

# Railway Land Wildlife Trust No 58



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## Editorial: 'Coming Full Circle'

This is my 50<sup>th</sup> Newsletter for the Trust, having taken over the editing, layout and production in January 1992. The four page copy led with an article called 'Trusting the Future', that explained we were still frustrated at being unable to report an agreement between British Rail and Lewes District Council to secure the future of the land as a 'wildlife park'. Interestingly, the other front page article showed a National Rivers Authority digger on Chilly Brook 'reinstating the ditches' - work that has just been completed again this October.

In 1992 our bridges on the meadows were being planned as part of a 'Shell Better Britain' sponsored project by Northease Manor School. The Meadow Minders, a conservation group meeting on the first Sunday of each month, had just been started by Lesley Gorski, and the Countryside Stewardship agreement had begun with the Turner brothers - who continue to farm the water-meadows. We had applied for a licensed footpath across Chilly Brook and under the railway line to Ham Lane and hoped it would 'open within six months'.

If anyone doubts the commitment of the Trust to the long term future of the Railway Land Nature Reserve, dipping back into these early newsletters shows the remarkable foresight, long term vision and planning of John Parry and the Management Committee.

The latest Junior Management Board project to restore the Leighside House pond is well underway, sponsored by the Young

Roots Heritage Lottery Fund. As with so many of our projects, matched funding is achieved by volunteer support, and the Minders Conservation group will be providing muscle and energy over the next few months.

I hope that all of you who live in Lewes have received your copy of Lewes News with the two page spread devoted to the Railway Land and the Trust's continuing plea for community support in raising the money to start building the Linklater Pavilion in 2008.

I've decided to reprint the article by Neil Merchant in this newsletter because it was originally written for our members and we have quite a number who do not live in the town. Neil has recently joined the Management Committee and has been thrown into the deep end, helping with the onerous task of applying for funding by wrestling with very complicated application forms. Another new member of the Committee is Chris Ient, who has been involved with the Trust for some years in her Performing Arts teaching role at Priory School, but is now 'retired' and giving much needed support to our work.

Sometimes it feels all we do on the Committee is scramble around for money! It is good to remember that all of our current projects - the Minders Conservation group, Nature Corridors for All, the Leighside Pond Restoration and Pupils as Scientists continue to involve members of our community in life-long learning and life-enhancing activity on your Nature Reserve.

Enjoy your winter walks and keep me informed of any interesting sightings!

Pat Rigg ( [rigg@patspur.demon.co.uk](mailto:rigg@patspur.demon.co.uk) )

## Dates for your Diary

**Please note the proposed RLWT Quiz Night on Saturday December 1st is postponed until later in 2008.**

**11<sup>th</sup> December** 11am 'Woodland Walk' led by NC4All participants. Meet at main gate.

## The Minders' Winter Work Programme 2007-8

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2007    January 6<sup>th</sup> 2008**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008    March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008**

***We still meet by the Railway Lane gate at 1.30 on the first Sunday of every month: all welcome. (Bring wellies).***

This has been a busy time for the Minders; the Committee has decided that however important Pavilion fundraising might be, we must not let it distract us from our core function of managing the reserve. In September, we helped clear the old Leighside pond, under orders from Beth representing the Junior Management Board, and in November we did some further clearing of brambles and scrub willow from the ditches at the north end of the meadows. This should allow us to move the fence to the outside edge of the ditch, thus allowing Mr Turner's bullocks to graze the banks on the meadow side, while letting in light that will improve water quality and enhance biodiversity (i.e. more beetles).

October was rather special, though, as Ranger Dan had borrowed a boat from the Environment Agency. We kitted ourselves out with shears and lifejackets, and set out to cut back the reeds on Heart of Ditto – and in the end, I think, made a reasonable job of it, and learned a few useful lessons for the next session.



