

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage
Group



Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2015
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MANAGEMENT MATTERS

First of all, I'd like to welcome Jane Reeve to her new role as FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) Project Manager and Chloe Goddard as FLOW Field Officer. They started work in October and both have hit the ground running, ably supported by Tony Burnand, whose work in Birdham and West Itchenor laid the foundations for FLOW. Thanks also to all other members who have already offered to volunteer for them.

FLOW is the largest project we have taken on and it could make significant progress towards our vision of a landscape on the Manhood that provides the space for nature to flourish and also fulfils people's needs. All the work we do contributes to this and as Jane and Chloe move from parish to parish it will become clearer how each site we manage and each survey we do helps build the green infrastructure upon which wildlife and people depend.

Apart from FLOW, do try to join in with some of the Selsey Walks organised by Living Streets in partnership with us. They run once a month through to March and there will be an opportunity to train as a Walk Leader.

The Management Team is also developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the RSPB to ensure that we work together as effectively as we can. We have always benefited from a close working relationship with Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve staff and we very much want this to continue.

Finally, our website and Facebook page continue to be updated so do keep taking a look.

REMEMBER, If you ever feel that your membership is failing to provide what you want, do get in touch.

Joe Savill

You are invited to the
MWHG BIG THANK YOU PARTY

Friday 29th January 2016

6.30pm-10.00pm

Selsey Town Hall, High Street, Selsey

As we did not have our usual Christmas event in 2015 the Trustees and Management Team would like this New Year Party to offer our wonderful Volunteers and Friends a delicious meal and chance to get together and catch up with each other without being in a pond or ditch!

THANK YOU!

As many of you will know, Gill Jennings, Clerk to Selsey Town Council, is retiring and at the same time she is stepping down as our Finance Officer.

She took on this role, as a volunteer, in 2009 and her efficient work has been fundamental to the smooth running of the whole Group. As the Group has grown and more funding has been sourced for various projects, our finances have become more complex. Without Gill's knowledge and attention to detail, our finances could easily have become confused, making reporting difficult. So, on behalf of all members I would like to thank Gill wholeheartedly for all her crucial financial work.

However, Gill has had many other important roles within the Group. She was a member of the Management Committee of the Selsey Parish Map Group which became MWHG and attended steering group meetings for Selsey Action for Wildlife – Sarah Hughes' initial project. She was also Selsey Town Council's representative on the Selsey Doorstep Green Action Group which became the Manor Green Park Group and has co-ordinated Selsey's entries in South-East In Bloom, including many of our sites. And, as well as all the above, she found time to help out with the Selsey Parish Hedgerow Survey in which all the hedgerows in the parish were surveyed.

So, Gill has been a very committed member of the Group from the start and I have found it extremely helpful to discuss all kinds of issues with her over the years. Her advice has been a huge benefit to me.

All the very best for the future, Gill and we're always here if you would like to get involved again in any way.

Joe Savill



COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Time moves fast and the summer has gone quickly. Now we are left with the awesome autumn colours and carpets of crunchy leaves underfoot.

Over the winter I will be braving the elements out at Fishbourne Creek and highlighting the impact we can have on our green spaces. Due to so much development, more people, more houses, more traffic, we each need to be aware of our own impact on wildlife, especially in the winter months, when our wildlife is under such pressure to feed and keep warm.

It was our second year putting on a dog show at Fishbourne, supporting Medical Dogs Detection and raising the awareness of 'responsible dog ownership'. We raised the profile of Chichester Harbour and its importance for the 56,000 winter wading birds. Sadly, there are declining bird numbers at the harbour, with one of the main causes being disturbance to birds by walkers with dogs. The solution lies in all our hands, by being aware of where the sensitive parts of the harbour are, by exploring alternative sites to visit, and by behaving responsibly in the most sensitive parts of the harbour. We can all help protect wildlife for future generations.



Photo © 2015 Sarah Hughes

We have been busy over the summer in the Fishbourne and surrounding areas. We carried out water vole surveys, training sessions and we completed an amazing biotic reading at the pond at Hamblin Hall, Bosham.

We have assisted the Apuldram Centre with pond clearance. They and the Aldingbourne Centre are putting together sets of bird boxes to enable us to provide workshops on bird-box building for young people in the spring.

In the Southbourne area we have been involved in a range of events, which include; Minibeast Mayhem; bat walk and survey; Countryside Day at Eames Farm; bat night; moth ID, and dragonfly walk/talk/survey.



