with little response, and I ended up contacting Chichester Council, who put me on to Sarah Hughes about the council flagging up these conservation areas, prior to development. I did not know about SxBRC recording until that time - 13 June 2012.

Having linked up with Jane and the Water Vole Patrol, I wanted a career change to RSPB warden, and so in September 2012 enrolled on the Countryside Management course at the Brinsbury Campus. The course work was very hard but rewarding and, at that time, I had no idea that my voluntary work would become part of my assignment work. I completed the course the following spring (May 2013). I took a short-term contract (1 month) at Eastleigh College in September of 2013, an exceptionally fine college with top-quality professional friendly staff. Unfortunately, cutbacks and room allocation had gone awry. The 80-mile round trip, together with a lack of resources, forced me to take the decision not to stay. My contract kept being extended, and although I would have been given a permanent job, my heart was on wildlife, and I applied for the Wetlands Community and Education officer in November 2013, and left Eastleigh at the end of term, 20 December 2013.

Tony Burnand

RICHARD WILLIAMSON PARTICIPATES IN A WORLD WAR I COMMEMORATION

On Sunday 3 August 2014 the Selsey Tree Wardens were delighted that Richard Williamson could give us his time to dedicate an English Oak at Manor Green Park, Selsey in commemoration of the commencement of the First World War on 4 August 1914. The dedication was timed as close as possible to 100 years after that first devastating event.

Just over 40 members of the public turned out near the Sensory Garden in the award-winning park on a hot August day (in fact, a day similar to that August day of 100 years earlier). The mature corps of the Selsey Girl Guides were in attendance with their bright red-and-white-coloured neckerchiefs and Selsey Town Council was represented by its Clerk, Gill Jennings and the Council Chair, Mike Beal.

Those present heard extracts from Richard's father, Henry Williamson's accounts of three periods suffered in the trenches of the infamous front line. One of those able to articulate the conditions on the western front, Henry survived the war and produced eight books relating to his experiences (details can be found on the Henry Williamson web site). The young Henry joined up at 18½, but we tend to forget how young some of those soldiers were who gave their lives. A Joint Community Project between Selsey U3A, The Selsey Society and others has produced a booklet relating to the 57 men of Selsey who gave their lives during the First World War. The youngest was 16, then came two 17-year-olds, one 18, eight aged 19, and 23 in their early 20's (see The Selsey 57 web site).

Living at times in a metre of trench water, and crawling through mud and water to get into those front-line trenches, Henry took part in the renowned football match between British and German soldiers which was played in the hundred metres of No Man's Land on Christmas Day. He kicked the actual ball used in that historic game. The ball still exists and is kept in the Imperial War Museum.

After a short talk, Richard unveiled a commemorative plaque which was donated and engraved by Shaun Lee-Hobson, Undertakers in the High Street. The inscription runs:

**THEY ANSWERED THE CALL
ALL THEY HAD THEY GAVE
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM
1914-1918**

Richard having placed soil around the tree, those present were then invited to participate in the placing of the remaining soil. Selsey Town Council is going to sow poppy seeds around the base to provide a red floral display each year.

During the planting eight large Southern Hawker dragonflies flew around the English Oak during the whole period of dedication ceremony leaving only when the event ended.

Refreshments were provided by Seal WI in the conference room of the Selsey Centre. This was appropriate as the first English Woman's Institute was founded 100 years ago at Singleton (the first in the UK was established in Wales).

Dr Anthony Preston



ROB STRACHAN

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Rob Strachan in May of this year. He was one of the foremost scientists involved from an early stage with Water Voles. He worked with the Vincent Wildlife Trust from 1989 on their first surveys and then from 1995-2005 with CRU at Oxford University.