*Now that's what I call conservation work!*

My outstanding memory of that workday is of the sheer wonder of floating along channels between towering stands of reeds, with dragonflies in the air above us, and marsh frogs in the water below...and then remembering that we were a couple of hundred yards from a busy shopping precinct. I know that there are still a few Lewesians who would prefer to see a car park on that site: I wish they had been there, and had brought their children. I swear to God that Humphrey Bogart and Katie Hepburn passed us at one point...certainly there are plenty of cormorants, mallard, moorhens, kingfishers and grass snakes. Well done to those who designed and built HoR, says I.

Dan is doing well for volunteers at the moment, and at some stage we must give them all due credit. I know that much work has been done by teams from the Inland Revenue, from American Express, the Environment Agency, several primary schools and 6th Lewes Cub Scouts. Oh, and a local travel agency – Responsible Travel – have offered us sixteen volunteers for a day on December 6th. Many thanks to them all...funny how much hard work goes into making things look natural, isn't it? And on

top of this Liz and Jennifer will be planting wildflowers with the NC4All participants. It's going to be a pretty impressive Spring down on the Railway Land. Jon Gunson

### Chairman's Corner

Pat is right to celebrate her 50th edition of the newsletter and we are enormously grateful to her for taking this on and doing such a wonderful job. The newsletter not only informs members of our progress but acts as a useful reminder for the review of the year at each AGM as well as helping our fund-raising. **Thank you Pat.**

The search for more funds for the Pavilion goes on and the push now is to raise our £340,000 total to £500,000 by the end of January. We have done well to get to this point but we need an extra boost now and a bit of luck to get to the magic half million pound mark, which we are confident will unlock the remaining funds that we need.

Finally, a huge thanks to Dan, the Junior Management Board and the Minders for all the activity on site recently. Works on the former Leighside pond, the reed bed and Chilly Brook have been impressive and we are so grateful to everyone who has given their time and expertise down to every detail - such as Liz Williams and Jenifer Barton marking plants that needed to remain in the Chilly Brook ditches with a white stick.



The Trust has invested over £2,000 in this essential work and I salute everyone's determination to keep our eye on the conservation ball while at the same time working hard to raise the £750,000 needed for the Linklater Pavilion. John Parry

### Chilly Brook Ditch Dredging

This is Chilly Brook in October 2007 before



and after the important ditch dredging work mentioned in Chairman's Corner.



It is pretty dramatic stuff!

This maintenance work has to be done on a regular 8 year cycle because the ditches have become shallow and stagnant, greatly restricting the variety of species that can live there. If we did not undertake this work, the ditches would eventually fill up with river silt at times of flood and we would lose the water and all the wildlife that it sustains.

This next pictures show the careful attention to creating varied habitats. We asked the digger driver to grade the existing scrapes in Chilly Brook less steeply and if possible to



create one or even two more scrapes. The variation in the bank profile encourages colonization by different flora and fauna in the shallower levels of water. The dredging was supervised by Dan Ross, the LDC Ranger for the Reserve.



It is planned to replant the ditch margins with typical brookland species, like Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosetrife and Meadow Sweet, that have been grown from locally collected seed by members of the Nature Corridors for All project.



It is actually quite stressful when a digger is on site because it can move so much earth in so little time. We appear to have created a 'right mess' but it will be well worth it! The 'spoil' has been carefully placed; in some areas broken up and flattened. Volunteers will sow a mix of local damp meadow grasses and wildflowers there.

By next summer, as plant growth is re-established, the ditches and banks should become the home of a far greater variety of flowers, insects, molluscs and other invertebrates, and be a much more exciting place for pond dipping and wildlife watching.

Liz Williams

## The JMB's Leighside Pond Restoration Project

Young people from the Junior Management Board for the Lewes Railway Land Local Nature Reserve have won a Heritage Lottery Grant to restore a pond on the area they help to manage. October 15<sup>th</sup> saw the beginning of the pond's refurbishment having been left derelict from the days when the Victorian Leighside house stood in the woodland on the reserve.



*The digger used for the ditch work transfers to the woodland and the Leighside Pond.*

'The idea behind the restoration is to restore the pond to its former glory and to encourage new wildlife to come to the reserve and we just really want the pond to be enjoyed by all.' explained JMB members Beth Sedgwick and Amy Watkinson.