Photo © 2015 Sarah Hughes

At the incredible Tuppenny Barn (brimming over with organic seasonal produce) we continue work on the pond and it's amazing to see the newly created herb bank, which is dedicated to the late Lizzie Dymock.

We are again working in Southbourne Junior School, providing a range of wildlife sessions for Year 6 students, starting with pond dipping and including; solar boat trip; bird-box making; trips out, and surveying/recording wildlife in the school and local area.

Work is continuing with the 'Southbourne Green Ringing Project' (safeguarding the green lungs around the village) and it is fantastic to work alongside so many talented and enthusiastic people.



At Graylingwell and Roussillon we struggle forward. We still have been unable to gain access or permission to manage the wild area (a strip of land between South and North Lodges in the Havenstock Park). This is an important area for the translocation of slow worms and without it permission wouldn't have been given for the 750 houses to be built. However, now the developer (Linden Homes) would like to build on it!

At Roussillon Park we put on a moth-identification event. However, unfortunately we didn't get anything in the trap!

We have been involved in many events in Chichester, including: National Play Day; 'Lodge Fest', Beers, Bats & BBQ, and a half-term bat event. I have also had the chance to work with and excite children at the 'Little Learners Preschool'. Future events include working with 'Living Streets' inputting on a range of guided walks in and around the Chichester area.

I have been trying to support the management of Brandy Hole Copse (Chichester's first Local Nature Reserve), which needs a team of volunteers to support it. I put on a guided walk, 'Exploring Brandy Hole Copse', which I hope excited the participants with the wonders of wildlife that are on their doorstep.

There is much to plan and meetings to attend, which have included; Chichester Community Development Trust; Chichester Harbour Conservancy; RSPB; Residents' Associations; Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership and AGMs etc.

It was excellent to be back working on the Peninsula; with Love Parks Week and the RNL Lifeboat Day, both in Selsey and it was a pleasure to work alongside Selsey volunteers.

As part of the Winter Festival, I will be holding another guided walk over the Christmas period – 'Be Amazed by Medmerry' - on Tuesday 29 December, meeting at 10 a.m. at Earnley Car Park. This will be an approximately two-hour walk exploring one of the last undeveloped stretches of coast in the South.

We live in an incredible area and we all need to be mindful of our impact on our green spaces, to enable us to safeguard them for future generations to enjoy.

Thanks as always to the inspiring team of volunteers who keep us all going. However, special thanks go to Dr Alison Barker for all her help, understanding, knowledge and patience.

Wishing you all a very happy, healthy New Year.

Sarah Hughes

MESSAGE FROM THE WETLANDS PROJECT OFFICER

In order to secure this prestigious FLOW award, the stakes have been raised, and the next eight months will be tough going, especially for the Project Manager. If ever there has been a time for MWHG to pull together as a team and support a cause, this is it. Volunteers across the Peninsula will need to rally behind the Project Manager. We are all ambassadors for the MWHG, and should use every opportunity to promote the group and the FLOW challenge.

I have had a brilliant two years surveying the ditches and green corridors linking two of the local parishes. The next stage is a project that will ensure sustainability of not just those two parishes, but all the parishes on the peninsula.

Over the past thirty years I have been dismayed by the destruction and utter contempt for our ditches and waterways. They had been viewed by many as a dirty and dangerous waste of land, and as a result it was more lucrative for developers to build over them. Fortune has arrived in the recent climatic events of 2012 and 2013.

It is sad that the importance of these wildlife corridors has been highlighted by the recent devastating floods, and agony of those caught up in them, but this is a wake-up call to all of us, in the way we destroy wildlife and our environment for our own gain. The FLOW project will give the MWHG the opportunity to secure the biodiversity of the Manhood Peninsula, reverse the decline of our native water voles, and secure a future for all of our wildlife.

