

Editorial

The new leaflet designed by Safia Hamid, Sasha Donovan-Anns and Ruby Smith of year 9, Priory School for the RLWT's 25th year is a truly remarkable piece of research and realisation. It incorporates some of the latest technology to enhance the more traditional written and photographic content. The launch of the leaflet and the equally brilliant Ground Source Heat Pump Model and Display created by Priory students - Daniel Head, Joseph Tutt, Felix Haukeland, Yasmin Stuart, Alice Penrose, Mia Willows and Goldie Maguire is captured on pages 14 and 15.

All members will want their own copy of the new leaflet and they are available from the Linklater, (Sunday afternoons 2-5pm), and the Tourist Information Office. If you receive this newsletter in print format, one is enclosed.

Almost everything described in this newsletter, has been achieved through partnership and voluntary effort. We could not have achieved so much without the commitment and dedication of all involved.

There has been a real buzz about the place as we now prepare for our **25th Anniversary Celebration Evening in the Town Hall on Friday, November 8th at 6pm.** From 6.30pm you can enjoy contributions from local schools, the Nature Corridors For All participants, with archive film and photographic material, live music, and guest speaker - the broadcaster on all things sustainable - Chris Baines. After the interval and the draw for the RLWT25 Celebration Raffle, there will be a barn dance for all ages until 9.30pm. If you haven't got your Raffle Tickets yet, drop into the Linklater on Sunday afternoons, or contact me (*see pg16*) to arrange a delivery.

Enjoy summer on our special Reserve and don't miss the 'Art Wave' exhibition by Lewes Printmakers - the last two weekends of August in the Linklater.

Pat Rigg



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Director's Message

One of our strengths and main tenet is that we provide a neutral space for discussion and action concerning the environment without proselytizing or condemning. We try to do this by example and inspiration. Ours is an education remit not as a protest group. In the ever-changing environmental soup of public opinion it would be foolish for us to chase after the latest concern often based on flimsy or conflicting evidence.

Furthermore, the environmental movement itself is in a state of flux and a recent paper by the Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN) 'New Conversation with the Centre-right about Climate Change' challenges us to acknowledge the fact that the issue of climate change cannot be predominately 'owned' by any one group. I was struck by the call for clever targeting of the intrinsic values that underpin public engagement with climate change and especially those of the centre right and not just the left. The research suggests that there is good reason to explore the framings of climate change that embrace intrinsic shades of Conservatism such as an emphasis on **community well-being**; **intergenerational duty** and a representation of the environment not as a service provider but as (for example) something that we have a **duty to protect**. **Stewardship**, trusteeship, shared responsibility and a focus on local, regional and **community-based climate change adaptation** are suggested as approaches of helping to engage those apathetic and sceptical about climate change on the centre-right as well as many who have become disillusioned with international negotiations and processes to tackle climate change.

And that is where, I suggest, our project lies with our focus on **stewardship** through our ownership of Chilly Brook and the work of Jenifer Barton as well as our partnership with LDC, **community well-being** through our work with the Nature Corridors group; **inter generational duty** in the way we encourage and share ideas with young people and although we are comfortable with the idea of a '**duty to protect the environment**', we have also strongly supported the research of Colin Tingle in relation to eco system services and the idea of Naturegain – of looking afresh at the idea of nature as a 'service provider'.

As for nailing our colours to various masts, our focus on **community based climate change adaptation** has fairly and squarely landed on sea level rise and I am proud of the contribution we are making to the Environment Agency's ground breaking work on sea level rise. We have pioneered two pilot lessons at Priory School which will form the basis of a national educational approach to this important challenge, and we will become a beacon for continuing the Coastal Communities 2150 programme. We are also represented on the Ouse Valley Cycle Network steering committee that is promoting the idea of a cycle track between Lewes and Newhaven called the Egret's Way and have made good contact already with the South Downs Youth Hostel manager.