It was Rob who worked here on the Peninsula on the coastal plain visiting and working with local farmers to produce the guide for farmers in 2002. During the Public Inquiry into the proposed glasshouses at Almodington in 2012, Jane Reeve and I had need to seek his opinion on the mitigation methods for water voles being proposed by the developer. In Rob's opinion none of these had been trialled or assessed independently. With no hesitation, despite being incredibly busy, he kindly directed us to some useful publications and later on provided references for applications for funding to essentially continue the work he had begun here. He was an excellent naturalist, always helpful, modest and an inspiration to many. Fortunately, Jane attended one of his courses and was able to pass on some bottles as a thank you for his assistance. We had hoped that he would be one of the people invited to attend the opening by the Environment Agency of the Medmerry site in November 2013 so we could have demonstrated that his initial work was in safe hands but he did not have time to fit in such a visit.



After a spell with the Environment Agency he was working as a professional ecologist with Natural Resources Wales at the time of his death (NRW formerly the Countryside Council for Wales, CCW) with specialist duties for Priority Biodiversity Action Plan mammals (otters, water voles, bats). He was the co-author of Water Vole Conservation Handbook (now in its third edition) and consultant trainer for specialist mammal survey techniques (The Mammal Society, CIEEM and Aberystwyth University).

What a loss to natural history and to water vole conservation.

Jill Sutcliffe
Jane Reeve

ASHE GROUP

The lovely summer evenings have made our bat surveys a real pleasure this year. Two new roosts have been discovered, and in the new graveyard at Sidlesham church we picked up common pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelles, Daubenton's bats, noctules and brown long-eared bats. In general, the bat population is doing very well over the Manhood peninsula.

The moth surveys have produced a very mixed bag of results. There has been a dearth of hawk moths, although Jane's lovely wild garden came up with three of these which was very exciting. The trap has this year contained more minute moths than ever before. Loud groans could be heard coming from the group as yet another 60 or 70 tiny moths appeared in the observation pots. But a survey is a survey and many long hours are spent in naming these tiny little creatures. Of course, tea, coffee and a certain amount of chocolate-coated goods are close to hand at all times.

We are now looking forward to our autumn and winter programme to continue looking after all the ponds etc.

Gina and Veronica



Photo © 2014 Veronica Wilkes

The chrysalis of a Red Admiral butterfly on a nettle leaf in Sidlesham

CRABLANDS MEADOW

As many readers will know, a couple of years ago several roe deer took up residence in the habitat that we constructed from previous clean-ups and coppicing of willow. How they arrived and where from can only be open to speculation. It may not be unreasonable to suggest movement due to the Medmerry realignment.

A problem arose when we tried to do the annual Southern Marsh Orchid count. I took advice from others and concluded that a cancellation of the count was in the best interests of the deer. Prior to this, lo and behold, Mum was seen with two babies trailing. However, just to complicate matters they seemed to disappear after a while. I have several neighbours on 'Deer Watch' and from time to time we compare notes to see if they have vacated or not. A period of time went by without sightings. Suddenly, in August my exceedingly better half saw Mum with three young and then a fox chasing them back into the relative safety of the enclosure.

So bearing all this in mind and the fact that the visiting TCV volunteers are due to do coppicing work on Sunday 5 October, I would like to suggest the following:

1. Prior to the date above I would like with others to supervise a chainsaw cut to be done by a person hired for a day.
2. On the Sunday in question we can then devote our time to using these cuts and clearing the site.

I will consult with others to see if they concur but if you have any comments or are aware of a chainsaw/man for hire please contact me.

I have been asked several times by neighbours about thinning out so this exercise should go down well in the community.

