



Editorial

At the AGM on April 3rd, we had an important presentation from John Parry on the current position of the Linklater Pavilion project. I felt that many members would be interested in the detail and have reprinted the excellent minutes taken by Jenifer Barton in this edition of the newsletter. The minutes will be printed in full for the next AGM, by which time we sincerely hope the building will be completed. John entitled his piece 'Dream to Reality', and for many of us it was a moment to stand back and contemplate how much we have achieved. It has been a scary ride, we have been on a huge learning curve, sustainability in construction terms is not straightforward, nor is it easily achievable.

We start this year's programme of events on **June 9th** with the Nature Corridors for All participants leading another of their guided walks for the public. Meet at the main entrance at the end of Railway Lane at 11am for a '**Sidings Safari**'. I have been on their last two guided walks and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If you can make yourself free on Tuesday morning join us for their illustrated railway story of the Reserve and brighten up your day.

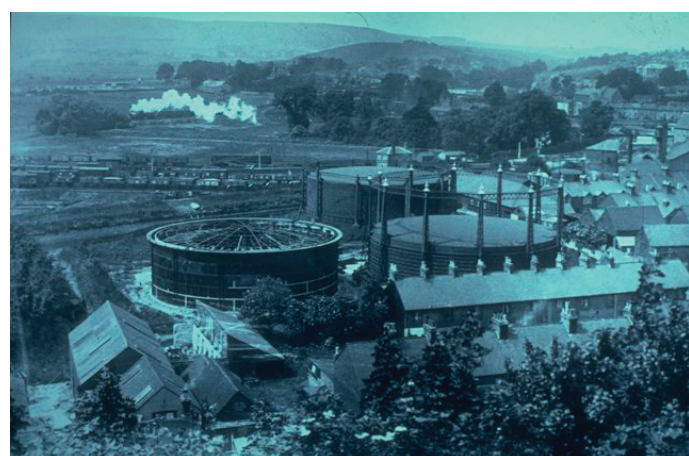


photo: Courtesy of the Reeves Collection

The second event is the **2020Vision** exhibition the following week, running from **Wednesday 17th - Saturday 20th June**. The Saturday promises to be an excellent and intriguing day out for the family, we hope to see you there. Please let friends with children

and grandchildren know about the event, which has been advertised in Lewes News, Viva Lewes and the Sussex Express. It is free and under cover, so there are no excuses! See Page 3 for more details

Finally I want to thank all of you who have already paid your £10 subscription for this year. We need every penny, and the 'gift aid' we recovered from last year's subscriptions and donations towards the Linklater Pavilion reached £8000+. Please renew your membership, continue to support our events and if you see a red dot on this newsletter and have an application form inserted, or have one attached to your emailed version...then it is time to send me a cheque!

The RLWT Directors/Trustees for 2009-10 are:

Jenifer Barton, Roger Beasley, Phil Belden, Tessa George, Jon Gunson, Chris Ient, Alex Kirby, Liz Lee, Jane McIntosh, Neil Merchant, John Parry, Pat Rigg, David Sykes, Liz Williams

The Officers are:

Chair: John Parry
Hon. Treasurer: Tessa George
Company Secretary: Jane McIntosh



Is this dot red? If so, please renew your membership for £10 now using the inserted form.

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The Linklater Pavilion Dream to Reality

Eight tenders were obtained of which the lowest at £843K represented a sum we were unable to raise.

We were offered the help of a property consultancy, Lambert Smith Hamilton (LSH), to explore a 'design and build' route which led to a tender price of £556,000 which with additional items, management and legal fees adds up to a **total build price** of £630,450 from ISG Jackson, a firm with a Tonbridge base to build a workable shell which could be added to later if funds were available.

What we have had to give up

- The ventilation shaft – we hope the windows will be sufficient
- Ground source heat pump with possible pollution risk from site, using instead an air source heat exchange pump, with the ratio of 3 units of energy out for every 1 in
- Rain water harvesting
- Photovoltaic cells – we have just reapplied for a Lottery funded grant so may retrieve some of the planned cells
- Half the original number of windows – more wall space now available for display
- Juliet balconies
- Two Spiral staircases replaced with one dog-leg design.

What we have retained

- Original size and footprint
- 2 floors
- Sedum roof
- Natural lighting and ventilation
- Construction on pilings with contractor accepting pollution risk
- Ability to flood undercroft without damage
- Gabions and chalk display round concrete pillars
- Toilets and lift and all internal walls

Features of the building

- Each outside wall will be 9.6m long
- Chalk core from North Sea obtained free will fill internal gabions and provide an exhibition about chalk while outside gabions will be made up of

six different rocks from six significant geological periods.