Anthony Burnand

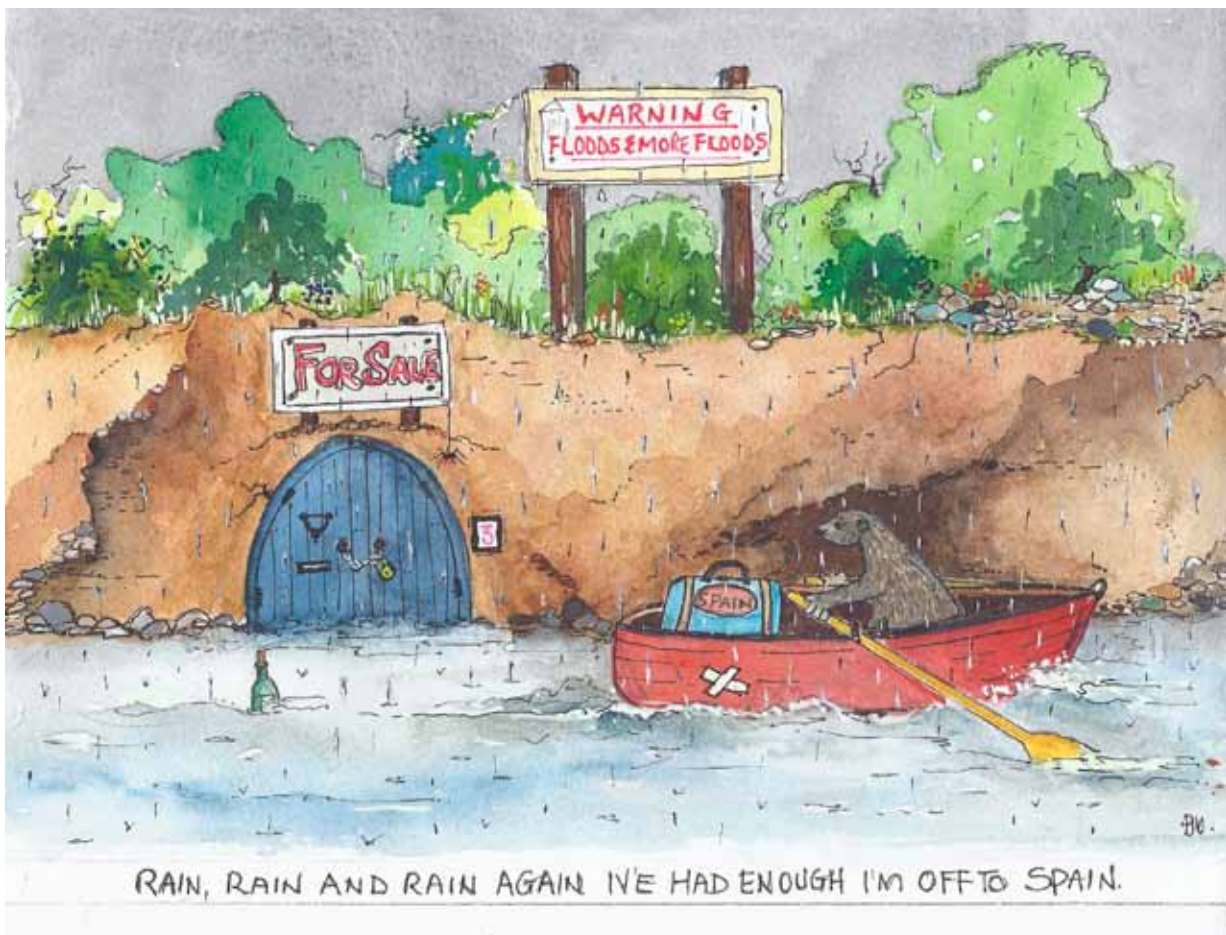


Illustration © 2014 Peter White

FLOW PROJECT PERSONNEL

Jane Reeve

My name is Jane Reeve and I have just been appointed the Project Manager of the HLF-funded Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands (FLOW) Project. This will be an exciting project as it builds on the work that we carried out in the Water Vole Project, and which increasingly involved flood risk management.

The project will begin with a parish-by-parish assessment of all the ditches on the peninsula, leading to a costed management plan identifying and prioritising the work that needs to be carried out. We will then apply for grants and look for funding streams to get this work done.

The plan is to create a linked network of good-condition wetland that joins up all the protected areas and provides wildlife corridors between larger sites. This will benefit wetland species as well as birds and bats.

The project should reduce flooding for people and wildlife by storing water in ponds and ditches during high rain events and carrying it to rifes and harbours where it can get away on low tides. So this project is about flood risk reduction and wildlife habitat restoration and creation – win-win!

I am passionate about wildlife and conservation and my other interests include gardening, reading, and being a taxi service to my two daughters.



Chloe Goddard

Hello! My name is Chloë and I am excited to be joining the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group as the Field Officer for the Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands project in a few weeks. With a keen interest in wildlife conservation, naturally I enjoy being outdoors, getting muddy and eating cake, so I am sure I will be in a great place.