We are starting to be known as a hub of good practice with a flexible workshop / meeting space for groups such as the National Parks Ranger Service, the Natural England Nature Improvement Scheme, South Downs National Park Authority, the Sustainable Sussex Forum, Ecosystems Knowledge Network sponsored by the Natural Environment Research Council, the Community Energy Coalition sponsored by Forum for the Future and so on. We are working closely with some of these groups, simply providing a stimulating venue for others and all the time building on our work locally, highlighted in my photographic round-up piece. As always, your support is invaluable and we thank you for it.

John Parry



Left: John Parry doing the voice over for the CC2150 introductory video

Parry's Photo Round-up

What a busy Spring and Summer it has been through a variety of events and initiatives that included the Environment Agency completing their bank repairs with great efficiency as well as care and attention to our needs and movements. They re-seeded the area with wildflower seed suggested by us and could not have been more helpful. The resulting job is designed to catch mud and silt in which native seeds can thrive and so we expect a greening of the bank in due course.



Other repairs by LDC have been undertaken on the paths and Don Burtenshaw and his team did a great job at a competitive price.



Our two major public events went off very well with the Nature Corridors group helping to create two banners for the entrance gate and hanging silk screens working with artist Sally Christopher.



The first event of the adults' work and that of Priory School attracted 150 visitors and the Festival of Water brought in at least 600 people.



A popular event is always the puppet show which delighted two audiences of around 70 people each – of all ages – a triumph.

Thanks must go the steering team of Trevor Watson, Matthew Bird, Dan Ross and Vicky Lawrence who gave such valuable planning help.



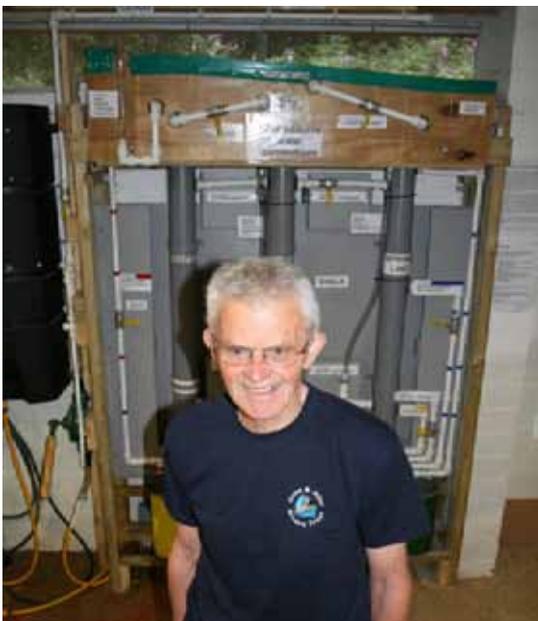
Meanwhile inside the Linklater, improvements have steadily been completed. (see above) The final donor boards in Reception, a Nu Heat case study about our ground source heat pump to complement our bee display, new LED lighting for the Mettyear Room and much improved outside lighting and blackout undertaken by David Sykes for a few pounds instead of the £2,000 quoted to us for electric blinds even though they were solar driven! (far right, Dave 'atop the tower')



The Nature Corridors group have been learning how to use their new i-pads (top left) and have worked very successfully with artists Mark Greco (left) and Maia Eden (below) who gave such support to a tiling project that will be unveiled officially in the Autumn. The group really showed their artistic talents and were rewarded with



unwrapping the tiles that were created in Glasgow using a brand new technique.



In the Undercroft we have now completed the soil and aquifer displays which along with Rory Mortimore's chalk display, make the Undercroft in Dr Tom Crosset's words 'a world class display of difficult but important topics.' We are very grateful to Tom for his amazing aquifer model (left) which will delight youngsters playing at 'being the sun' by pumping water into the clouds and then guiding it through vegetation, soil, chalk and stream by turning taps to mimic the seasons.