Dan Ross warned that there would be considerable disruption to this part of the site while the work took place but 'everything possible was done to minimize its impact and the result will be really good for wildlife.'

Coupled with the restoration, has been the designing of a water shortage poster which incorporated the effective slogan, **No Water No Life**. 5000 copies of the poster, designed and researched by the JMB with the help of artist Jeremy Long, were launched at the Railway Land's first river festival on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



*Beth and Christie of the JMB proudly show off the new poster*

The JMB, who have co-ordinated both projects with ranger Dan Ross and John Parry, are hoping the scheme will be a success and will add to the diversity of the reserve as well as informing young people about the need to conserve water for wildlife as well as ourselves.



*This picture illustrates just how much silt was removed.*

John Parry notes that 'this wonderful scheme vindicates our insistence on saving the western 'blip' of the reserve 20 years ago! Lewes should be proud of the JMB and their achievements over the last 10 years.'

Plans for an official opening for the pond are still in progress but the youngsters are looking at mid spring 2008.

Beth Sedgwick

*The Junior Management Board is a group of young people aged between 10-16 who help give the youth of today a voice about the goings on in the Lewes Nature Reserve. They have been going strong for 10 years and this is their most ambitious project yet. Previous successes include two colour 'kids leaflet' guides and the planning and planting of the entrance area to the Reserve.*

### **Did you catch this ?**

The Nature Corridors for All participants were briefly featured on the BBC's 'Nature of Britain' documentary presented by Alan Titchmarsh. The producers wanted to focus on volunteers linked to urban fringe wildlife sites in the south-east and had picked up on the Nature Corridors for All project.

The group was with Dan Ross, preparing the Leighside pond area for the digger access and the actual broadcast footage was 45 seconds and the focus was on Dan showing one of the adults how to use a saw safely, one of the social workers giving a hand to a couple of the participants, some general shots of the participants in the area and a 6 second shot of one of the participants, called Carole, saying how she liked helping and cutting off branches.



*A private viewing for the NC4All group at John Parry's house!*



## I have a guilty secret

I joined the Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) some months ago, attended the AGM in March and started volunteering in June. But until today, I'd never explored the reserve properly.

But this morning, around 7am, I put that right. It was a beautiful day and I wanted to cover the whole site, so I brought my bike and rode round, several times. I started by following the riverside path, all the way down to the railway bridge. I'll not do that by bike again – I had to lift it over so many gates and stiles that my arms still ache!

However, on the way I saw the swan family, and noted that one of the cygnets had completed its moult into adult plumage, while the other three were still in their immature grey-brown outfits. There were also the usual herring and black-headed gulls, a magpie, a couple of crows, blackbirds and a whitethroat in a hawthorn, but the best sighting was of a group of five common sandpipers feeding on the exposed mud near the railway bridge, bobbing constantly as they searched for food and finally flying off making their piping calls.



I retraced my route back to the entrance, greeting a few dog-walkers en route, and then found my way to the dipping pool. A few minutes quiet watching yielded two reed warblers, a single long-tailed tit in the

company of a small group of blue tits, all feeding on willow herb seeds, a couple of moorhens and a grey heron flying overhead. This last proceeded to land in the very top of a nearby tall lime tree, much to the consternation of the resident parliament of crows, who took off en masse and flew round in a loud huff before finally returning. I was struck by how few finches there were in the reserve, at a time when the rough cover is rich with all manner of seed-heads. I saw a few greenfinches and one scruffy young chaffinch, but that was it.



Next I explored the pathways through the woods, finding the various entrances near Greyfriars Court, the swamp cypress, a stone circle and following the Winterbourne, and seeing the various woodland habitats, several rabbits, robins, blackbirds, dunnocks and more magpies. I also

heard a jay's raucous call.