Leading to this opportunity I have been an intern with the RSPB. I have had fantastic experiences surveying lapwing, marsh harriers and tree sparrows as well as learning to drive tractors and use chainsaws! Working with Dorset Wildlife Trust I took school groups pond dipping and bug hunting and taught children about the woods, how they can play in them and how to look after them. I studied Biology at the University of London particularly focusing on Ecology while playing as much sport as I could.

Now, eager to begin working in this special area, I am looking forward to learning about the landscape and seeing the habitat grow even more welcoming for wildlife. You might find I pop up in a ditch near you – I would be really pleased to meet you and to talk about the project.



A VISITOR'S VIEW

During July, I had the absolute pleasure of being able to carry out work experience with the Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole month, as well as the wide variety of activities and volunteering opportunities which were on offer. I took part in a range of activities, all of which helped towards conserving the unique wildlife which is found in Selsey and the surrounding area. From moth trapping and identification sessions at various locations to jumping in rifles looking for evidence of water voles, the variety of tasks which I attended was immense, and all led by enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers.

There also were some interesting moments which I recount with fondness and no doubt shall tell in my presentation to the University of Exeter. One of these was down at the East Beach Open Day, when a 'Civil Enforcement Officer' threatened to arrest all of us for putting a gazebo up in a car park- when it was too windy to put it on the green the other side. Another was my first day doing the experience- Jane Reeve was showing me around the sites I was asked to photograph. Showing no fear and much eagerness, she used her stick to push aside brambles and stinging nettles to show me Spire Cottage Pond. I gingerly followed, wearing my shorts and a t-shirt, carefully avoiding any plants there. By the end I'd managed to buy a decent pair of trousers and - definitely at the start dressed for fashion and not for practicality!

I think the aspect I most enjoyed was how welcoming and willing the volunteers were- this was the first conservation work I had done, and I knew practically nothing. Over the month I was taught a great deal about conservation and techniques different from the people I talked to and helped with, and soon started to learn about the methods by which the biodiversity of the region is being preserved. Every event, even identifying 'micro moths', which was the most painstaking task I undertook (despite confidently declaring upon first identification 'I don't actually mind identifying micro moths...') My job then every Saturday was thence set.)

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who helped me throughout the month, and who made it possible for me to have such an informative and interesting month down in a lovely area of the UK.

Phillip Hart
University of Exeter



BOOK REVIEW - NATURE'S CONSCIENCE: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DEREK RATCLIFFE

Edited by Des Thompson, Hilary Birks and John Birks

Langford Press, 571pp, £30 hardback ISBN-13: 9781904078609; ppback £23.00

ISBN-13: 9781904078593

The Langford Press has done the wildlife conservation movement a great favour by publishing this book. You may not recall the name, Derek Ratcliffe, but I'll bet you know his work.

Whereas Rachel Carson drew attention to the impacts of pesticides in her seminal book *Silent Spring* (1962) which is often credited as inspiring the start of the environmental movement, it was Derek Ratcliffe in this country who worked out how such compounds were affecting species at the top of the food chain. His 1970 paper has been more often cited than any other paper. Both authors – Carson and Ratcliffe – were vilified by vested commercial and agricultural interests. However, Ratcliffe had personally monitored 500 peregrine nests.

What the pesticide was doing to birds was leading to a thinning of the egg shells so that when the parent sat on the egg it broke and no young birds were reared. When DDT was put onto land with crops the run-off got into streams or rivers and thence into small fish where the effects did not immediately show up. Via the mechanism of bioaccumulation ie a small amount intensified in its impacts further up the food chain it was shown that it was otters which were being eradicated. Eventually DDT was banned. Within the history of wildlife conservation a *Nature Conservation Review* (1977) synthesised all the key information about the best sites in the UK and thus provides a vital reference booklet which underlies national and international legislation. It could be argued that only a person like Derek could have produced such a volume. He not only knew plants but also birds, habitats and management and could comment on these with clarity thus making the ideas accessible to those not interested in the natural world at all.

The book contains 30 chapters divided into five sections all written by people who knew him. The Press has published a large hardback book cheaply to ensure Derek's legacy is not lost to this and future generations. A gem of a book and a gem of a person.