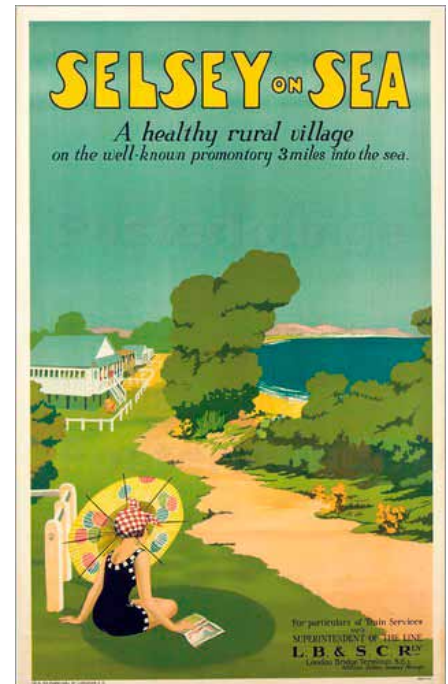
John Hiscock

HERITAGE

Two heritage trails are currently being researched. In May as part of the Selsey Festival of Walks 26 people strolled around the East Beach area of Selsey spotting railway carriages - soon to be the subject of another MWHG publication. The photo shows Selsey on Sea as depicted on a London, Brighton and South Coast Railway poster.

Research is also underway for another trail in Sidlesham based on the Land Settlement Association. Contacts have been established with relatives of 13 of the original unemployed miners and shipbuilders who arrived in the 1930s, as well as with over 50 tenants, ex-tenants and LSA staff. Two films (1937 and 1976) have now been seen by over 200 people and further 'screenings' are planned in Birdham, Selsey and Chichester.

Bill Martin



MEDMERRY WALK

On Thursday 9 August the MWHG organised its annual walk as part of the Selsey Festival celebrations. For the second year running the walk commenced at the Windmill, West Sands and travelled west along the shoreline to the Medmerry Managed Re-alignment. Twenty eight people attended the walk which was led by Sarah, with the assistance of several volunteers from the MWHG. We were fortunate in having Rob Carver of the RSPB accompany us and he provided an in-depth commentary on the site's development, proposed management and wildlife interest.

Photo © 2014 Carole Hampton



The previous year's walk had been disappointing as we were unable to access the site and had to rely on maps and diagrams to explain what was being created. This year we were amazed at the transformation and impressed with the viewing point set on top of a gently sloping mound offering a panoramic view over the wetlands. Although a low tide had reduced the water level, it did however allow us to see the contours of the shallow pools, tidal lagoon and rifes, as well as the emergent vegetation that would form a valuable salt marsh environment. We were reminded that the shingle bank was breached only in September 2013 and the site was still in the early stages of development.

Bird activity was low during the evening of our visit, with only little egrets, dunlin, ringed plover, and cormorants visible. Among the pioneering birds recently observed were: spoonbills, black-tailed godwit, avocets and a pair of black-winged stilts. The latter are rare visitors to the UK and, with the help of 24-hour site surveillance by RSPB volunteers, successfully reared three chicks. What better proof is needed to endorse the success of this wetland site?

As a result of the walk a donation of £51 was made to the MWHG.

Dave Haldane

East Beach Pond Love Parks Open Day

Against a backdrop of gently wavering reeds, shimmering water and a wall to wall blue sky East Beach Pond Group hosted, on behalf of Chichester District Council, their contribution to Love Parks Week on Tuesday 29th August 2014. This is now a regular annual event designed to encourage people to visit and enjoy their local parks and open spaces. Love Parks Week is a national event organised by Keep Britain Tidy.

Ever mindful of young children's curiosity and creativity, youngsters were given the opportunity to pond dip and examine their finds, which included hundreds of water boatmen, several damselfly nymphs, leaches and water stick insects. Another attraction, for those who didn't mind getting their hands sticky, was the opportunity to create bird feeders using pine cones, lard and seed. Creative drawing, colouring and making paper crowns was a further very popular event. Despite the warm day many families chose to stretch their legs and test their observational skills by following the ladybird trail around the site.

The day was a great success thanks to the support of the Selsey Model Boat Club who allowed young people to gain an insight into this fascinating hobby and to all those volunteers who gave their time erecting gazebos, providing refreshments and manning stalls. Events such as this allow us to bond with the local community and promote the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage and its support for local wildlife and heritage.