Then I made my way back to the dipping pool for a second look, and saw a little egret flying overhead, heading up the Ouse valley. At the pool, I found the platform soaking wet and strewn with water starwort, and the adjacent water muddy and clearly recently disturbed, presumably by someone's dog – and not a bird in sight.

I walked to the top of the Heart of Reeds, took in the view of the reserve and watched the house martins circling overhead, and listened to their delightful, gentle, twittering calls before making my way past several people gathering blackberries (seems to be a

great crop this year following the warm spring, heavy rains and hot early August) to the signal box. En route I saw butterflies - gatekeepers, white admirals and a marbled white.

From beside the box I admired the view across the brooks to Cuilfail and saw another heron, before heading down to the gate, through the tunnel, and as far as the Ham Lane entrance – a lovely, warm quiet approach to the southern edge of the reserve.



I followed the Cockshut as far as I could downstream, and found a flock of at least a hundred starlings, mostly juveniles, feasting on the blackberries and elderberries along its banks. With such early ripening this year – hawthorn, elder and blackberry all ripe already – it might be a difficult year for our winter visitors when they arrive: another impact of the climate change that we so need to address.

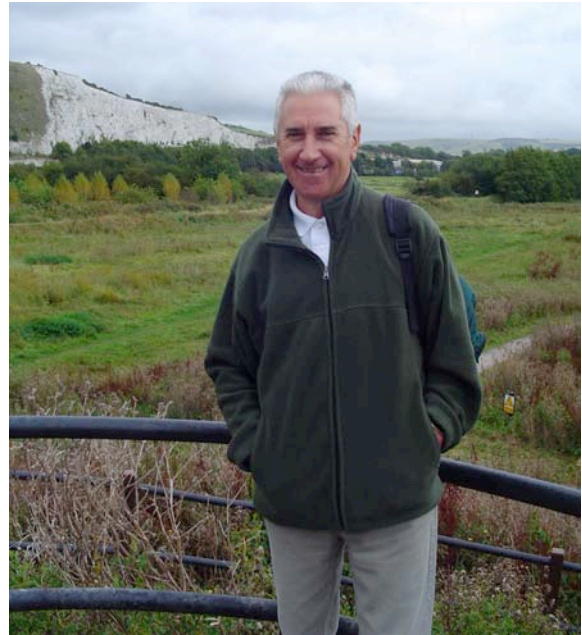
I left the reserve after about 3 hours, appreciating how much devotion, thought and effort has been invested in it over the years, what an asset it is for the people of Lewes and for the wildlife that inhabits it, and what a worthwhile cause it is to invest my time in. Neil Merchant

***Our Hybrid Black Poplar 'Regenerata' at TQ41900999 has been verified and updated on the Ancient Tree Hunt website [www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/discoveries](http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/discoveries)***

*By going to tree search and typing in the above number you can get details of our famous species.*

## **A Paradise for a Small Boy in the 1950s**

Peter Browning visited the Railway Land on 18<sup>th</sup> September and talked to Dan Ross and me about his childhood stay from 1952 – 57 with his grandparents in their cottage on the site.



*Peter Browning takes a trip down memory lane.*

His grandfather, George Collins, worked for the London and Southern Railway and the cottage, which probably dated from the 1880s, was situated close to the river, just through the red spot gate. It was demolished after the big flood of 1962 though traces of the foundations are still to be found among the Buddleia and Sycamore scrub.

Peter showed us photographs of the bitumen coated brick and tile hung 4 bedroom cottage in a large vegetable garden with pear, quince and apple trees; at least one of the latter survives though the only quince we now have on the Railway Land is in the allotment area. His grandfather, a keen gardener, also kept rabbits in a triple row of hutches and sold them to local butchers. The cottage did not have electricity but there was gas on the ground floor for cooking and lighting. There

was just one cold-water tap in the kitchen and the toilet was outside.