Thanks also to carpentry lecturer Ian Brown and students Renzzo Zagnoli and Sarah Barton (*below*) on their superb soil display model and to Dr Alan Rae (*far left*) for devising the display and writing the text – a work of love and a truly rich piece of work for us. We are extremely grateful.



Both displays are designed to inform and entertain visitors about essential processes that we take for granted – the creation of soil and the storage of fresh water.

We also welcomed the LDC Basic Bikery event at which the Undercoft proved to be a very useful bike repair workshop (*see right*)



As for visitors, we welcomed two Pestalozzi students, Chris from Uganda and Yangki from



Nepal, who shared their backgrounds with the Nature Corridors group as well as helping me prepare for the Festival of Water. In the words of the Pestalozzi co-ordinator the '*students felt that the work you gave them was very carefully and*

thoughtfully designed so as to provide an overview of all the work you do and an understanding of the Trust as a whole, for which they were really grateful.'

We also worked with the South East Grid for Learning by contributing to a training course for Primary teachers (*right*) at which Steve Savage introduced the idea of Bella the Bear who will form our outreach programme next year. We have been let down by an underwater camera company affected by the Japanese tsunami and so our plans for Bella have been put on hold although we had three very good piloting sessions with Patcham Junior School as well as a visit about re-cycling from St Pancras RC Primary school from which we will develop an exciting Primary School programme for next year.



John Parry

The photo round up continues on page 12

Bird Report – August 2013 - Flocks

Birds flock together for a variety of reasons..... for feeding, for migration, as a protective measure, and in family groups as juvenile birds continue to mature but have not yet established their own territories. Over hundreds of years, those taking an interest in observing birds and their behaviour, have come to use specific collective nouns to describe groups of birds that flock together.



On the water meadows there is sometimes a **murmuration of starlings** and on the former allotments a **charm of finches**; a **herd of wrens** lives in the woods and (on a good day) a **host of sparrows** by the Pavillion. In the ditches might be seen a **plump of moorhen**, a **flush of mallard** and (just one or two members of) a **siege of heron**. Overhead there may be a **congregation of magpie**, a **parliament of rooks**, a **murder of crows** and

a **flight of pigeons**. How we might wish for a **deceit of lapwing**, a **watch of nightingales** and a **bellowing of bullfinches**. But we shall be pleased, at the appropriate time of year, to have a **crowd of redwing**, a **mutation of thrushes**, perhaps a (minor) **descent of woodpeckers** and (maybe) a **band of jays**.

In Gilbert White's letters (Natural History of Selborne, publ. 1789) he writes 'a *young man at Lewes, in Sussex, assured me that ring-ouzels abounded so about that town in the autumn (of 1770) that he killed sixteen himself in one afternoon*'. Gilbert White added that 'he himself had found these birds in little parties in the autumn, cantoned all along the Sussex downs, wherever there were shrubs and bushes, from Chichester to Lewes.' and also 'Choughs abound, and breed on Beachy-head and on all the cliffs of the Sussex.'



Whilst Ring-Ouzel and Choughs are no longer to be seen in any numbers in Sussex, we can easily enjoy a **flight of cormorants** coming home to roost on pylons south of the town, a **herd of swans** on the river Ouse, and, finally, some **colonies of avocets** in several sites in Sussex where for many years there have been none.

Christine Roach

all images © RSPB

Editor's Extra:

Dan Ross reported that Bee Orchids, *Ophrys apifera* have been recorded at two locations on the Railway Land this year. They are growing in locations that were previously overgrown with scrub, that we have been clearing for the past few winters. I received this emailed message from member, Claire Duc after the Water Festival. 'What a wonderful bonus today, to hear someone had found Bee Orchids and to go and see them! I have attached a couple of pictures of them for you. I've only ever seen them right out in the open and further south in the Dordogne so it was great to see them so close to home.'