Jill Sutcliffe

NOTE:

**MWHG now has a Facebook
page at**

www.facebook.com/mwhg.page

CONTINUING SUCCESS WITH MOST FLEDGED LITTLE TERN SINCE 1979 AT PAGHAM HARBOUR

After the success of last year the challenge was to repeat that success in consecutive years as this seems to have been an issue in the past. With the weather being very settled at the beginning of the season the signs looked good for the arrival of the terns and soon twelve pairs had established themselves around the Reserve. However, the weather changed and in June a large storm had significant effects along the coast although the birds here survived. Soon the number of pairs had increased to eighteen pairs as a result of displaced birds. Soon hatched young were recorded across the spit with birds bringing in a good supply of fish. This resulted in sixteen fledged young, which is the most since 1979 and represents a productivity of 0.89/pair which is the second best recorded at the site (compared with 1/pair in 2014 and 1986). 2014 and 2015 is the first time consecutive years have achieved a productivity of more than 0.7 fledglings/pair.

Photo © 2015 Ivan Lang



Photo © 2015 Ivan Lang



The first reports of little tern arriving back in the Harbour were on 14 April when two birds were observed. This was a day earlier than in 2014. Comparing the earliest arrival dates recorded at Pagham over the last thirty years, the middle of April does seem to be a fairly consistent arrival date. However, although not tested statistically, there does seem to be a trend of birds arriving slightly earlier in recent years. Over the rest of the month there were very few records from the Harbour although on 27 April forty birds were reported from Medmerry. The first significant number reported from Church Norton was twelve birds on 4 May. As with last year, many of these birds were observed displaying, carrying fish and prospecting for nesting sites on Tern Island. By the same time, the common tern and black-headed gull colony was well established. On 27 May the first nest was located on Tern Island with definitely a second pair and possibly a third pair present. Through the season at least four birds were regularly seen around the Island but by 10 June the nest and the eggs had disappeared from the Island. In July a pair was observed feeding a well matured juvenile in the harbour which indicated that one pair was successful on Tern Island.

Out on the Spit, the first seven nests had been located by 3 June. The numbers of adults slowly increased and by 12 June there were twelve nests and a minimum of sixteen adults were present. During this period there was a violent storm which had devastating results on colonies along the south coast, but due to the shelter from the prevailing winds it seems all the nests survived. The weather improved by the end of the month and the first broods were recorded on 24 June with a minimum of five chicks present.



On 1 July the nest count had increased again to twelve, accounting for the presence of sixteen pairs out on the spit as well as the two pairs in the harbour. These extra birds are almost certainly birds displaced from Langstone after the storm. Two of these pairs nested outside the electric fence and it was assumed that they were so vulnerable to trampling they were unlikely to survive. This prediction was only partly true as one nest did disappear but the other successfully hatched and fledged at least one chick. This small influx of birds to try for the second time was shortly followed on 4 July by the first report of a fledged individual from the birds on their first attempts. Over July the number of fledged individuals increased to reach a maximum of thirteen, but three nests were still sitting. During this period one of the trail cameras was moved from Tern Island on to one of the little tern nests in order to collect data over food provision to the chicks. The first nest with a camera on hatched on 7 July, with two chicks. The camera was moved to a second nest and some excellent footage was gained once the correct triggering position was located. This nest hatched on 24 July with two chicks. The last remaining nest outside the protected area also hatched on the same date.

After fledging, the majority of the juveniles moved down on to the sea shore and would congregate at low tide on the shingle in the intertidal areas, where the adults would come and feed them. The majority of the birds including the newly fledged young had left by the beginning of August leaving only the birds feeding the remaining young. A report on 18 August confirmed that three further young had successfully hatched, bringing the number up to sixteen fledged for the season. This was the last record for the site this summer and one of the earliest last dates recorded on site. Looking over the last 30 years of leaving dates once again there seems to be a trend of birds leaving slightly earlier over recent times, although this has not been tested statistically.

The little tern season had been very successful and some of this success was observed with other shorebirds as well. The common terns on Tern Island successful fledged five young despite the fox attack. Oystercatchers fledged four from nineteen pairs and ringed plover fledged twenty from eighteen pairs.

Ivan Lang
Warden
RSPB Pagham and Medmerry



Photo © 2015 Ivan Lang

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME...

(THIS ARTICLE BY PETER HUGHES FIRST APPEARED ON AN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY BLOG)

“Build it and they will come” is a phrase we use a lot within the RSPB when creating or restoring habitat for wildlife. Nature’s ability to colonise new areas, sometimes with great haste and in unpredictable ways, never ceases to amaze me. We all had great expectations for Medmerry – 180 hectares of saltmarsh, lagoons and mudflats on the Sussex coast was bound to attract a diverse range of wildlife...