*This photograph from the Reeves collection shows the location of the cottage*

It was a very different landscape in the 1950s with no river wall, the riverbank being stabilised with coarse grasses and a large Scots pine tree close to the cottage. Swans nested every year on the river bank and it was very popular with fishermen. The Winterbourne stream was wider and crossed by a wooden bridge near its mouth. It flowed all summer and was a haunt for kingfishers, water rats and rumour had it, otters. Peter recalls standing on the Winterbourne bridge and seeing a “silver streak” of elvers racing towards the river. They would have hatched further up stream and two of the shunters used to come with an old tin bath to scoop up the elvers at their migrating time of year. They were always generous with their catch and the Railway Cottage family would be given a share.

Controlling the track access to the goods yards and sidings, there were points where the JMB entrance is now and a signal box through the red spot gate and close to the bend in the accessible path. The spur of track passed very close to the cottage and friendly shunting engine drivers would always wave. The planned Pavilion site had a pill box close to the river bank, a big mound of chalk, a large oil tank to the west of the gate and four 12 ft deep coal bins. By the Winterbourne there was a cattle dock where livestock coming to Lewes by train were unloaded and then driven along Friars

Walk to the market in Garden Street. Goods trains were often unloaded at a canopied platform where the Heart of Reeds has been excavated and ash from the engines was deposited in nearby bins. Leighside house had been demolished but there was still a wall separating its site from the railway operations, and the herons which frequented the brooks, had probably come from a heronry in the grounds.

Peter’s grandfather has memories going further back to the time when barges came up the river to the warehouses and during the second World War when a hospital train stopped in Lewes carrying wounded from the failed Dieppe raid and of people rallying round with cups of tea.

All in all it was a great place for a small boy, the accessible river bank, the railway workings and because it was the steam era, the hazards were fewer than electrification now presents. Sheep grazed on the water meadows and on the hill opposite where there was less scrub than is now the case.

Peter has many photographs of the site and we are planning to obtain copies for our archive.  
Jenifer Barton

### **Watch where you tread**

*Roy Fuller, writing in the Uckfield and District Preservation Society’s newsletter ‘Hindsight’ describes a childhood memory of the Railway Land and the Phoenix Iron Foundry.*

‘When I was 11 years old I won a scholarship to the Lewes County Grammar School for Boys. Living in Uckfield, this meant a daily trip on the ‘Uckfield Flier’, the name given to the steam trains to Lewes.

In those days the railway came into Lewes via Malling and crossed the river where the Tesco store is now situated, via a long bridge over Cliffe and then on a viaduct down into Lewes Station.



I was given to understand that the gradient and curve on this viaduct was the steepest and tightest on the Southern Railway. I do remember on one occasion when the Uckfield Flier was pulled by a Merchant Navy streamliner. This was then the largest and most powerful steam engine on Southern. It was unable to get up the curve on the gradient as its wheelbase was 4-6-2 and, on the curve only two driving wheels were in contact with the rails. They had to call up the small shunting tank engine from the goods yard to push the train up the hill.

As the Uckfield line passed over the river Ouse at Lewes, it passed the Phoenix Iron Works on the west side. This was always of interest to us schoolchildren as you could see right into the works with its live furnaces glowing in the winter afternoon twilight.

The Victorians were experts in their use of cast iron. J Every's, the company that ran the iron works, was a specialist in a wide range of cast iron products producing everything from bridges to fences, gaslights to boot scrapers and mostly with an elaborate, ornate flair.

For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Phoenix Ironworks had been one of the biggest employers in Lewes with its operation stretching across a large area of the town. The works finally closed in 1974 but its products live on. Its street furniture range included manhole, drain and gulley covers. Many do still survive to give a record of this long-forgotten part of industrial Sussex.  
Roy Fuller

*Dear Pat, I thought I'd let you know that the St Andrew's Fellowship were very lucky and had a wonderful evening for our stroll round the Railway Land. We had 22 turn up. Afterwards we all retired to the Harvey Tavern to complete a perfect evening. Kind regards to you and all the committee. Harry Morris*

## A Year in the Life of.....

When fundraising for the Linklater Pavilion – centre for the study of environmental change, we usually have to justify to potential donors **WHY** we want such a building.