Bee Orchid © Claire Duc



The Linklater Bees

The more you watch our bees, the more fascinating they become. The observation hive mimics natural conditions in a way which allows us to watch the life of the colony. They appear unaffected by the light, but it's interesting as you watch to remember their behaviours normally take place in the dark, so all the complex communications are by "feel". Most activity is by the workers - sterile females hatching from small cells. Larger cells are for drones, the males, whose only job is to mate with a new queen. About ten will mate with her. She stores a lifetime's supply of sperm which she uses to fertilise the eggs as they are laid. Around 2000 eggs are laid every day.

It takes three weeks from egg to adult. Look out for newly emerged workers. They are pale in colour. Sometimes you can watch them hatch, after cutting their way out. One will be followed by near neighbours, as the queen lays eggs in clusters of adjacent cells. These brood cells have flat caps, while the honey stores are wrinkled.

After hatching, the workers are promoted through a series of jobs in their six weeks as adults. The first task is cell cleaning. These young workers have their whole body disappearing into a cell. Next they start "nursing" – making milk from pollen. This is fed to developing bees. The third task is receiving nectar from returning foragers. Look out for "mouth-to-mouth" transfers. The nectar is stored in cells where it evaporates to become honey, another food source for the hive. 50lbs of honey is needed to maintain the bees over winter. Starvation is a big killer so we feed the bees during prolonged periods of cold or drought. The top job is foraging. The workers fly off to flowers to collect nectar and pollen. If they find a really good source, they communicate where it is using the waggle dance.

Watch the video in the hive area which shows how this conveys the direction and abundance of the source.

The Linklater honey bees were found for us in a Sussex garden by Prof Francis Ratnieks. He set up the observation hive, generously funded by Harvey's Brewery. We are advised by Prof Ratnieks and Dr Karin Alton at the Laboratory of Apiculture and Social Insects (LASI) at the University of Sussex.

Look at their website to see some of the work they do. <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lasi>

Visit the Linklater bees on summer Sunday afternoons and you'll soon become familiar with the amazing complex life of the hive.

Barbara J Cummins

Have you bought a RLWT25 Celebration Raffle Ticket yet?

A book is enclosed with this printed newsletter. Please support us by selling tickets to family and friends, and send the money and stubs to the Membership Secretary, Pat Rigg by November 6th.

Thank you for your support, and many thanks to the donors of our 25 prizes

1 'Thrilling Day Out' lifestyle voucher: 2 'Luxury Sussex Cream Tea' served in the Linklater for a party of 8 OR a 'Family Fun Day' out on the Railway Land' for a party of up to 8 including a picnic: 3 Lunch for two at 'The Shelleys Hotel': 4 Three course Sunday Carvery lunch for two at the 'White Hart Hotel': 5 Framed Reeves Print of the Railway Land: 6 Back Massage - £40 'Still Room' voucher: 7 £40 voucher from 'Lewes Framers': 8 Twelve designer cupcakes - 'Clarks Cookies & Cakes of Lewes': 9 £25 'Baltica' Pottery Voucher: 10 Gift box & Voucher - 'Cheese Please': 11 Special Selection box - 'Bonne Bouche': 12 Floris moisturising bath and shower gel: 13 Bottle of Champagne: 14 £10 Voucher: 'Capella' home furnishings: 15 Signed Print of Neil Gower's Pictorial Map of Lewes plus ten mystery prizes

Ranger's Report: July 2013

The slow onset of spring together with late winter snows combined to delay growth of vegetation by around one month this year. This has caused late summer flowering, and delayed nesting of birdlife and other wildlife. Late rains filled up our drainage ditches, ponds and reedbeds, to give very good wetland conditions during the spring. Levels are now back to those that you would expect in July, thanks to a very dry June.

The weather has not affected our site management significantly, as most of our habitat management interventions take place throughout the autumn and winter months. However, it has meant that we have delayed our footpath cuts, and other vegetation management activities.