Smoothhound sharks at Medmerry

Photo © 2015 Andrew House

However, no one predicted the events of 15 July 2015 when the sudden appearance of perhaps 100 or more smoothhounds provided an astonishing and surreal wildlife spectacle. We think the smoothhounds, a relatively common-but-rarely-seen shark species native to British coastal waters, had come in to feed on crabs and small fish on an incoming tide. Seeing such a large aggregation of smoothhounds and in such shallow water is unprecedented, and has amazed shark experts as much as it did me... and apparently that number of sharks in one place is news-worthy all over the world! Fortunately a couple of local birdwatchers were on site and were able to let me know of the unfolding sharkfest, and the rest, as they say, is on You Tube.



Spoonbill at Medmerry

Photo © 2015 Ivan Lang

Medmerry has changed rapidly since the breach of the old sea wall in September 2013, and the wildlife has been quick to take advantage of the new habitats. Water voles are colonising the new freshwater ditches around the perimeter of the seawall, and reptiles such as slow worms and adders have bred successfully. All of the characteristic wetland birds of the nearby Pagham and Chichester harbours, such as brent geese, grey plover, wigeon, black-tailed godwits, dunlin, curlew, little egrets and redshanks, have been seen feeding and roosting within the new intertidal habitats of Medmerry. In addition to these 'usual suspects' there has been a fantastic selection of rarer bird species – 4 or 5 short-eared owls spent the winter here, a long-tailed skua dropped in for a couple of days, a great northern diver spent a fortnight fishing (or crabbing!) in one of the lagoons, and 3 spoonbills made themselves at home for 4 months at the start of 2015.

Famously, 2014 was very much the year of the black-winged stilts, as a pair nested on the western side of the site, successfully raising three young. This was the first successful UK breeding attempt of this species since the 1980s. Just as importantly, avocets, oystercatchers and little ringed plovers are also breeding in the same area.



Underwater, surveys of fish (carried out by the Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority) have proved that Medmerry's intertidal creeks and lagoons are already becoming very important nurseries. Juveniles of sea bass, mullet, flounder, plaice, herring, and many other species have been found over the past two summers.

Medmerry is a remarkable example of what can be done with creative, wildlife-friendly design on a giant scale, adding enormous value to what is primarily a flood defence scheme to protect Selsey and other nearby communities. Will the smoothhounds pay us another visit? We don't know, but now that Medmerry is built, we can be sure that wildlife will continue to come.

Peter Hughes is a Warden for the RSPB, working at Pagham Harbour and Medmerry. To find out more about the RSPB at Medmerry visit their website at -

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2015/08/12/build-it-and-they-will-come/>

THE APULDRAM CENTRE – A HIDDEN GEM

The Apuldrum Centre was established in 1989 as a charity to offer ‘meaningful day care’ to adults with learning disabilities. It is situated at Common Farm in Apuldrum Lane.

Drive in to their car park (close to Salterns Way cycle route) and you will immediately be greeted by smiles. Everyone looks busy. Some are working in the greenhouses or polytunnels; others are chatting and hammering away in the woodwork barn, with music from a radio; then there is the shop, selling plants and produce grown and nurtured on site. Bird tables, nest boxes and plant holders crafted from willow are also on sale.

There is the café, small but colourful, serving hot and cold drinks, ice cream and savouries and cakes to die for, all prepared in the kitchen by some of the Clients.

There is a nature trail for children, with guide plaques painted by the Clients. Most of this is situated in their beautiful sensory garden. There is a variety of insect-friendly planting, sculptures and willow work. Places to sit for a while and drink in the calmness are dotted around. The best place to sit is by the amazing pond. Pond dipping is on offer, but you don’t have to linger here for very long before frogs, common newts and a variety of dragonfly and damselfly species appear. MWHG volunteers visit in the spring to help ‘wake the garden up’ and in the autumn to ‘put it to bed’.

The ethos of the Charity is to offer training in different skills to the Clients and to offer the chance for them to be as independent as they can be. Variety is important, and Clients take part in music of all kinds, dance and drama. In July the annual Festival, ‘Apulstock’ is held on site, this year on a warm, sunny day.

