

Railway Land Wildlife Trust



March 2013
Edition No. 78

www.railwaylandproject.org
Registered Charity No. 800655

Editorial

Dave Carter's atmospheric picture of the Winterbourne scooped both the prize for the category 'Seasons' and the People's Choice' in this year's photographic competition. The exhibition 'Viva Railway Land' introduced many newcomers to the Linklater, and encouraged some new members to join the Railway Land Wildlife Trust. Our thanks to the entrants, our sponsors and all the volunteers who made it possible to open the Linklater throughout the exhibition. We will hold another competition next Spring, so PLEASE, look for the unusual and interesting, take plenty of pictures throughout the year, and enter your favourites next January!

The other winning and highly commended photos are displayed on the back page and on our website.

The papers for the AGM - held on Friday 19th April at 7.00pm dominate this edition, but this is also a reminder that membership renewal is due. Those of you who pay by Standing Order, need to do nothing, but for everyone else, I would appreciate receiving a cheque made payable to the RLWT, accompanied by a renewal form. Membership continues to be £10 per year, and covers a household. Receiving the newsletter by email saves us printing - and if outside Lewes - postage costs.

You will find the renewal form / standing order form as an insert or an attachment to this newsletter

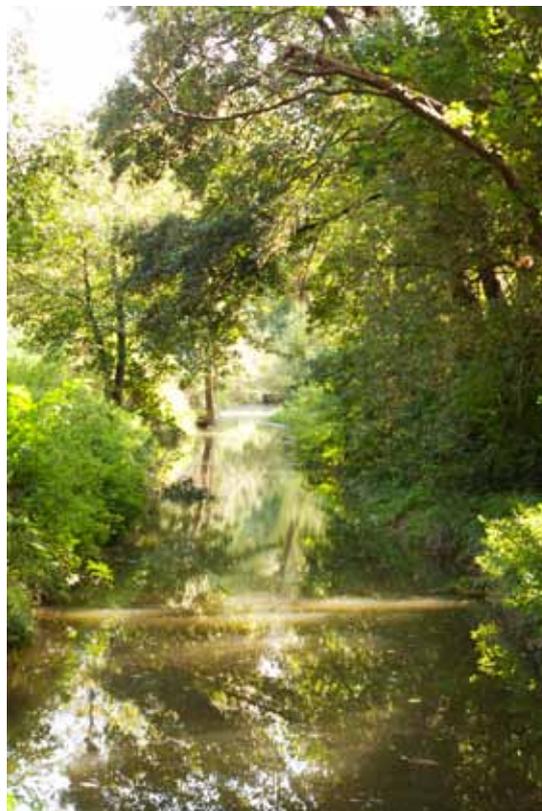
As a small independent Trust we rely on your support - when you attend our events, when you use and appreciate the Reserve as walkers and keen observers, as volunteers, and through your membership and generous donations. A copy of our accounts will be available at the AGM, and will be published in the next newsletter.

There are just two remaining Month of Sundays events left; 'Restless Railways' on 31st March is selling well, and tickets for the poetry evening 'Run River Run' on Sunday 28th April will go on sale in mid March. This series of successful fund-raisers are a great way to support the work of the Trust.

Plenty to look forward to in 2013

The Sunday openings of the Linklater start on May 5th. Throughout the winter dedicated teams have been working on interesting interactive displays that will be unveiled this summer season. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and welcome visitors of all ages. On Friday November 8th there will be a celebration of 25 years of the RLWT in the Town Hall.

If you would like to join our volunteers, we will be offering a training session on Sunday 21st April. Do contact Geoff Bush on g_bush@sky.com



Pat Rigg

Reminder for all keen plant surveyors

We are planning to meet in the Linklater on **Sunday, 17th March at 2.30pm** to discuss how to organise the survey and should be finished by 4pm at the latest.

Cuckoo-pint – *Arum maculatum*

You'll have to wait until Autumn to see these spikes of splendid red berries but meanwhile this woodland plant has plenty of intriguing features

As a plant of shady places, hedge bottoms and edges of woodland, it gets going early in the year before the leaf canopy reduces the light intensity. Even after the January snow and floods had disappeared there were clumps of its dark green, arrow shaped leaves along the paths in the Reserve.