Habitat Management issues

- Water Fern, *Azolla filiculoides* is a deep pink freshwater invasive plant. This year it has readily colonized many of the ditches within the meadows. In previous years, I have attempted to control the Azolla through mechanical means (removal by hand with nets and rakes), and last year we trialed the use of a Weevil, purchased on the advice of the Environment Agency. Both methods have proved ineffective, because Azolla is a prolific vegetative reproducer, it can re-colonize faster than we can control it.



The Azolla Weevil was very expensive, and proved ineffective last year, despite two carefully planned trials. In light of the Azolla infestation, it is necessary to tightly control pond dipping and aquatic surveys in the area, and step up biosecurity in an attempt to prevent further spread across or beyond the site. I am recommending that if pond dipping takes place, nets must be only used on one location at a time on the site, and should be carefully washed before leaving the site. The Azolla forms mats that coat the ditches, that can hide the water completely, resulting in a risk that children and animals will mistake the water for solid ground.

- Dutch Elm disease is once again ravaging the Railway Land elm stock, most recently striking down elms along the Winterbourne stream, near to the Linklater. Dutch elm infected trees are removed quickly to try to prevent spread. For further information about the Dutch Elm Disease control programme in Sussex, see www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/woodlands/dutchelms/default.htm

- The public have been requested to report and suspected sightings of Ash Dieback, *Chalara fraxinea* to the Forestry Commission. There are many Ash trees on the Railway Land, but no current reports of infection within the immediate locality as yet. For more information including how to spot symptoms see www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara

- I've been working with the Meadow Minders to keep young tree saplings located near to the Linklater and the railway line in good health, and free from overgrowth.

- Japanese Knotweed, *Fallopia japonica* is controlled every year by a contractor in the old sidings, and in the old allotments close to the meadows. This year, growth is quite sparse, but it is necessary to keep on top of this treatment as delay in treatment can lead to further spread.



Winter coppiced Crack Willows, *Salix fragilis* along the Winterbourne have sprouted new growth, and are already over 1m tall. It is expected that by next summer the trees will be over 3m tall.

Maintenance

- The footpaths that run from the main entrance to the signal box, and throughout the

reedbed were re-surfaced in the spring, to allow improved access by wheel chair users.

- The council's grounds maintenance contract includes footpath cuts which have taken place during April and June, and will be repeated in August. Additionally litter picking across the whole site takes place once per week, with litter bin and dog bins being emptied up to 3 times per week as required.

Signage

- I am planning to produce a pop up banner which explains some of the site management work that takes place at Lewes Railway Land, for display in the Linklater undercroft, or during events and volunteer days on site.

Strategy

- I will fully revise and re-write the site management plan in the Autumn. The plan will incorporate the visioning exercise that I undertook in partnership with the RLWT that focused on common objectives between the Railway Land LNR, and the Linklater Pavilion, and incorporating our Higher Level Stewardship objectives.
- I have entered the site into the Green flag award for the 5th consecutive year, and judging took place in May. We will publish the results in the next newsletter.

Coming soon....

- The old sidings grassland cuts take place in early September, using tractor, flail and collection box.
- Options for restoring our pond dipping platform are being investigated, and funding options evaluated.

Dan Ross, Community Ranger

Priory Week

Priory School pupils came to the Linklater for their Activity Week at the end of May and when I dropped in on the Tuesday I found them hard at work, under the guidance of Sussex University PGCE students, devising ways of surviving in a post Apocalyptic world.

Safe water was one of the basic necessities for drinking and washing, though some may not have felt the latter was a high priority, and samples had been collected from ponds and ditches. Their quality, colour, smell, presence of living creatures, was noted. Miraculously Universal Indicator paper had survived the disaster and was used to test samples for pH (acidity and alkalinity). But making it safe was another matter and one group used graded sand and charcoal to filter out impurities, this gave them after



repeating the process several times, water which still looked a bit cloudy and a rather dubious colour. So to find out what was left suspended and dissolved in their samples some water was evaporated to dryness, leaving a solid residue. After some discussion pupils decided that to be sure they had got rid of any disease causing bacteria they would have to expend energy and boil their drinking water.