‘We should be making ourselves better known’ the Education Officer, Sally Milligan, confessed, ‘but we don’t yet have a co-ordinated marketing strategy. I do my best – but I am always so busy!’

The Centre shared first prize in the 2014 Eileen Savill Award for creating the sensory garden and it hosted the presentation event. Heather Caird, then Leader of Chichester District Council, who presented the Awards, declared ‘I have never been here before; the shop has some lovely things. I shall come back and do some Christmas shopping!’

So could you, in 2015. Use Google maps or set your sat-nav to Common Farm, Apuldrum Lane South, PO20 7PE and enjoy your visit.

Visit info@apuldrum.org to discover more.

Gina Scott

HERITAGE

Selsey’s link with the world’s greatest maritime disaster?

While attending bookbinding classes in the London of 1896 Francis Sangorski and George Sutcliffe met and became companions. Some five years later in 1901 they opened their own bookbinding shop in a Bloomsbury attic prior to forming the renowned bookbinding company that bore their names. Although, historically, bindings which included fine metalwork, ivory, gold, silver and jewels had been produced in the Middle Ages, the fine bookbinding skills necessary were revived by the pair, the company becoming possibly one of the best of the twentieth century.

In 1909, they received a particular but very special commission to design one of the most expensive decorative books ever produced. The front cover displayed three golden peacocks bejewelled with gems which encrusted the tails and was inlaid with exquisite silver filigree. In 1912 the book was packed very securely and sent to New York.

As a relief from the work, Francis Sangorski took himself off for a well-earned break in Selsey, as was the trend in the early 1900s. While out swimming one day he noticed a female swimmer in considerable distress and attempted to save her. Francis managed to save the woman but was drowned in the process. Thus one of the greatest bookbinders of the twentieth century lost his life in our own, then, village. The drowning of Francis Sangorski could be considered part of a tragic coincidence as around the same time the most expensive book in the world met the same fate on the unsinkable Titanic. Having gone down with the ship it has never been recovered.

A second copy was finally bound on the eve of the Second World War and to ensure its safety this time it was secured in the vault of a bank. The bank and vault were destroyed by enemy bombing.

The nephew of George Sutcliffe, Stanley Bray, created a third copy of the book *The Great Omar* the in-house term for the books that were in fact the *Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyam*, which followed the design of the original and now remains in the British Library.

Sutcliffe continued the firm until 1936. The interest in such exquisite bindings, however, fell out of favour. The firm was bought by Shepard's in 1998 who restored the name of Sangorski and Sutcliffe.

Other books which survived from the original company are held today at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin.

Dr Anthony Preston

The Battle of Britain flypast in the skies over Selsey in August taken by Peter White



Photos © 2015 Peter White

WINTER WEATHER AND HYPOTHERMIA

According to the weather forecast this winter could be the coldest for fifty years, and if that is the case we will hear more about people suffering from hypothermia.

In my twenties I experienced hypothermia. After accepting an invitation to a friend's over a Christmas period I left their home at 2 a.m. to travel from Chichester to Selsey, the nine-mile journey on a moped on a freezing cold, frosty night. Even my leather warm-lined gloves could not keep out the cold from my hands. As was the fashion then I was wearing wide-bottomed trousers with plenty of room for air to travel up. By the time I had reached Sidlesham I began to feel very warm and tried to remove the scarf from my neck. I was aware that it was not normal to become warm suddenly in such freezing conditions. I also felt as if I was going to pass out, which I think was a symptom of a potentially dangerous level of hypothermia. Fortunately, I was sufficiently aware to realise that I was in a danger zone.

I did not know then but know now, that the heating of the body which I experienced is the result of a phenomenon called 'paradoxical undressing', a physiological alteration in the body's temperature regulation due to the onset of moderate to severe hypothermia which causes a sudden surge of heat. This heat leads to removal of clothes or a desire to remove them while freezing – hence 'paradox' - and the removal of clothing leading to a further drop in body temperature and even faster to severe hypothermia.

With the onset of winter it can be easy for people to be affected by hypothermia. For most people being outside in cold weather would be enough to start a reduction in body temperature. It only requires a drop of 2° Celsius in core body temperature to become hypothermic. If you have to work outside in the cold then body temperature will go up in line with activity so the risk of hypothermia in those circumstances is reduced. The rise in temperature that activity brings can produce a problem in itself in the way of clothes, what to put on and how much. Lots of thin layers rather than a couple of thick layers give more options with what to remove as the body warms up, and wearing appropriate clothing for cold weather conditions whether travelling on foot, riding a bike or motorbike, standing around or working, will help to prevent hypothermia.