Flowers follow in April and May but you will see only the pale green "hood" which protects them and the purplish poker shaped spathes. This is part of the inflorescence and emits a smell reminiscent of faeces and warms the air inside up to 15degrees above its surroundings, a combination irresistible



to small insects. They often penetrate the grid of hairs at the base of the spathe, contacting first the pollen producing male flowers under the hairs and then the female ones at the base, maybe bringing pollen from other plants on their bodies to pollinate them.

After pollination the spathes tend to shrivel and the female flowers eventually produce the tempting looking red berries. Trying these is said to be one of the commonest causes of attendance at A&E departments for accidental poisoning, but people rarely eat many since they have an acrid taste, their oxalate crystals making the lining of the mouth and throat swell and tingle. Nasty but not fatal!

There are several names in common use as well as Cuckoo-pint, pronounced to rhyme with hint, not pint. Lords and ladies probably refers to the hood like growth protecting the purple spathe; others are Adam and Eve, Cows and Bulls, Bobbins, Devils and Angels and

Starch-root because of the arrowroot like substance obtained from the root and used in the past as a poor man's tea or coffee substitute.

Illustration above: from Wayside And Woodland Blossoms © Edward Step

Illustration right: by Sheila Hadley for Nick Baker's British Wildlife, © New Holland Publishing (UK) Ltd 2002/3



Jenifer Barton

Bird's Eye View



image: ©
Philippe Clement /
naturepl.com

Something that intrigues me is the sight of herring gulls playing in the Ouse. More than once I've seen a small group not moving far from where the Winterbourne enters the river. Clearly enjoying themselves, one in particular not only drifts sideways against the current, but then takes to pirouetting in the water. They're not fishing, but I wonder if they are taking advantage of the mixing of fresh and sea water.

On the 16th February I saw the first annual show of violets - three patches of purple to the left of the main path, just before the first seat. Spring is coming!

Jean Heywood

NOTICE of the Annual General Meeting of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust Friday 19 April 2012 at the Linklater Pavilion

7.00pm – Hospitality - everyone welcome

- 7.30pm
1. Introduction by Joint Chairman Alister Scott
 2. Illustrated Talk by Dan Ross and John Parry followed by QA session
 3. AGM commencing at approx 8.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 23 March 2012
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual Report and Accounts year ending 31 October 2012
5. Election of Trustee members of the Management Committee.

Under our Articles of Association half the Trustee members are required to retire each year and any Trustees joining since the last AGM are also obliged to retire. All are able to offer themselves for re-election.

Retiring this year are Andy Bradley, Alison Lawfield, Neil Merchant and Pat Rigg. Neil Merchant is not offering himself for re-election.

6. RESOLUTION from the Trustees that the meeting adopt new Articles of Association as outlined in the document published in this Newsletter and available in full to members on request.

7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Any Other Business

Please bring this publication to the meeting as it includes the Minutes of the last AGM and the Annual Report for the year ending 31 October 2012.

Annual Accounts

Copies of the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the Trust will be available to all members at the AGM and once adopted these will be published in the next Newsletter for those unable to attend the AGM.

For information, the accounts are prepared and await Trustee approval prior to circulation, however, we can advise a small net surplus for the year.

Subscriptions

A subscription renewal form and Gift Aid declaration together with a Direct Debit mandate are included in this newsletter and Pat Rigg will be happy to take completed forms and payment before and after the meeting.

Alison Lawfield, Company Secretary, RLWT

Bird Report – Review of the Railway Land Birds 2012

At the start of each year we do the number crunching on the previous year's bird surveys. It is a pleasant task, reminding us of our many walks through the reserve, throughout the year. We mostly see the usual suspects of course, the blackbirds, blue tits, robins and such like, but occasionally there is a sighting of a rarity, a Redstart or a Ring Ousel, or of an elusive inhabitant such as a Tree Creeper or a Water Rail. Instead of telling you the whole story, we have chosen two species to write about for each month, the two that stand out for us for one reason or another, and that were seen more than once, or in good numbers, in that particular month.

January: Kingfisher and Goldfinch. These two jewels brighten up the Railwayland in January. A Kingfisher was often seen perched on a fence down on the meadows and Goldfinches were seen by the dozen on the tops of bare trees in the former allotments, their numbers increased by migrants from colder parts.

