



Chairman's Special

What a time to have a vision! With each passing of another billion pounds being thrown at some 'fiscal' scheme, it makes the hurt of failing to secure our final £180,000 for the Linklater Pavilion ever more painful. And yet, the times that are engulfing us were predicted. They were even a component of our conviction to help children appreciate and learn from aspects of the natural world around them, within walking distance or by bus or rail; and to work alongside those less fortunate than ourselves towards a joint vision of recording and preparing for environmental change.

Many of you have shared our journey. In 1998, we overcame losing the ground floor of Strickland's warehouse; the floods of 2000 put our plans back by two years; and in 2004 Southern Water put a storm overflow pipe right through the proposed site!

We pressed the appeal button in September 2006 which has led to a staggering £82,000 raised locally. We have spent this on designs, planning permission, building regulations and the tendering process. Meanwhile, Viridor Environmental Credits have generously doubled their offer to £300,000 which along with the Mettyear Charitable Trust's promise of £250,000, brings the total sum available to £550,000. However, we need £730,000 (just a further £180,000) to be able to construct anything like the building we want. Here's why.

Out of the Viridor land tax money, we have to find a 10% fee of £30,000 which is paid to the Entrust governing landfill tax body. We also have to pay a project management fee of £25,000 (plus VAT) - a generous rate offered by Lambert Smith Hampton, a leading commercial property consultancy.

The result is that out of our £550,000, the amount that

we can spend on a building is £491,000, well below the 6 tender prices we have received. What we need is a further £180,000 – this would provide a building sum of £671,000, which makes all the difference.

The Mettyear Charitable Trust & Viridor Environmental Credits have been so generous by extending their offers for a year to give us a chance to raise the additional funds. They could not have done more and we do not expect more. Understandably, they have had to call a deadline of 7.00 p.m, on Thursday 29th January, 2009. We are deeply grateful for this extension which we totally respect. It is non negotiable. If we have not achieved a final £180,000 by then, all our efforts will have been in vain.

I know that I speak for many people in Lewes and beyond that have worked tirelessly on this project when I say what a tremendous disappointment this would be, and what a terrible loss of opportunity for Lewes and its valley.



Our thanks for getting us all this far knows no bounds – your faith in us has been humbling – but the stark fact is that unless we can find the final £180,000 by 7.00p.m. on Thursday 29th January, 2009, the Linklater Pavilion that we all want will be lost. We have two major founding sponsors; we have had fantastic local support; we just need a few

more sponsors to make ALL the difference.

It's like adding more meat to a chicken carcass. The frame is secure (and is what costs the most) but every pound of additional meat on that frame makes the chicken more valuable. In other words, every additional £10,000 now packs a very powerful punch.

Please think about your contacts, and your contacts' contacts. Talk about it. Spread the word. Rack your brains. But above all, please act NOW.