The task for another group was to design a model water turbine capable of raising a mass – in their case corks and small stones. Resources were very limited but the pupils had a budget of Monopoly type money to purchase plastic bottles (£30 for a big one), corks, string (£5 per metre), blutac, scissors and card to make the turbine blades. Prototypes were assembled and tested for instance to see what the optimum number of blades was for producing lift. A hose was on tap for testing but it was a windy day and some pupils found they had a good wind turbine. Success meant that the town would be safe and the designers of the turbine would receive passports guaranteeing their personal safety from marauding zombies. The failures, and mercifully there weren't any that day, would have been thrown by the townspeople to the ever present

zombies and would have made a tasty meal.

But the day wasn't just about scientific experiments, pupils were encouraged to work out their personal stories about how they had survived the disaster. The day ended with these often very imaginative accounts being shared with the assembled group.

Jenifer Barton



.....John Parry adds that the Priory pupils' work is just one aspect of this week, the other being the participation of Sussex University Science post graduate teacher trainees who did a fantastic job along with their tutors Fiona Branagh and Dr Andy Chandler-Grevatt. With learning outside the classroom now a feature of the new national curriculum, including climate change for which we lobbied hard and successfully, our initiative with Priory and Sussex is both timely and rewarding. We can offer a unique experience built on theory as well as practice.

Here are some of the responses to the week, first from a pupil: *'It wasn't what I was expecting, I didn't realise we were going to do so much stuff. I thought we'd talk about one thing only but it was loads of stuff.'* And another wrote, *'thought it would be sitting down and listening.'*

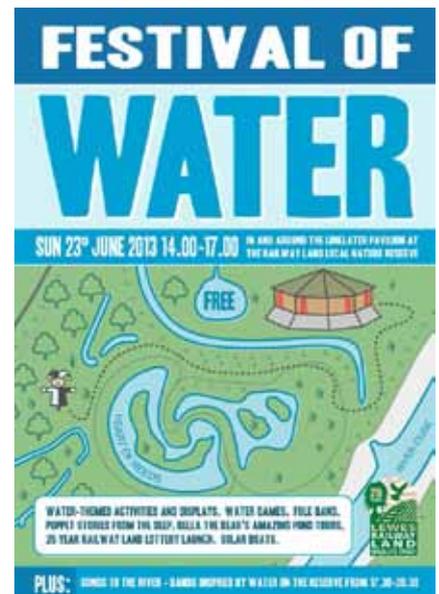
As for the trainees who were nearing the end of their course, one of them wrote, *'I was really impressed with the interaction between the pupils and the adults with learning disabilities – at one stage there was genuine interest and acceptance by two boys speaking to the artist.'* Another trainee wrote, *'Today has been a fantastic opportunity to take children to Nature and interacting with the practicals. Seeing them get stuck in was amazing.'*

Water Festival Reflection

At the Railway Lane reception table we logged 550 visitors to the Festival, there were lots of families, and many new faces to the Railway Land. We sold £190 worth of RLWT25 lottery tickets, and despatched people to the two puppet shows in the woodland. Although entry was free, donations of £90 were left and we received very positive feedback as people made their way home.

Cream Teas were provided by Annie Parry aided by Margaret More and Barbara Wood, who regularly attend the Sustainable Forum. The profit made was a staggering £200. Annie sourced birch knives and bio-degradable plates made from the by-product of sugar cane from www.biogreengate.com, and was able to reduce the waste we created.

The tea team enjoyed overhearing people's conversations while waiting for the tea pot to be re-filled. Everyone seemed very happy with the afternoon, loved the Linklater and its setting on the nature reserve. Annie heard families say there was 'lots to do and see'. The Coastal Communities flooding video was particularly thought provoking and she heard comments ranging from "at least we are aware now & can do something about it" to "it won't affect me in my life time". There were also lots of appreciative comments on the building itself, people do seem to be inspired by the design. Everybody seemed relaxed and didn't appear to mind the queue, perhaps being able to see trees and the Printmakers art work while waiting helped!