February: Fieldfare and Redwing. Visitors from northern Europe, they came to feed in the hedgerows and meadows.

March: Moorhen and Coot. The Moorhen with his red bill and forehead is with us in the ditches and ponds throughout the year but the Coot, a larger, dumpy water bird with a white bill and forehead seems to come here now in the early Spring to breed.

April: Chiffchaff and Blackcap. Both species overwinter on the Reserve and by April were making themselves heard as they prepared for breeding. Both make neat nests in which they lay about 5 eggs, low down in brambles and dense bushes in the woodland areas.

May: Reed Warbler and Whitethroat. These summer migrants had arrived by now and were making themselves at home in the Heart of Reeds. The Reed Warblers spend most of their time amongst the dense reeds; the Whitethroats sometimes perch up by the mound or skulk in bushes, then flit to and fro across the reeds.



June: Linnets and Starling. The Linnets is a small, nervous, finch-like bird with a longish, forked tail and short bill – we don't often see them but a trio was here in June. The Starling in contrast is brash, jaunty, and gregarious. We saw them every month from January to June, and had a sizable flock on the Chilly Brooks in June. They then disperse, presumably to roam the countryside, and have not been recorded in any numbers since.

July: Blackbird and Wren. These are both very tuneful and easily recognisable song birds, always heard and usually seen on a walk around the Reserve at any time of the year. In July (often a quiet month) they were both here, singing loudly, as ever.

August: Magpie and Jackdaw. Raucous birds, always around. The youngsters seldom move more than 1 km from where they hatched so there were many of them, young and old, during August. With bushes and trees in full leaf the smaller birds can hide, lurking in the undergrowth, but these fellows were seen on the Reserve in large numbers in August.

September: Blue Tit and Long-tailed Tit. They are often seen together, family flocks with maybe a dozen birds or more flitting amongst the trees on the former allotments, or down by the elms. Twenty six Blue Tits were seen on one walk in September and a flock of ten Long-tailed Tits a month later.





October: House Martin and Swallow. These are always welcome as heralds of the summer, so to see them as they leave our shores on their way south must surely mark the imminent start of winter. The Swallows migrate by day, feeding as they fly. The House Martins migrate in large groups and just such a group was seen flying over the Reserve in early October.

November: Grey Heron and Cormorant. Both these are birds of watery places. Two or more Grey Heron are almost always standing hunched up and watchful by our ditches and a large black bird, the Cormorant, often flies over, with neck outstretched, on its way up or down-river.

December: Grey Wagtail and Pied Wagtail. The Grey Wagtail is actually yellowish and the Pied Wagtail is the more commonly seen grey, black and white one. Both Wagtails spend their summer elsewhere but in the winter they come to these parts and were seen on muddy margins on the Reserve in December. They are constantly on the move as they search the ground for insects.



You can find details of what was recorded month by month by going to the BirdTrack section of the BTO website and looking up TQ 4209 'Lewes Railwayland' .

If you would like to join the Bird Group and do an occasional walk through the Reserve, recording what you see or hear as you go, then do send an e-mail to Leonie Mercer leonie.m@tiscali.co.uk or send her your casual sightings if you see something of note at any time. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Roach

all images © RSPB

Review of 'A Month of Sundays'



January: 'An Evening with Simon Evans' was a hugely enjoyable 'sold out' event. Simon lit up a cold dark night with wit, acute observation and a deceptively easy rapport with his audience. Everyone was delighted that Simon performed for the whole evening - and it was particularly pleasing that so many newcomers were introduced to the delights of the Linklater. Thanks to Pete Dudswell who set up the sound and lighting for us. This was the second benefit gig that Simon has done for the RLWT - we feel very privileged and grateful for his support.

February: 'Tales of a Bat Woman'

Alexia Tamblyn's beautifully illustrated and riveting talk conveyed her fascination with the world's most diverse mammals. Alexia has worked in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines as well as Surrey and Sussex where she's helped homeowners live with these remarkable creatures and safeguards nesting and roosting sites. Several species of bats have been recorded as visiting the Reserve so it is timely that we have put up a bat box this month.



Ranger's Report:

Weather and the Winterbourne Stream



Above: the Winterbourne in flood
Below: water flowing into the sidings



photos © Dan Ross

<http://biospherehere.org.uk>

A copy of the consultation document has been included with all delivered versions. We strongly urge our members to respond on line or by post, in support of this initiative.