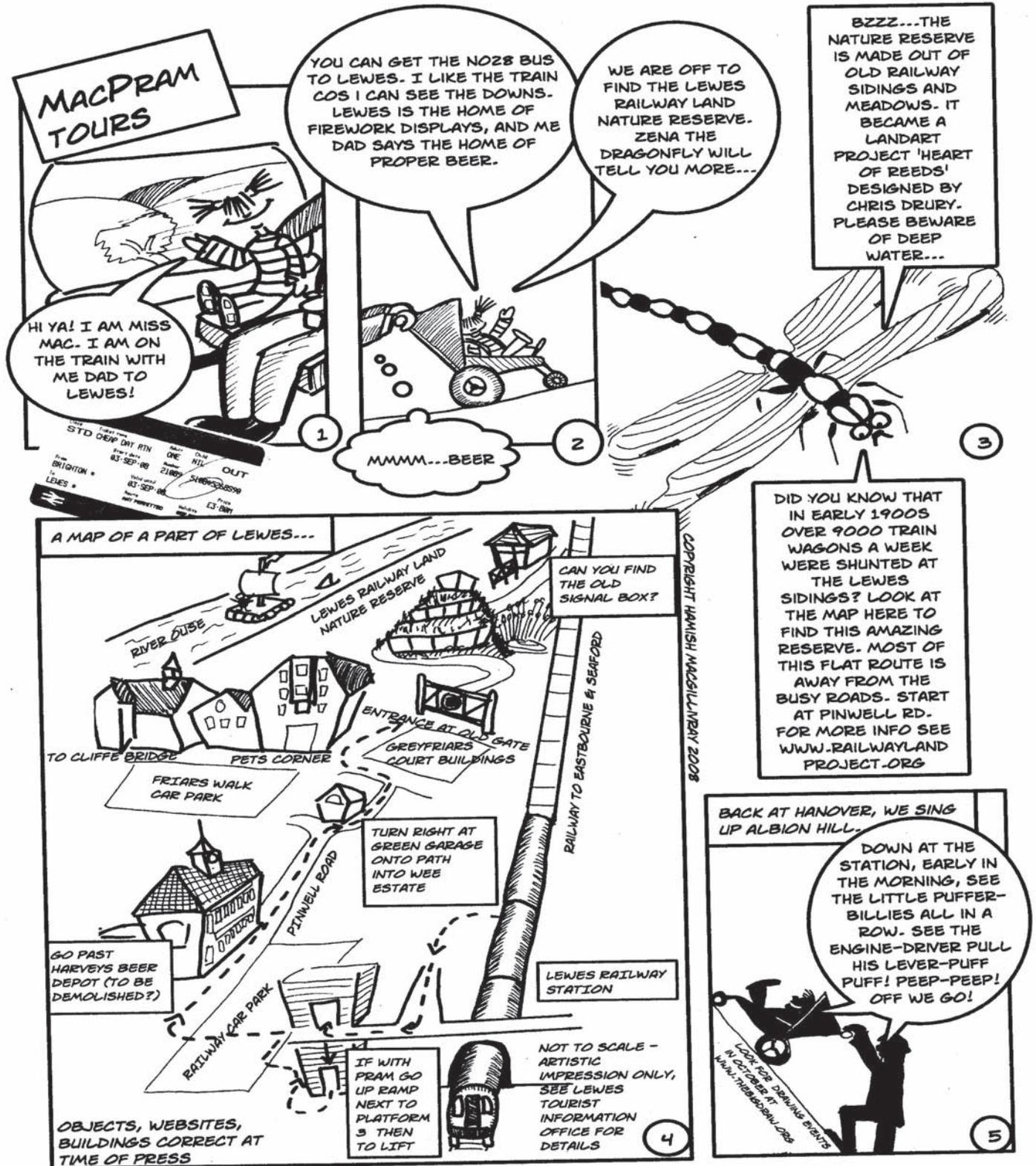
John Parry

How others see us

Hamish MacGillivray who is a freelance Museum Project Manager and Researcher sent me this delightful cartoon he created for a newsletter for residents who live in the Hanover area of Brighton. He admitted he used to go to school at Lewes at a time when the

Railway Land was used by Lewes Priory pupils to skive off lessons! Years later as an adult he lived in Lewes and was amazed with the Heart of Reeds project. He often brings his daughter into the town by train from Brighton to have a good day out in Lewes!

Pat Rigg



Following John's earlier piece in Newsletter 60 about the harrowing and our tenant farmer Colin Turner ...here is a second helping...

Turner's Tales - Part Two

'Voulez vous voyez une ferme?', I ask our Nature Corridors for All cross-channel partners in my school boy French.

'Mais oui,' they conveniently agreed as we need to fill a little time before catching the ferry.

Their Espace swung into farmer Colin Turner's drive, crunching its impromptu way to his farm shop.

True to form, Colin appears out of the blue.

'Thistle be tricky' he had clearly shouted over his shoulder to his wife as he greeted the registration number and then when he saw me he declared, 'thistle be really tricky!'