Val Gatehouse

LIFEBOAT DAY EVENT

On 8 August the MWHG had a display stand at the RNLI open day event. The weather was sunny and despite the brisk wind the event attracted a large attendance.

The stand received a steady flow of visitors who showed a keen interest in our group's activities.

Chris Cole's fossil display - especially the fossil poo - was a great hit with both the young and old.

Distribution of all nature information and walk leaflets went well and the team were kept busy much of the time in conversation with visitors to our stand.

Donations received for the MWHG amounted to a little over £20 and Chris Cole donated £20 from the sale of his fossil sharks' teeth to the RNLI.

All in all a good day and well worth the stand fee. Many thanks to all who helped out on the day.

Peter White

ASHE GROUP

Moth trapping is finished until early May next year. As well as our usual haunts the ASHE group was made welcome in five new gardens. The record for the highest number of moths at one trapping goes to Christine at Elms Rise, West Wittering. There were 242 moths in the trap despite the fact that Christine's garden is quite small and her little cat thought the trap was put out just for her.

In Manhood Lane for the first time in the moth trap a light emerald *Campaea margaritata* was found, a most beautiful moth, common, but rarely seen.

We welcomed Philip Hart who joined us during July. Philip is studying at Exeter University and hopes to become a professional wildlife photographer. He made a super map of the Manhood Peninsula for ASHE and he had a good sense of humour (he needed it) and we hope that he will continue to join us during other holidays.

We are now getting down to the coppicing of our numerous sites. In a few months they have become almost unrecognisable with ivy and bramble being the main culprits.

We have already seen the first of the autumn mists. The delicate weaving of a spider's web never ceases to amaze.



Before you swat your next fly take a moment to see how beautiful it is.

This little grass snake *Natrix natrix* turned up in our toolshed. We hope it will spend some time there.



We all wish Jane the very best for her new job and hope that she will still be able to join us on Saturday mornings as before. Chloe will be very welcome to join us whenever she can.

Veronica Wilkes

Photos © 2015 Veronica Wilkes

DONNINGTON

During my spring visits to monitor the hedgerow site at Mile Pond Farm, birdsong had filled the air. By the end of July it was the chirping of grasshoppers that was most noticeable on a warm and sunny day. Other insect-life abounded with butterflies, ladybirds, other beetles and bugs to test my id skills - if only they'd keep still long enough to photograph. Fortunately the plant kingdom is more obliging, when not swaying in the breeze.



Photos © 2015 Felicity McStea

In its fifth year, this hedgerow has finally filled out and is now able to out-compete most of the weeds at its base. Indeed, it had put on so much growth that side shoots were in danger of encroaching on the Salterns Way cycle path alongside. I only had a pair of secateurs with me but managed to hand-trim the entire length! I expected to find the usual few haws and sloes along the way but was pleasantly surprised to also find the hazel bearing fruit. This is the first year that it has produced nuts; another sign that this hedgerow is really getting established.

Felicity McStea

EAST BEACH POND

The East Beach Pond Group was recognised for its work and awarded gold in the conservation category of the South and South East in Bloom 2015. The team was pleasantly surprised as we felt we had failed to achieve the required standard this year. The team's commitment to the management of East Beach Pond remains as strong as ever but achieving the aims and objectives as identified in the Management Plan is becoming increasingly difficult. With an ageing workforce we have to concede that many of the tasks are now beyond our ability to perform so although we are very grateful to have received this award we are concerned for the future of our group.

Several comments have been made regarding the excessive growth of marginal vegetation. The reeds along the outlet channel have collapsed due to their height and this stretch of waterway looks very unsightly. The landowners Chichester District Council have inspected the site and have assured us they are satisfied with the situation. This is not the news we wanted to hear and we feel that the untidy appearance reflects badly on the volunteers and the work they do. Again the problem facing us is that we are very limited in what we can realistically achieve from a small row boat using only hand tools. We live in hope that CDC will reconsider this issue.

Dave Haldane



WALKS LEAFLETS OUTLETS

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

Chichester District Council, Selsey Office
Hunston Post Office (Tramway Walks only)
Raycraft, High Street, Selsey
RSPB Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve
Selsey Printing and Publishing
Selsey Town Council Office

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 February 2016 (Spring)
10 May Summer
10 August (Autumn)
10 November (Winter)

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



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