The Winterbourne flowing strongly - especially during December and January, transformed the Railway Land. High flow, combined with the operation of the tidal flap at the mouth of the Winterbourne, means that during high tides each day, the water flows over the banks into the woodland, reedbed and sidings, creating a large ephemeral wetland.

The ability of the Railway Land to act as flood storage capacity, is one of the essential “ecosystem services” that this site performs, saving many properties and businesses within the town from flooding.

Strengthening Partnerships

The Brighton & Hove and Lewes Downs Biosphere Project is now entering its public consultation phase (February – April 2013), with a series of events scheduled throughout the Biosphere Reserve area (Lewes, Newhaven, Telescombe, & Peacehaven etc). For more information and to take part in the public consultation go to this web link:



Community Groups and Volunteers

The Ranger would like to thank all of the volunteer groups who have contributed to the work on site over the past few months. Groups include the South Downs Voluntary Rangers, Brighton Conservation Volunteers, the Railway Land Meadow Minders, and our Nature Corridors for All team.

Tree works

In October 2012, a large number of Crack and Goat Willow trees were coppiced along the banks of the Winterbourne Stream. The rationale for this work had habitat management, health and safety and economic objectives. Coppicing is a traditional approach to managing trees and will allow more light to the stream. The trees grow back strongly from the base and regenerate. The costs of managing these trees has been increasing over the past few years, and pollarding needs to be repeated on a 3 year cycle. Coppicing will increase this cycle to 8-10 years, therefore saving long term management costs.

Sidings and reedbed cuts

Management of the reedbed and old sidings this year involved using a tractor and flail. During October, an agricultural contractor cut targeted areas within the old sidings. In the reedbed, a flail was used to cut down vegetation on all of the banks and paths, to prevent bramble and other woody plants from dominating. This work will be repeated every 5 years.

Hazel Coppice

The Hazel coppice has now been fully coppiced, completing the 50% coppiced last winter. The trees are now 7 years old, which is a traditional timescale for carrying out this work. This work was split over two years to give us time to monitor the success of regeneration of the coppice stools - which proved to be high.

Dan Ross



Sunday 31st March 2013

Linklater 7.30pm

The Restless Railways of Lewes

John Hollands and Brian Taylor

'History on your doorstep'

Photo by kind permission of Peter Browning

Railway enthusiast John Hollands explains why Lewes became such an important railway junction. Why so many changes to the railway tracks, and what did the owner of Leighside House have to do with it all. See a fascinating railway model by Brian Taylor.

All will be revealed.

Tickets (£6) are going fast, so get yours at IEKO, 37 High Street, (top of School Hill) or Harveys Shop, Cliffe High Street. or contact us at info@railwaylandproject.org

The final 'Month of Sundays' fundraising event will be '**Run River Run**', a poetry evening led by Graham Fawcett to herald our **Water Festival** on Sunday 23rd June, a free family event.

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LTD
Registered number 02313579
Charity Number: 800655

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ended 31st October 2012

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st October 2012. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" issued in 2005 in preparing the annual report and financial statements for the charity.

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:-

Jenifer Barton

Roger Beasley

Andy Bradley *Joint Chairman*

Jon Gunson *Resigned August 2012*

Alison Lawfield *Company Secretary*

Neil Merchant

Ruth O'Keefe *Resigned August 2012*

Patricia Rigg

Alister Scott *Joint Chairman*

David Sykes

Independent Auditors

Maxwell-Gumbleton and Co

1 West Street, Lewes

East Sussex BN7 2NZ

Registered Address

27 King Henry's Road

Lewes

East Sussex BN7 1BY

Structure Governance and Management Governing Document

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by a memorandum and articles of association dated 4th November 1988.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association Trustees are elected by the Membership. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustees co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering

co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skills needed.