Advancing with his cheery smile, he declares, 'we loved your piece in the last newsletter.'

A warm semi-gallic glow passed over me only to be quickly extinguished. 'but Jenny isn't my daughter, John, she's only 7 years younger than me!'

I cower.

'She's delighted of course, but my wife's not so pleased. It either reflects very well on Doreen or I look very old indeed.'

I wriggle in apology.

'Anyway, would you like to see our limousine?' continues Colin.

I know his pies sold well but this took me somewhat by surprise. We make our way to the sheds.

'French limousine,' says Colin, pointing at a magnificent herd of cattle.

'Ah bon, mais oui', the French glow in gallic pride and pleasure.

But we're going to have to get rid of them' Colin declares to his stunned audience. 'They are too...frisky.'

Lips purse, brows furrow, heads slant at a perfect 45 degrees. Surely not! Limousin are not a problem in France.

'Yes, but in England they are too.....whatshallisay....exciteable,' insists Colin.

'But in France, they are no problem!' chorus our French friends. Heads are scratched, shoulders heave, a few 'boeufs' are exchanged and we resign ourselves to the fact that Limousin are better behaved in France than they are in England.

And then Damian, one of the French adults with learning disabilities, catches up with our fast moving discussion. Limousin are put to him as a breed. He pauses and then doubles up in Gallic mirth, slapping his thigh, head and buttock in one single graceful gesture of incredulity.

Game, set and Parry match to you Colin!

Turners pies are STILL arguably the best in Sussex.



Colin Turner's cattle graze Chilly Brook and his pies can be purchased from: Highfield Farm, The Broyle. Open 9-1 pm Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

Phone 01273 813230 Mobile 07767 488766
e-mail turners.meat@virgin.net

John Parry

Afterthoughts from your Editor

John quite rightly stole the front page for his important update on the Linklater Pavilion Project. The RLWT newsletter goes out to many different groups of people, not just our members and benefactors and we are unashamedly sending this copy to people we hope will have influence and assist us in making the Linklater Pavilion a reality .

Kaddy Lee Preston wowed the Junior Management Board when she kindly opened their Leighside Bridge Project and she said she wanted to keep in touch.

So do please look out for her January **Inside Out** programme on the *Lost Rivers of Sussex*. The programme will include the Winterbourne and should be particularly interesting to Lewesians.

Important tree work was undertaken in the woodland this November because at this time of year bird life is at its least active, and therefore would not be disturbed.

- One large Railway Poplar was re-pollarded to 50% height of its stems.
- A large willow leaning over path was reduced by 50% and reshaped.
- The large Railway Poplar (with a split down middle) was re-pollarded to old high pollard points.

Dan Ross, the Ranger, took extensive specialist advice with regard to bat habitats, and the potential roost sites within these trees. He employed an experienced and a licenced practitioner

who inspected the trees and advised him on procedures and noted potential bat habitats for protection.

It is important to note that this work will prolong the life of these trees, and will not damage bat habitats if done sensitively. The works are essential to prevent serious structural defects to the trees leading to collapse or limb break out - right above footpaths on a route well used by school children twice a day.

Further works agreed at the Habitat Advisory Group meeting include the pollarding of 20 willows either side of the Winterbourne stream at a height of 3m. All the cut wood will be stacked on site to provide habitat piles on the bank nearest to the railway, and towards the wet woodland.

Finally, do watch out for firecrests and siskins which have been seen recently by the bird survey group. A great addition to your winter rambles.

Pat Rigg

I took this picture at a guided walk - led by the Participants - it shows the positive effect of pollarding crack willows. Without this careful management, they outgrow their strength, and CRACK! Large limbs fall without warning and the tree is often damaged as a result.



Have a very Happy Christmas from all at the RLWT! Our next Newsletter will be published in February with - we hope - positive news on the Linklater Pavilion.