**November 8th 2013 - Celebration of 25 years of the RLWT
Lewes Town Hall, 6 - 9.30pm**

free entry - lottery draw - entertainment -

bar - refreshments - live band and barn dance!

**please note we will be issuing tickets as there is limited space, so please don't ignore
information sent by email or post in late September / early October**



Parry's Photo Round-upContinued

(Patcham School, Year 4 visit, responses below)



As for Patcham School's visit

Evie wrote: *Thank you ever so much for the best school trip ever in Year 4.*

Really enjoyed going pond dipping for amazing animals and hearing about Ed and Bella and their amazing adventures – also bringing the mini beats home (the Linklater!) and studying them.

I thought the honey bees were excellent and how the children made the patchwork.

Thank you for an amazing day and the fascinating facts you told us.

Thomas wrote: *Thank you for our excellent school trip. I loved it when we went pond dipping. Thank you so so much. I loved the nature reserve. Thank you for our posters. I'm missing the creatures that I caught and I loved the peregrine falcon story.*

Maisie wrote: *Thank you for a brilliant day. Pond dipping was really fun and when we got back we enjoyed looking after the minibeasts that we caught. I thought hearing the story of Ed and Bella was fantastic. I think it was the best trip in Year 4. The passion that you had about the wildlife was amazing. You have lots of art work. Do you like art?*

Ruby wrote: *Thank you for letting us come to the wonderful Linklater Pavilion. I had such a great time looking at all the different creatures. My favourite part was when we learned about the animals and their names. You have some great views of the hills! We had such a great time, it was the best trip in Year 4!!!*



Above: St Pancras School's recycling visit, studying the patchwork tablecloths

The trip was made possible by a grant for transport from Amanda Elmes, the SDNPA Education Officer,. Class teacher Debbie Willshire wrote *'The work you do is essential, and I commented about how appreciated the grant and visit were. We would love to work with you in the future, and it is possible we could walk to Preston Park... maybe..and get the train..'*

I also co-taught a 'Facilitation for Sustainability' course with Sustainability and Environmental Education (SEEd) Director Ann Finlayson who generously adapted aspects of a previous course to take account of what we could offer here at the Linklater. The delegates from East Anglia to North Wales and Bristol came for 2 two day sessions and seemed to get a lot from it.

(see right)

I also welcomed and led a session with students from the Sussex University BA in Childhood and Youth: Theory and Practice 1st year course led by Dr Janet Boddy in which the scope and breadth of what we are achieving at the Linklater was truly appreciated.

(below)



I hope this gives a flavour of some of what took place in the Spring and Summer of 2013. It is by no means a full record but I hope it gives some substance to the claim that we are at last beginning to establish ourselves as a hub of good practice.

John Parry

Trustee News

Current Trustees are: Alistair Scott, Chair, Alison Lawfield, Co Secretary, Jenifer Barton, Minutes Secretary, David Sykes, Maintenance, Roger Beasley, Architect, Pat Rigg, Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor.

9th July: Andy Bradley resigned as Co-chairman and Trustee with effect from 3 April 2013

Newly Co-opted Trustees: Martin Fox and Vicky Lawrence

Trustees annual site walk: 9.07.13

from left to right:

Director of the Railway Land Project, John Parry, Alison Lawfield, Jenifer Barton, LDC Ranger, Dan Ross, David Sykes, Roger Beasley

Next meeting of Trustees: 30.09.13



Priory Pupils Triumph!

The innovative new RLWT leaflet incorporates Augmented Reality technology. If you download a free app from Aurasma then with your smart phone, ipod or tablet, you can scan the areas of the leaflet within solid green borders and lo, a video clip or animation springs to life.