Dave Haldane

Stick Insect - An exciting find during pond dipping



Photo © 2014 Dave Haldane

Photo © 2014 Dr Anthony Preston



Rare Grass Eggar – *Lasiocampa trifolii*

Seen at Manor Green Park on Friday 8th August 2014

Photographed by Dr Anthony Preston at around 11:00 while pulling ragwort prior to wild meadow being cut.



Peter White has reported that in the middle of August he spotted a Sand Lizard sunning itself in the churchyard at Church Norton - and he has also asked us to state that he was sober at the time!

Unfortunately he did not have his camera with him.

WILL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN/GREAT GRANDCHILDREN BE ABLE TO TASTE SHELLFISH IN 40 YEARS' TIME?

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirms that each of the most recent three decades has been warmer than its predecessor. Professor Chris Rapley CBE of the Department of Earth Sciences, University College, London and former director of both the British Antarctic Survey and the Science Museum in London, reports that the loss of ice from both Greenland and Antarctica has increased markedly over the 20 years to 2009, freshening the water around those regions and causing currents to change.

Some other marine scientists believe that the deterioration is occurring more rapidly than the IPCC report indicates, and they expect the summertime Arctic sea ice will have disappeared completely in around 25 years - a generation. Meanwhile it appears that this summer might be the warmest since records began in the UK. The Global Ocean Commission (GOC) draws on the IPCC report to show that humanity is being shielded from climate change by the oceans absorbing the increase in temperature at significant costs to their own health. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment states that the upper part of the ocean is warming by about 0.1°C per decade. The deep ocean, however, is warming too, and will continue to do so for centuries, even if emissions are checked immediately.

The International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) together with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) agree with the IPCC that the oceans are absorbing a great deal of the warming caused by carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the other greenhouse gases. Professor Rogers of the University of Oxford, IPSO director, indicates that the condition of the ocean is spiralling down more rapidly than had been thought and the effects of this change are closer at hand than previously anticipated.

The report from IPSO and IUCN in the journal 'Marine Pollution Bulletin' indicates there is growing evidence that oceans are losing oxygen and tending towards increased acidification. This acidification has serious consequences for marine life and recently the GOC endorsed the findings of the IPCC that half the Arctic Ocean would become uninhabitable for shelled marine life by 2050.

Professor Rogers stated that at high latitudes pH levels were decreasing faster than elsewhere because of the lower water temperatures there and in 2012 for the first time 'sea butterfly' molluscs were caught with corroded shells.

When concentrations of atmospheric CO₂ reach 450-500 parts per million (ppm) coral reefs will erode faster than they can grow, leading to their destruction. Projections are for CO₂ concentrations to reach the 450-500 ppm rate by 2030-2050. In May this year, however, they passed the 400ppm level for the first time since measurements were first taken in 1958.

Selsey is a small coastal fishing town which catches and sells local crabs both for export and home consumption. We should be concerned that global warming could have a considerable impact on the Manhood fishermen and their industry, within a generation!

Dr Anthony Preston



MY BLACKBIRD YEAR

I was 9 years old. We were living with my Mother's Parents in Surrey in a house with a big garden. One spring morning Mum asked me to open up the garage, and when I did I was confronted by a very small fledgling blackbird, frantically begging for food. It must have been shut in overnight. I ran inside and found a scrap of egg-yolky bread (in those days we always started the day with a cooked breakfast) which I popped into the little bird's gaping beak. It swallowed and continued to beg. I repeated this exercise three more times, until it stopped begging and seemed content.

We came to the conclusion it must have come from a blackbird's nest in a nearby pyracantha bush and the decision was taken to leave well alone and see if the parent birds returned to their baby. Fortunately in a very short time they responded to its chirps and started feeding it as if nothing had happened – a happy result. However whenever it caught sight of me the little bird would run towards me and start fluttering its wings and begging for food! I could not resist responding with little scraps from the kitchen, and so began an unforgettable relationship.