Organisation

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust is governed by a Trustee Board which is responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Trust, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Risk Management

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises

- The maintenance of a risk register
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Objectives and Activities and Performance

The objects of the charity are to:-

1. Record, study, conserve improve and create for the benefit of the public, places of natural scientific interest and in particular of arboricultural, botanical, entomological, geological, ornithological, archaeological and zoological interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such places
2. To promote, organise, conduct and encourage study and research for the increase of knowledge in the natural sciences and to publish the useful results of such study and research
3. To advance the education of the public in:
 - a. The natural sciences and in particular arboriculture, botany, entomology, geology, ornithology, archaeology and zoology; and
 - b. The employment of the natural resources of land in craft work
4. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public at large.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011/2012

The activities on the Local Nature Reserve (owned and managed by Lewes District Council) and in the Linklater (owned and managed by the Railway Land Wildlife Trust) are based on a collaboration between both parties with a particular focus around the objectives of the Trust and around social inclusion.

- The Linklater first floor was open to the public free of charge from 1000 - 1500 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- 54 free events were held throughout the year including Sunday afternoon openings from May – September run by volunteers attracting an average of 30 people an afternoon. Lists of flowers to be seen as well as birds spotted by visitors were on display. Visitors had the opportunity to be involved in the creation of a mosaic designed by Maia Eden, hinting at environmental change in the form of migrating egrets from the south and a drop of water depicting pressure on supplies. It is now complete and in position outside the Undercroft thanks to the good offices of Martin Fox and Dave Sykes. Visitors also showed particular interest in the observation bee hive and volunteers answered questions about the project and future developments.

During the year the Trust held or hosted:

- 28 events devoted to schools or environmental teacher training workshops of which 12 were free including two visits by children from Chailey Heritage.
- 48 local environmental group meetings of which 8 which were free.
- 71 regular evening activities of the community choir and the print making group – the latter launching a book celebrating aspects of the Local Nature Reserve and the project.
- 12 commercial lettings mainly to the National Childbirth Trust.
- 12 local authority workshops / consultations or meetings of which 3 were free.
- 4 fund-raising sponsor events of which one was free focusing on relevant subject areas e.g. flint; Sussex Wildlife Past Present and Future
- 54 free open days, Sundays afternoons, exhibitions and a festival in June which attracted 2000 people.
- 23 days of adult education courses.

Linklater Bee project

Our work with the University of Sussex on a free honey bee observation hive which has proved to be of great interest to the public, has been enhanced by the inclusion of a video loop, the construction of a moveable screen to reduce reflections regarding the live video pictures and a safer method of feeding the bees with a water and sugar solution

Social Inclusion

The Trust continues to deliver its ground-breaking approach to adult social care through the Nature Corridors group of adults with learning disabilities and their work related to the environment. This has included, among many things, the creation of a mosaic at our well head as well as a large scale willow model of a kingfisher which was warmly received by the visiting public during a showcase of their work over three days at the end of September.

Junior Management Board

After 16 years of continual input by young people, it was decided to reform the group by working in closer partnership with the local secondary school and giving even more responsibility to a slightly older age group. Negotiations are under way and we hope to report a significant development next year.

Partnerships

The Trust formed additional partnerships and working relationships beyond those of Lewes District Council, Priory School, the University of Sussex and the Sussex Wildlife Trust, as follows:

- representation on a small steering committee of a National Improvement Area research project called Chalking up the Benefits pioneering approaches to local eco-system services.
- the Ouse Valley Cycle Network steering committee to which the Trust contributed free aerial footage of the lower Ouse valley for a promotional film of the project.
- Member of the national Water Efficiency Network run by Brighton University.
- Primary teacher training role with the South East Grid for Learning (SEGfL).

Through all the above activities the Trustees are confident that they have fulfilled the charity's aims regarding public education and are providing an inclusive and much needed resource for the public benefit of the people of Lewes and the Ouse valley.

Our Strategy regarding public benefit

The Trustees and Director are mindful of the guidance from the Charities Commission in respect of public benefit and conscious of their obligations when considering the activities undertaken by RLWT. We are operating a multi-level social enterprise in which we encourage opportunities for public benefit to appear and emerge in different and unexpected

ways. However, this year's particular focus has been on planning and drawing together a spread of skills and experts in some core areas for permanent display in our Undercroft; namely soil and its properties; geology that underpins our soils; the chalk aquifer that cleans and stores freshwater; flooding and sea level rise and the workings of a ground source heat pump by Priory School pupils supported by a grant from the Physics Society. Much effort has gone into lining up these groups, supporting the research and encouraging the completion of engaging displays by the summer of 2013 – the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust.