I feel like suggesting that they join us on site to realise what we are up against!

Occasions like the River Festival – (**monsoon conditions**), or on **cold** days when the Nature Corridors for All participants are working and taking their fixed point photographs and have to **carry all their equipment** to and fro. Or possibly involving them in the planning of a school study day in November – needing to provide **tarpaulins** and **hot drinks in flasks** in case it is dreadful weather.

We know that we need a building where work under cover can be undertaken without **full scale strategic planning**, where our precious and interesting **archive material can be seen** and referred to by all, and where **computer aided study** can enhance and enliven practical field work.

John Parry has drawn up what he thinks would be an illustrative first year 'bookings diary'. It gives us an idea of the potential use of the Linklater Pavilion.

### NOTES

**Participants** are a group of adults with learning disabilities already contributing the Local Nature Reserve.

A **debenture school** is one that will pay in advance for 3 days of negotiated activity on site.

The **education residency** would be similar to an 'artist in residence' but with a focus on sustainability.



### **January**

4 evening group bookings (100 people)

In-service training day on teaching and learning out of doors for the University of Brighton (20 teachers)

**‘Wildlife on Your Doorstep’** talk by David Bradford on the photographs he has taken on site (30 people)

Bring your old Lewes District photographs for a digital scan and talk day with Tom Reeves (50 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and cutting back Buddleia.

### **February**

4 evening group bookings (100 people)

**Talk on interdependence** by Andy Stirling from the Science Policy Research Unit. (30 people)

Geography teacher training day by the University of Sussex. (12 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and path repairs.

Participants lead ESCC guided winter public walk. (15 people)

A tour of geological time around the undercroft gabion wall made up of six different rock types. (15 people)

### **March**

Railway Land Wildlife Trust AGM (25 people)

Primary Years In-service training Discovery Day by the University of Sussex (15 teachers)

4 pre-booked school tours (120 students)

Talk by Derek Lamport on **hexagonal structures in nature** and their relevance and significance. (30 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and welcome a group of French participants with whom they have been working for 6 years.

Tour of the building and its sustainable design features (15 people)

2 evening group bookings (50 people)

**Sustainable Lewes Knowledge Forum** event led by Alister Scott, John Parry and others (70 people)

### **April**

2 Away Day ‘retreat’ sessions, for local businesses and / or local government departments (30 people)

2 evening group bookings, for local amenity societies. (50 people)

**Talk on local environmental change** by Alex Kirby, former BBC environment correspondent (30 people)

Continuing Professional Development day for adult social care workers (15 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and measuring the Black poplars.

**Flooding in the Ouse valley and Lewes** strategic theme day led by Tom Crossett (40 people)

**Forest School course** – an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.

Sussex Biological recorder training day. (40 delegates)

Mother and toddler nature month club (15 people)

### **May**

One ‘debenture’ school (paid up partner school) operates its 3 day option (90 students)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and raking grass cuttings.

Madagascar live web link week with Alison Jolly, Mike Manktelow and John Parry.

**RSPB ‘meet the birds’** day. (25 people)

November 2007

[www.railwaylandproject.org](http://www.railwaylandproject.org)



**Lewes under Steam.** Talk by former railwayman & social impact of the railways by John Bleach. (30 people)

Sponsored event organised by volunteers. (125 people)

**Undercroft Workshop Series** ~ No.1: Cycle 'route and branch' planning by local cyclists and lobbying of local politicians. (25 people)

### **June**

2 evening room bookings (50 people)

**2<sup>nd</sup> River Festival** brings together many groups from along the river corridor such as; LDC sustainability team: Lewes Play Council: Action in Rural Sussex: RSPB; Castle Hill Nature Reserve Group: Sussex Wildlife Trust Watch Group; Hi Trek Wild Trek vehicle in the meadows with Dr. Richard Osmond; Willow weaving workshop by Sara Holmes; Priory School dance and percussion group; Turning Green band; Sussex Ouse Conservation Society. (10 people set up for a crowd of 800)

Three debenture schools operate their 3 day options. (270 students)



*It took six of us two hours to put up these gazebos and shelters to protect volunteers and precious archive material, and we incurred huge costs to supply a large marquee for one day. Events on the Reserve involve thorough contingency planning and we expend vast amounts of energy.*

**Talk and walk by Chris Drury** on his art, complexity theory and the Heart of Reeds design (60 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and path repairs.