Even then I had no particular desire to 'tame' a wild creature so I never tried to encourage it to come to my hand once it began foraging for food itself, but when I was about it would come running over and stay nearby; it even followed me indoors, and I loved to hear its feet pattering on the floor behind me. The down side of this bond was that it discovered my bedroom window, so at 4am on summer mornings I would be woken by it chirping and pecking at the window – from the inside! It would fly over on to my bed, obviously despairing of my appalling laziness, and so I discovered the delights of (very) early summer mornings, standing on dewy grass with bare feet, watching the sunrise, on my own except for the dawn chorus, feeling the first warmth of the day ahead.

That bird taught me so much. For instance I learnt that not only birds of prey cough up pellets. Once the fruit ripened I would notice my friend give a little cough and expel a seed or some small thing it was unable to digest. I watched it grow more adventurous, fly further, saw the changes in its plumage and the sounds it made. I thought it must be a female because of its colour. Following the late summer moult, though, I quickly realised it was in fact a male as its speckled brown feathers were replaced by black ones. As the year drew on into autumn I even caught his first attempts at a few notes of song. We fed 'our' birds throughout the cold months but as soon as the days began to lengthen and territorial behaviour replaced the over-riding need for food my friend vanished – probably chased off by his own parents. I shall never forget him, nor my close relationship with a wild bird.

Gina Scott

ARE YOU A WILDLIFE GARDENER?

If you are, we would love to hear from you please, and especially if you have a wildlife pond. In today's increasingly built over and intensively farmed environment gardens are becoming a vitally important haven and refuge for our birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic life. We hope to encourage people to record wildlife they see visiting or living in their gardens. You would receive help with this, with standard forms and instructions supplied, and if necessary, identification information. Photographs are very welcome, both to help with the id process and for general interest. But first we need you to contact us and let us know you would like to take part.

Contact me, Gina, on 01243-778689, or Joe on 01243-607104.

DEAR EDITOR

As a member of the MHWG I am always interested in wildlife and yesterday a friend contacted me by text with a photo saying did I know what this is?

An Elephant Hawk-Moth, I replied, how lucky are you. He said it was in his garden in East Wittering, then he texted again to say there are two. I couldn't contain my excitement and said can I come and see them.

It turned out that there were eight on two (smallish) fuchsia bushes in their back garden. One was starting to turn into a chrysalis. They are about 3-4 inches long and pretty scary looking with their 'false eyes' to deter predators, almost snake looking.

There was also a smaller, green, hawk-moth caterpillar, light green with yellow 'eyes' on the same bush, as yet unidentified. What a great find in a garden! It just goes to show that nature is everywhere, if you just look.

Many thanks
Kind regards

Francine Sims
MWHG Member
Bracklesham Bay

Editor

Thank you for this interesting letter, Francine. Do other readers have any nature news or sightings you would like to share? We would love to hear from you, and photographs are always welcome.

STOP PRESS

We have a new Health and Safety Officer. Valerie Gatehouse has agreed to take over this role and will be attending a training course. Find out more about her in the Winter edition. We also have a new quarterly Events Diary editor, member Christine Hardy. Any dates or events you may want to include for October, November and December should be with Christine by the end of September, and for January, February and March 2015 should be with her by the end of December 2014.

Her email address is: j.hardy177@btinternet.com.

This is your Newsletter and to make it interesting and varied we need your input; please send us your news, photographs (jpg if preferred), any stories of experiences you have had and any interesting news articles you have come across.

Please send to Gina at ginacarrington@btinternet.com.



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

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: website@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
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>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

10 November (Winter)
10 February 2015 (Spring)
10 May 2015 (Summer)
10 August 2015 (Autumn)

EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

newsletter@mwhg.org.uk
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**The Queen's Award
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