John Parry wowed the participants with this technology this week. 'It completely blew away the Nature Corridors team seeing their hazel coppice video in the hazel coppice itself activated by pointing the phone at the leaflet!! Something I have wanted to do for about 5 years now.'



Above, Samantha Twilley and Tony Smith, Assistant Head and Head of Priory proudly look on as Sasha, Ruby and Safia demonstrate their ingenious design and the Aurasma technology. The six panel pleated card is printed so that if cut into three strips and stuck together into one continuous pleated ribbon, it becomes a hand sized folded booklet which gives background to the Railway Land project as a whole on one side, whilst on the other, leads you on a Railway Land Trail.

The three have worked for a year, after school, on this project - meeting with Tudor Pascu and Dr Martin White of the Department of Informatics at the University of Sussex, interviewed Phil Belden, South Downs National Park Director of Operations, and helped with production by Chris Smedley of Hudoq. Samantha and John Parry have supported their work. A real team effort and a fantastic outcome.

The four representatives of the six person team charged with designing a Ground Source Heat Pump display, gave a spirited clear explanation of the processes involved.





The whole display is installed in the undercroft in a purpose built cupboard which also contains the pipes which carry the fluid down 80 metres into the rock beneath. When the doors are opened it reveals a model of the building and the ground beneath, with numbered cards which explain the process at that particular point in the system. Heat exchange is described as well the effect of pressure as liquids become gasses and condense back into liquids.

This ingenious display also offers the 'Priory Challenge' to those who are prepared to place un-numbered cards in the correct order. I failed dismally today on one of my Sunday openings, even though I had spent some time trying to memorise the layout before I took the challenge! No short cuts, or easy answers.

At the launch party the students said they had really 'got into' the problem of making the scientific principles easy to understand. It had been challenging but fascinating, and they were determined to see it through.

Like the leaflet group, they had given up a lot of time over about a year to work through the problems they faced. They had advice and help from Daniel Bell Senior Laboratory Technician and Justin Cook DT technician at Priory, Dr Mike Hardiman, Dept Physics and Astronomy , University of Sussex, Grant funding from the Royal Institute of Physics, Bronagh Liddicoat and STEM Sussex, their teachers Angela Shirley, Pauline Murray and Suzanne Howells Asistant Head teacher at Priory.

These examples of extra-mural activity are part of the special relationship that has built up between the Trust and Priory School, and are the result of inspiring input from John Parry. Having the vision, energy and ability to make the links and build the network that supports such projects with young people is a priceless asset.

Pat Rigg

Talking Trees Various people's memories and reflections about trees were recorded at a Tree Memories Day at the Linklater Pavillion on Sunday May 5th. It was part of a Heritage Lottery Funded project that the local environmental group are involved in, looking at local people's relationship with trees. A tree themed performance of stories, music and singing will be held in the Railway Land on **Sunday September 29th** to mark the end of the project. As part of the performance an environmental artist will be creating an installation in the woods. If you would like to be involved in making the art installation then please contact Helen Thoms at helen@bushylodge.wanadoo.co.uk for more information.

Rachel Bennington



Bird's Eye View

I enjoy every moment of these 'Flora Survey' mornings, only regretting that I can't join Jenifer and Janet on my haunches.

The 4th morning was producing quite thrilling results as I was recording only those flowers that had not been seen in the 2002 survey, a surprising number in the first 2 hours. We were excitedly waiting to spot the bee orchid we'd been told about.

When, reluctantly I was about to leave for another appointment at noon, J&J's immediate decision was to skip to the anticipated area so that I wouldn't miss the exciting moment. Off we sped. J & J trying to keep up with my buggy which can do 5 miles an hour!

Eureka, Janet had found the little thing lying down weakly, but clearly identifiable, joyously identified in all our J's books.



I drove back at top speed, singing all the way. Jean Heywood

Bee Orchid © Claire Duc

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