Financial Review

We now have the benefit of a year's operations to appreciate basic costs such as heating, cleaning, insurance and maintenance. To that end we have created a sinking fund to ensure that we have the resources for repairs and up-grades.

We have also worked hard at various governance issues from strategic planning to risk management led with resolve by one of the Co-chairs and the Company Secretary with the full co-operation and agreement of the Board of Trustees.

The Trust moves into 2012/13 in a cautiously positive cash position. Given the continuing uncertain economic outlook, careful cost management is vital for future sustainability as well as generating reserves to enable us to support environmental initiatives including the wild flower conservation and education project in Madagascar. In 2012/13 our main focus will, however, be on highlighting and celebrating our achievements of the last 25 years to inspire new members, initiatives, financial reserves and hope for the future.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Railway Land Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) submit the Trustees' Report and the independently examined financial statements for the year ending 31st October 2011 in accordance with the applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (2005);
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant accounting information of which the charitable company's accountant is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the accountant is aware of that information.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

None

Auditor

A resolution proposing that Maxwell-Gumbleton & Co be re-appointed as auditors/independent examiners of the charity will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved by the Trustee Board on 30th January 2013

Alister Scott
Joint Chairman

RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LTD Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Linklater Pavilion - Friday 23 March 2012

Introductions were made by the Joint Chairs - Andy Bradley (AB) and Alister Scott (AS) outlining the agenda for the evening.

1. Moment of Reflection

AS asked members present to consider 'a moment in nature' that had had an impact on them as individuals and to discuss this with their neighbour and then in the same way consider 'Why the Trust matters'.

Feedback on the latter:-

- A template to be replicated
- Opportunity for local schools to have a countryside experience
- Exploring the consequence of peoples' values
- Informal education resource
- Care for wildlife
- Such an inclusive place
- More inclusive for people than wildlife
- Antidote to modern life
- Protects valuable area and supports people who need protecting
- Place where greed has no place
- Neighbourhood escape
- Example of what man can do with land
- Close to town – more people know it is here
- Breathing space to find a bit of peace
- Land of opportunity
- Extra facet to an amazing town
- 'Small can influence'
- Enriches lives of humans – hope the same for wildlife
- Very good learning environment
- Beacon of inspiration
- Chance for children just to be

2. In the absence of Dan Ross (DR) due to illness AS delivered his report on the work that had been carried out on the reserve during the year. The meeting recognised the significant contribution of DR and Lewes District Council to the reserve.

3. John Parry (JP) reported on the work achieved so far by the Trust as a result of the Linklater since the launch in 2006

Questions arising:

- Derek: why are the Environment Agency looking at 150 years in their decision making?
JP responded that it is an EU initiative but the time frame is 'just within reach' of a generation ie

grandchildren.

- Tessa George commented that the presentation answered the question as to why the Trust is important.

- A member commented positively on the Madagascar project– are there any more in the pipeline? JP responded that there are potential opportunities in Bangladesh and Brazil but the plan is to review the success in Madagascar before moving on to other locations.

- JP thanked everyone for their support.

- Another member asked if there were any major elements of the building development still outstanding and requiring funding. Roger Beasley responded that there were a few minor things but nothing seriously wrong. JP commented that there was work to be done in regard to the land which would require subtle management– e.g. pathways were spreading. He commented on the great work that had been done in respect of nesting boxes and the Winterbourne stream by Brian Walter .and the RLWT bird group

Formal part of the meeting (8.35pm)

Apologies were received from Jenifer Barton, Caroline Kenward, Susan Crossley, Michael Marwood, Susan Murray, Ruth O’Keeffe, Dan Ross, Tony and Catherine Blake

24 Members present

Minutes of the AGM 15 April 2011

having been circulated in the February 2012 Newsletter (with thanks to Patricia Rigg as editor) were agreed by acclamation.

Matters Arising – none

Annual Report and Accounts

Alison Lawfield (AL) presented the accounts to the meeting (the report having been circulated in the February Newsletter). The explanation included commentary on the running costs of the Pavilion - income and the success of individual fund raising events. Patrica Rigg proposed that they be adopted, Seconded by Brian Walter and a show of hands indicated a unanimous vote in favour. AL acknowledged the contribution of Holly Smith on these accounts and her commitment into the future.

Election of Members

- Alister Scott and Ruth O’Keeffe having been co-opted during the year offered themselves for election.