- Loss of 2nd entrance and halving of windows represents significant savings.
- Fire regulations limit capacity from 80 to 60 with one entrance
- Partitions, doors heating and underfloor piping included in contract price

Finances available / promised as at the AGM

Balances:(RLWT account for the Reserve	£11,446)
Pavilion account	£34,000
Mettyear Trust grant	£235,000
Viridor grant	£300,000
Glyndebourne concert & Mercers Trust	£10,000
Interest free loan	£15,000

	£594,000

Capital cost	
Building	£556,000
Design contingency	£10,000
LSH project management fee +VAT	£28,750
Payment to release Viridor grant	£30,700
Contingency and legal fees	£5,000

	£630,450

Our shortfall is £36,450 + £15,000 loan to be repaid ie. £51,450

Commitments we have made as Trustees

- The building and filling of the gabion walls
- Laying a continuation of the JMB railway sleeper path to the Pavilion
- Laying a road surface (MOT grade 2) with hammerhead turning point
- Creating disabled parking bays
- Providing Kitchen fittings
- Carpets
- Raising money for better than basic lighting

A major risk is-the cost of connecting services, no quote is available at this stage!

The LDC lease on the land is for 60 years, the first 25 years at a peppercorn rent, negotiable after this. The terms are that RLWT is responsible for repairs and maintenance, use is principally for education but no reasonable requests for sub-letting are to be refused.

Timetable

Building starts on the 14th September, with completion / opening in Spring 2010

Staffing and Passerelle Bid

Following on from the highly successful NC4All bid in partnership with ESCC Adult Social Care, an application has been made for Interreg funding for the Passerelle Project. The bid would fund a Director 3 days a week and 2 adult social care workers. The Pavilion would therefore open 3 weekdays and 1 day at weekends, the latter run by volunteers.

A successful Passerelle bid would fund, in addition, an Administrator post and an education residency over five years. It would also contribute towards some fixtures and fittings.

Other projects included in Passerelle are:

- Feasibility study for Lewes / Newhaven cycle track by Priory School pupils
- Community orchard led by Action in Rural Sussex
- C15 Banquet with Sussex Wildlife Trust, also Living Landscape education project and an Anglo/French wildlife trip.

We expect to hear if this bid has been successful in October 2009, so keep your fingers crossed!

Participants recording for the National Trust

Georgia Conolly, the National Trust's Community Engagement and Projects Officer (Coast) and the NC4All team of Andy, Kath, Miles, Barry, Rob, Brian and Alec are pictured at the start of their latest assignment, to take fixed point photos of the changing Cuckmere Valley.



The National Trust have paid for a new camera for the team, and this engagement is recognition of their important work as recorders of change.

A Date for Your Diary

2020 Vision Exhibition

Tues 16th - Sat 20th June 2009

10am - 5pm

**The Foundry Gallery, North Street,
Lewes BN7 3PL**

Launch Event Tuesday 1st June 6.30-9.00pm

Family Day with activities Saturday 20th June,

There will be school visits between 10-3pm from Wednesday to Friday but the exhibition is open to the public until 5pm

The major RLWT educational project for 2009 involves 4 local primary schools:- Rodmell, Polegate, Meeching Valley and Lewes New School and 2 local secondary schools:- Ringmer and Priory.

The aim of the project is to involve pupils in thinking about the future through examining ordinary objects and their future and why a particular object might become obsolete.

The **2020** Vision Exhibition will show how today's children view their future - through many different media.

The RLWT is working in partnership with Artemis Arts and the Exhibition will be located at The Foundry Gallery, which is a great example of a semi-derelict building with a new lease of life and a new purpose.

**Make sure you put the dates in your diary
- this will be a must-see Exhibition.**

More help is needed with exhibition sitting from Thank you to those who have responded to my request in the last newsletter and via email.

If you think you could volunteer for one or two hour stints between 10-5pm please contact me at rigg@patspur.demon.co.uk or on 487798.

If you leave a message I will get back to you.

Chairman's Corner - drilling deep

The complexity and sheer effort to bring off the Linklater Pavilion has been more than many of us had anticipated. The recession has squeezed funds from normally reliable sources and grants are so oversubscribed that it makes you weep – made so much worse by the financial and political crises that continue to drain and rock us all.



Preliminary drilling by ISG Jackson in May 2009, in preparation for the piling in September 2009

And yet, out of all this gloom come rays of light and hope generated by the will and determination of individuals beyond our two hard working committees – individuals who really ‘get’ what we are trying to achieve.



Gneiss

Granite

Basalt

Slate

Like Professor Rory Mortimore who is not only gathering limestone, slate, gneiss, basalt, granite and marble rocks for the six gabion walls but also put us in touch with Nick Honeyball from Aqua Terra based at Beddington. Nick and his team have produced a wonderful desk top study, free of charge, on the possibility of extracting fresh water direct from the chalk below the Pavilion and using the drilled core to provide a ground source heat exchange system instead of the proposed air pump.

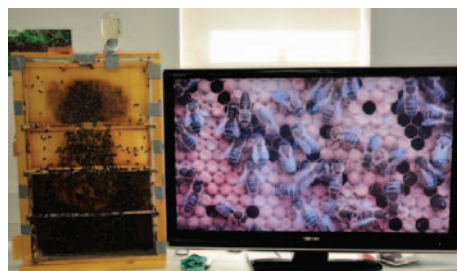
Then there is Cherry Baden Powell whose purposeful support of our bid to the Mercer's Trust yielded a much needed £5,000 for which we are very grateful.

Katie Tearle and David Pickard at Glyndebourne productions graciously adopted us as one of their charities for next year's concert and, talking of which, Sir John Tomlinson gave a generous cheque in memory of Peter Linklater.

Vicky Junor went way beyond her brief in providing detailed comments and advice on our photovoltaic Lottery application.

Professor Francis Ratnieks has enthusiastically agreed to help us establish a safe bee hive within the fabric of the building and so it goes on...passionate individuals who are neither ‘on the make’ nor in it for the ‘spin’.

I simply can't thank them enough for their energy, purpose and inspiration that only comes from the deep well of conviction.



This webcam set up in Professor Ratnieks' lab gives an idea of how we might present the honeybees within the fabric of the Pavilion

John Parry

Nocturnal notes on a nightingale

Some time between July and September a bird slightly larger than a house sparrow (remember them?) flew from Lewes to central Africa. You will observe that this necessitates crossing both the Mediterranean Sea, and the Sahara Desert. Its navigational computer is a brain about the size of the top joint of your little finger. Its fuel source - well, the idea is to eat enough insects and berries to produce a layer of body fat that can be burned off during the flight, reducing the bird's body weight by about 30%. In April it returns to Lewes - quite probably, to the same patch of scrub in which it spent last summer - and, in the hope of attracting a mate, produces a song of a richness and complexity that has enchanted a hundred generations of poets.



I listened for an hour or so, the other night. I couldn't find a beaker of blushful Hippocrene, as Keats recommends, but I thought a pint of Harvey's might do. (It did). And, yes, the bird sang of Attic twilights, and

the enchanted Forest of Arden, and evoked distant echoes of the dawn choir of that first, golden morning of the world. And I cried into my pint, and I thought beautiful thoughts.....and then the robin started up.

The robin is a less romantic bird:cheery, but violent. In the breeding season he will attack anything small and red, seeing it as a rival. (And sticklebacks do the same, don't they? If robins learn to swim, or sticklebacks to fly, there is going to be trouble). There are perhaps 5,000 - 9,000 singing nightingales in this country (RSPB) and around six million robins, so if someone tells you that they have heard a bird singing at night, it is a lot more likely to be the latter, than the former. (Though the bird that sang in Berkley Square is thought, confusingly, to have been a sedge warbler). In this case the robin sang a few bars and gave up, perhaps confessing himself outclassed. And the nightingale sang on, clearly audible against the horrible roar and whine from the A27, which would have distressed John Keats, and perhaps provoked Milton to one of his intemperately choleric sonnets. Two nights ago, he stopped. I am hoping that this means that he has found a mate.

Now, you may have worked out that this is not actually happening on the Railway Land, and wondering why it deserves a place in this newsletter. Two reasons. Firstly, this same bird often works his way round to the old allotment site, so he is one of our honorary members. Secondly, we can never stress enough that to manage the reserve successfully, we must look out, as well as in. The reason for the Linklater project is that we recognise that the world is sometimes a very small place. The nightingale is our witness.

Jon Gunson

A Ringing lesson

I have just returned from a fascinating early evening walk with Leonie Mercer, Brian Waters and Reg Lanaway who is based at Plumpton College. Reg is a licensed Bird Ringer and he has trained Brian who has recently gained his certificate. Alongside Dave Sykes - who has made and placed 7 nestboxes for us, Brian has over a good few years, made and 'set' about twelve bird boxes on the Railway Land.

One we visited was made when he worked at the Harvey's yard. It is about ten years old and still in good nick. He puts this down to the fact it was constructed

from old floorboards soaked in the sugary slops from the brewing house. It contained five great tit chicks



and Reg used the larger of his two types of rings on the right leg of each chick. He explained that the smaller rings are used on older birds, chicks legs are chunky and soft in the nest - as they age they become thinner and scallier.

The numbers on the rings are held in a national data base administered by the British Museum of Natural History'

Another box had some rather older chicks, almost ready to fly, we only ringed one as at this stage. It is not a good idea to ring the birds as they can make a burst for



freedom after they've been returned to their box, all just a bit too soon for their own good.Both Brian and Reg handled the birds with such skill, so gently but firmly holding them still and returning them quickly to the safety of their boxes.



A third box was empty, the birds had flown probably earlier today. Ringing must take place during a very short window, between 12 - 18 days after hatching.

The Reserve was bathed in a golden light, there were whitethroats nesting near the ground in the marvellously thick nettle and bramble cover in the scrape, so it is very important we keep areas of this cover to attract these birds. A reed warbler, and chiff chaffs, thrushes, robins, and blackbirds were all singing their hearts out. Only the marsh frogs in the Heart of Reeds were any match for them, making up for a lack of melody with raucous throaty volume.



Pat Rigg

A plea to dog owners!

One of our most regular senior dog walkers recently asked me if it would be possible to have a second bin on the Reserve. She had noticed that the walkers who prefer to go down the riverside path do not pass the existing dog waste bin near the main entrance and pathway. She wondered if the mess left on paths and grass would be reduced if we had a bin sited by the river.



She is distressed by the mess left by some dog walkers and her daughter has regularly been public spirited enough to clear up after the irresponsible owners.

I know the JMB (many of whom are keen dog walkers) are concerned about the mess left by some inconsiderate owners. They are hatching plans for a publicity drive to tackle the issue, so we await with interest their proposals. However Dan Ross kindly provided me with details of the costs involved in having a second bin placed on site. He, by the way, is convinced that a second bin would not be the answer, and has much experience of this issue from all the sites he manages.

A new bin would cost the Reserve £360 + vat with installation costs of £35 + vat in addition. We already pay £5 per week for the existing bin to be emptied (£260 pa), and this charge would double for a second bin. This would be the equivalent of 70 membership fees. I wonder if the careless owners have any idea of the consequences of their lack of action!



The recently refurbished steps up from the scrape. This maintenance work by Dan and the volunteers keeps the Reserve smart, shows it is cared for and improves accessibility for visitors.

The 2009/10 Pavilion Rocks Appeal

By September when the Pavilion works start, I hope we will have made an appreciable dent in the funding shortfall. At the 2020 vision exhibition we are launching our new appeal for sponsorship of the gabion walls. The six sides of the ground floor of the Pavilion will be clad with rocks illustrating the geological history of the British Isles. In themselves they will be a fascinating teaching tool, but they will also allow us to provide children and families with the opportunity to be really involved in the fabric of the building.

Professor Rory Mortimer has gone to incredible lengths to source the rocks. This has saved us money, but by doing the filling of the metal gabions ourselves we save labour costs.

The idea of turning this task into a money-raising community activity that would particularly appeal to children was the result of a brainstorming session in a local hostelry.

Following the launch at 2020 vision, we intend to publicise this appeal through the local press, Viva Lewes, Lewes News and in supportive outlets and shops in the town. In the next newsletter there will be a flyer which you can use to choose types of rocks, order named certificates and enable a child or family group to join us in placing their rock in the gabion walls. We expect this to take place in the spring of 2010, so these certificates will make great stocking fillers or extra birthday presents.

Those of us who are young at heart can enjoy sponsoring and placing or having rocks placed - too!