### **July**

Three debenture schools operate their 3 day options (270 students)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and Chilly Brook planting.

**Talk and walk** by Dan Ross, Ranger, on the management issues involved in Heart of Reeds and Liz Williams and Jenifer Barton on the plants of Heart of Reeds. (30 people)

Result of the educational residence – a public talk. (30 people)

2 Workshops resulting from the above. (24 teachers) + podcast for local schools; associations and archive.

Sussex Ouse Conservation Society AGM (25 people).

Advance planning on next sustainable education residency; post oil workshops; sustainable Lewes forums; environmental change talks and exhibition.

Environmental change lay recorder session led by a national author (60 people)

### **August**

**Play Council Holiday Discovery Day** (200 people)

Local Drama group put on 3 performances on relationships and interdependence. (180 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and signal box maintenance.

Participants lead ESCC guided summer public walk.

**Talk by Tony Whitbread**, Chief Executive of Sussex Wildlife Trust on Malling Down and the value of wildlife corridors and large landscapes in relation to environmental change. (30 people)

Ouse Raft Race HQ and display (100 people)

### **September**

3 Away Day 'retreat' sessions (45 people)

4 evening group bookings (100 people)

Talk by Peter Hodge on **the insects of the Railway Land** and observed effects of climate change. (30 people)

November 2007

[www.railwaylandproject.org](http://www.railwaylandproject.org)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and raking final grass cuttings.

**The Brazil Pantanal** live web link week with John Parry and Ivor Goodson.

**‘Chalk it up to Experience’** - chalk wall talk in the undercroft by Rory Mortimore. (15 people)

Mother and Toddler nature club month (15 people)

Undercroft workshop series ~ No.2: Holidaying locally (60 people + local attractions stalls)

### **October**

2 Away Day ‘retreat’ sessions (30 people)

4 evening group bookings (100 people)

4 general school visits (120 students)

Professional and / or School Art Exhibition opens for two weeks manned by 25 volunteers. (800 people)

Sussex Wildlife Trust AGM (80 people)

**River Walk and talk** by Ouse bailiff, Jim Smith, on the changes of the last 40 years (20 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and seed collecting.



*Participants planting hedges on Chilly Brook in atrocious weather 2007*

**Help for the computer** challenged by our IT partners, the Lewes Wireless Broadband Project.

**Sustainable Lewes Knowledge Forum** event 2 led by Alistair Scott, John Parry and others (100 people)

**‘Meet a farmer’** session – the story of a local farmer plus local meat tasting evening (25 people)

### **November**

2 Away Day ‘retreat’ sessions (30 people)

3 evening group bookings (75 people)

Friends of Lewes AGM (50 people)

**Talk by Project Co-ordinator of the Ancient Tree Hunt** plus visit to our champion poplar *var. regenerata* on site, with its widest girth in England. (40 people)



*‘var. regenerata’ being measured by the participants*

Visit by MA students from Oxford University Environmental Change Institute. (40 students)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and public e-learning demo.

**‘Through the Hex’** - tour of the building and its hexagonal significance (15 people)

Bonfire display /exhibition and HQ for South Street celebrations and Rocket Radio (100 people)

### **December**

3 Away Day ‘retreat’ sessions (45 people)

Participants work on database, website entries, fixed point photographs and scrub clearance.

**We estimate that approximately 5,300 people would use the Linklater Pavilion in a year.**

*When you have finished with this newsletter please pass it on to a friend or neighbour and help us spread the word about the Railway Land Nature Reserve throughout Lewes.*

*This month’s Lewes News will contain an application / donation form – we need your help to encourage new members.*