- Jenifer Barton, Roger Beasley, Alison Lawfield and David Sykes being the trustees resigning by rotation offered themselves for re-election.

It was proposed to re-elect them en bloc by Jane McIntosh; Seconded by Jean Cash and a show of hands indicated a unanimous vote in favour.

Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed to re-appoint Maxwell Gumbleton & Co of Lewes by Patricia Rigg; seconded by Roger Beasley and a show of hands indicated a unanimous vote in favour. Fee to be agreed by Trustees in due course.

AB proposed thanks to:

- Retiring Trustees

- Tessa George – Treasurer for a number of years but providing a particularly valuable contribution during the challenging building phase of the project

- Chris lent – a great organiser and publiciser of events and team player

- Jean Cash – a breath of fresh air with an infectious enthusiasm encouraging a massive team effort particularly with the fire walk in 2011.

All three have indicated they would be keen to be involved in the future.

- Trustee group for their diligence and thoroughness and their huge individual contributions

- Vicky Lawrence for her voluntary contribution particularly to the forthcoming festival

- Geoff Bush – particularly for Sunday openings and the photographic exhibition

- MartinFox – for all his work on the Undercroft floor and the laying of the main entrance path personally from AB and AS, John Parry for his unswerving commitment; vision; passion; skill

and resilience in some trying circumstances

- And finally Anne Parry a rock for John and her personal contribution to the Trust

Any Other Business

- A final question: has the inclusion of the brown sign in the precinct been a good or a bad thing for the trust. JP responded that it was important to have a presence in the precinct but that it had brought more people which was having an impact on the site and which will need careful managing.
- JP proposed a vote of thanks to AB and AS.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST – ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Background – charities generally

All charities and companies require a governing document which sets out its purposes and how it is to be administered. The Charities Commission recommend that it includes all the information about:

- what the charity is set up to do (objects);
- how the charity will do those things (powers);
- who will run it (charity trustees);
- what happens if changes to the administrative provisions need to be made (amendment provisions); and
- what happens if the charity wishes to wind up (dissolution provision)

It should also include:

- how the charity trustees will run it; and
- internal arrangements for meetings, voting and looking after money etc.

Background – companies generally

RLWT is also set up as a company and some key things to note are that a company:

- is incorporated which means the law considers it to be a person and it can therefore own land and enter into contracts in its own name
- is quite separate from its members or directors (trustees); directors are agents and not normally liable for its debts; it is a criminal offence to act as a director whilst disqualified
- has 'limited liability' which means that members are normally only liable for the debts of the company to the extent which they have undertaken to guarantee them (RLWT not exceeding £1)
- is subject to company law as well as charity law
- charitable companies can never be the same as commercial ie they can't make profits for distribution. All the property of the charitable company is applicable for charitable purposes.

Proposal

Following the enactment of the Companies Act 2006 there has been an opportunity to update the Articles of Association and these are proposed by Trustees for members' consideration and adoption at the Annual General Meeting 2013.

The proposed document is more comprehensive than the original (1988); meets current legislation and retains relevant elements of the previous document.

Specific changes that may be of interest to members are:-

- Objects – **the Trustees consider the wording originally drafted in 1988 to be somewhat outmoded and they may well wish to propose a complete re-write in due course** however, for the purposes of this document propose

The objects of the Trust are:-

- To record, study, conserve, improve and create for the benefit of the public places of natural scientific interest and in particular of arboricultural, botanical, entomological, geological, ornithological, archaeological and zoological interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such

places **within a framework of sustainability**;

ii) To promote, organise, conduct and encourage study and research for the increase of knowledge in the natural sciences **and sustainability** and to publish the useful results of such study and research;

iii) To advance the education of the public in:-

a. **Sustainability and** the natural sciences and in particular in arboriculture, botany, entomology, geology, ornithology and zoology; and

b. **the employment of the natural sustainable resources of land in craftwork**;

iv) **To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public at large.**

Trustee appointment limited to a maximum of nine years – existing retirement by rotation remains;

Number of Trustees limited to 12 (previously 30) and existing minimum of 3 remains.