Pat Rigg



Community Ranger May update

Work on site

- During the past few weeks, we have been working hard to repair our surfaced footpaths. Some were damaged by the cold winter, but are now being re-surfaced with a fine gravel coating
- Cattle Grazing has begun in the meadows for the season, and dog walkers are requested to keep their dogs under control in the meadows. Winter grass and wildflower seeding of the meadows will be monitored over the coming weeks.
- The temporary fencing surrounding the restored Leighside Pond has now been removed as the vegetation surrounding the pond has now established.
- Graffiti has been a small problem on the new wooden bridge in the woods over the restored Leighside Pond, and we would urge the public to report anyone seen doing graffiti on site to call the police.
- Woodland glades will be kept open and managed for butterflies and other insects.
- Our Junior Management Board are designing new information boards to help young people understand the restored Leighside Pond. These will be located on the wooden bridge above the pond.

Wildlife sightings

- May is a great time for seeing Damsel and Dragon flies, emerging from the wetland areas.
- Many birds are nesting on site at the moment, and each habitat has its own species. In the reedbed areas, look out for reedwarblers, in the woodland black caps and in the old sidings, white throats.
- Marsh frogs are also breeding in the ponds and ditches. Listen out for the distinctive “quack” like call on a warm day (or night!).

NB: Dog walkers: please keep your dogs under control on the Railway Land, and avoid disturbing wildlife. Please pick up dog waste and use the bin provided,

Meeching Valley Pupils Our response to 2020Vision

In February John Parry did the rounds of the schools participating in the 2020 vision exhibition. His task was to introduce the theme of the exhibition and to enthuse the children. Sometimes we take for granted his ability to weave a narrative - but those of you who have had the chance to hear him in action know he is a great communicator.

Following John's talk the teacher asked for a response from each of them and each wrote at least a page of A4. Here are a selection some of their thoughts at the start of their project. Each school will hold their own exhibition and a selection committee made up of three pupil representatives from each school, Chris Ient and John Parry will then select the displays for the Foundry Gallery. Prepare to be amazed!

*I think 20-20 vision is a great idea. I love the idea that it is our opinion. I'm really pleased that our work is going to be in a public place. John Parry is really determined to let us be heard which I really like about him. I think in 2020 a lot would change but things would upgrade as well. I'm really excited about our project for another reason because when it does get to 2020 (in 11 years time I will be 22) we can see what is around and think back to this project to see if we was right about what has changed. **Farah Rogers***

*I think 20-20 vision will be great as we will be able to have our views recognised by the public when our work is exhibited in the Foundry Gallery in Lewes. I hadn't heard of the foundry before and it was interesting to find out it used to be a garage and before that an ironworks. It is good to share our opinions with 5 other schools because it is nice to see what they think will be obsolete in 11 years time...If some objects are obsolete in 2020 they will become a piece of history because they could tell how life was like when we were children, just like you can tell what life was like for the Ancient Greeks by their amazing pottery and other artefacts. **Tommy Read***



John Parry at Meeching Valley School

...It's good if people listen to our ideas and try them out so they can look after our planet. John Parry really got me into this 2020 vision subject, it really got me going.

*I am really glad that all of us children are everybody's future especially parents or adults. I am really glad that we are taking part... **L Dorosz***

*I agree with the 2020 project as it allows children's opinions to actually be valued out of school, whereas most of the time we are ignored. I also feel honoured and privileged that our school has been chosen to do this. I am glad our teachers accepted the offer. I find it appropriate that the exhibition is being held in the foundry as there were a lot of objects that used to be used there that are now obsolete.... **James Harris***

Firstly I'm glad that someone like John Parry is giving us the opportunity to give our opinion on this 2020 project. I think it is a project that will make our minds buzz! The exact words that John said were absolutely true "it is like peeling

an onion, getting deeper in." The topic (what objects do you think will not be here in 2020) is amazingly interesting. Sometimes our opinion doesn't matter but I think that is now a different story. Having my work on show in the Foundry would be, well, I would be speechless!...

Emily Emery

*When John Parry came in to talk to us I was really excited. I knew a bit about what we were going to do because Miss told us a bit about it beforehand, but as John went on it got more exciting. But the best thing is that we get to voice our own opinions so we get heard because as children we feel that the adults do all the talking like it or lump it, but now we can speak for ourselves and no one can tell us what to do.... **Erica Lock***

It's nice that someone cares about our point of view and that John Parry wants to get us heard! Children have a right to be listened to and that's exactly what he does....I am most grateful to John because he is most probably 1 out of 1 million people who actually cares about our opinion and how we feel. To adults children sound like a whisper in the wind. I feel grateful that John and his team want to change that so children get listened to more. **Tyrese Steed**