New clause that under specific circumstances and with appropriate approvals it will be possible for a Trustee to provide services to the Trust and be paid for them

The proposed Articles as drafted conform with the guidance from Companies House and the Charities Commission; there is a requirement for approval of the Charities Commission in respect of the rewording of the objects and we have obtained the necessary prior written consent in order to put the revisions to members; the document is also being reviewed by our solicitor and should he make any recommendations I will advise members of those at the AGM.

We have not included the whole document with this Newsletter as it is 22 pages long, but members are of course entitled to see it and I can arrange to email a pdf or send a hard copy to anyone making a request. Please contact me on arb@brewers.co.uk or 07885 409341.

A Lawfield Company Secretary, March 2013

Run River Run

Graham Fawcett, teacher performer and broadcaster

7.30pm Sunday 28th April. Tickets £6 from IEKO, Harveys Shop, or contact the RLWT at info@railwaylandproject.org

“Such a rich and illuminating 45 minutes of poetry” (Member of audience at Henley Book Festival)

The breath-taking energy and grace of water in gentle flow and full spate has drawn poets

to the banks of rivers, whether real and imagined - in Asia and Africa or threading their way through the valleys and centuries across English and European and American open country.

Graham Fawcett finds their currents running in some of the great river poems of all time, which help us to reflect on the priceless gift of water in the lives of human and other creatures.

After a performance of 45 minutes there will be opportunity for discussion.





'My first visit but not my last - fascinating...' 'So enjoyed myself, it felt tranquil...' 'Great images of a special place...' 'Really welcoming, loved voting....' 'Must make sure I enter next year!'



Winners: People on the RL, **Robin Bath's 'Homewood Bound'** top left
Through the Ages Winner **Caroline Kenward** one of three shots of the Winterbourne taken between 2003 and 2012 top right.

Highly Commended:
Above **Tony Gaitskell 'Panorama of Heart of Reeds'**,
'The Wood Demon' **Charlie Gardner**,
left, and right **Jean Heywood 'Winterbourne Harnessed'**



For access to past newsletters or to see this printed version in full colour go to:

www.railwaylandproject.org

& click 'newsletters' in the left hand column

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Railway Land Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity No: 800655 - 27 King Henry's Rd, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1BY - Co Ltd by Guarantee Reg No. 02313579

The Linklater Pavilion – Centre for the Study of Environmental Change
Linklater Pavilion, Railway Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2FG

Membership Renewal / Application

Name:.....

Address:.....

Town:..... Post Code:.....

Tel No:..... email:.....

I wish to become a member / renew my membership of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) and receive quarterly newsletters and make the following payments

Annual membership £10 (minimum per household) £.....

Donation towards RLWT funds £.....

I would like to receive newsletters by email (tick if applicable)
note: receiving newsletters by email frees up £1.20 of your subscription for other RLWT projects and services

I understand that the information I have provided above will be retained for membership records only; held securely and only processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998

Gift Aid declaration

Please treat

the enclosed gift as a Gift Aid donation **OR**

all gifts of money that I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations **OR**

please do **NOT** claim Gift Aid on this donation

Signed:..... date:.....

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or capital Gains Tax for the year (6 April one year to 5 April the next) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that RLWT will reclaim on your gift.

Please notify RLWT in due course if you Want to cancel this declaration Change your name or home address or No longer pay sufficient tax on your income or capital gains

Tax claimed by the Charity - the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you give on or after 2008

If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate, you must include all your gift Aid donations on your Self assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you

Please return this form to: Pat Rigg, 9 Barn Stables, De Montfort Rd, Lewes BN7 1ST

Tel: 01273-487798 - email: rigg@patspur.demon.co.uk



New Standing Order Instruction

Please complete the mandate form below and return it to:

Membership Secretary RLWT, c/o 9 Barn Stables De Montfort Rd, Lewes BN7 1ST

To: Bank

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my /our account accordingly.

1. Account details

Account name: Account number
Address of bank: Sort code

2. Payee Details

Name of organisation you are paying: RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST
Sort code: 60 – 13 – 09
Account number: 41513096
Payment reference – Your name (please print clearly):

3. About the payment

How often the payments are to be made: **Yearly** Amount details – minimum £10:
Date of first payment:
(Please allow at least 15 working days for bank to process your application)
Choose one of the following two options:
1. Until further notice (payments will be made until you cancel this instruction)
2. Date of final payment

4. Confirmation

Customer signature(s):

Date:
