

Railway Land Wildlife Trust



August 2016
Edition No. 89

www.railwaylandproject.org

Registered Charity No. 800655

Registered Company No 02313579

Address: Linklater Pavilion, Railway Lane, Lewes BN72FG

Director's piece:

On page 14 I have a list of 'thankyous' to specific people who have helped us recently but I want to start my last Director's piece with a heartfelt thank you to all our members, many of whom have been so loyal and generous over many years.

You have stuck with the vision and I hope feel vindicated as so many people at the outset never thought we would get the project up and running! This edition is bursting with activities that have flowed from the Linklater involving a wide range of people of all ages.

It is the culmination of 6 years of slow but steady process of building up resources, various approaches to environmental education in its broadest sense and a team of people to deliver all aspects. And we have no debt. Despite the recent cuts, we are able to offer a one day a week experience to the Nature Corridors group working with Paul Webster.



Our working relationship with Priory School is second to none and thanks to Railway Land Live!, (see pages 2-5) we have built even stronger relationships with several Primary schools which I am sure will continue. We have 4 outside cameras able to deliver live pictures to the Linklater and an interesting menu of 'place to think with' approaches which I hope will prove to be an important, practical and useful foundation on which others can build. On top of this we have pioneered some truly ground breaking approaches with the Nature Corridors Group (see pages 10-11). More on NCFA in our next edition.

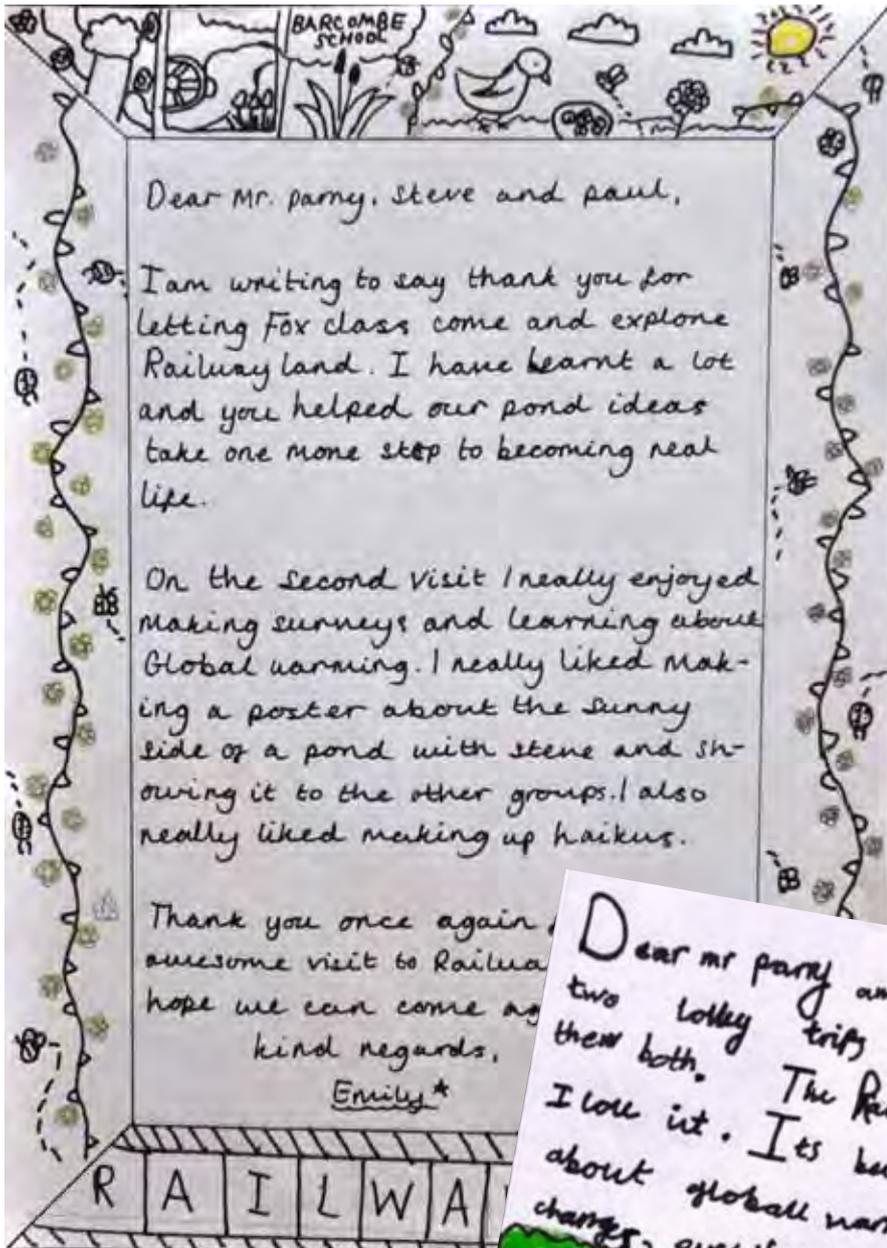
In light of the latest 12th July UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Evidence Report with its particular focus on flooding and soil, I am particularly pleased that we have invested in sea level rise and flooding aspects through our flood model tank, sea level rise exhibition, Minecraft pond prototype, Winterbourne aquifer model and the digital fly through of the Lower Ouse Valley which can now be shown on 10 laptops. Thanks to Helen Meade and Steve Ward, our soil display has been upgraded and will serve the project in good stead.

My hope is that the people who follow me, including trustees, hold this wider vision to the fore – it is why the Linklater was built, not as a day centre or community centre but as an environmental community hub – a neutral space around which various people and bodies concerned about, and linked to, the environment will gather for plotting, discussion, planning, education in its broadest sense and facing challenges – many of them yet to come.

Although I am stepping down from the day to day management, I will continue to run the Linklater Rats on a voluntary basis as well as leading an expedition to Madagascar by Priory pupils which will retain my links with Priory school as well as several of the Lewes Primary schools. (see page 12)

I wish the Trust well but above all I thank you, the members, for your wonderful support over many years.

Dr John Parry



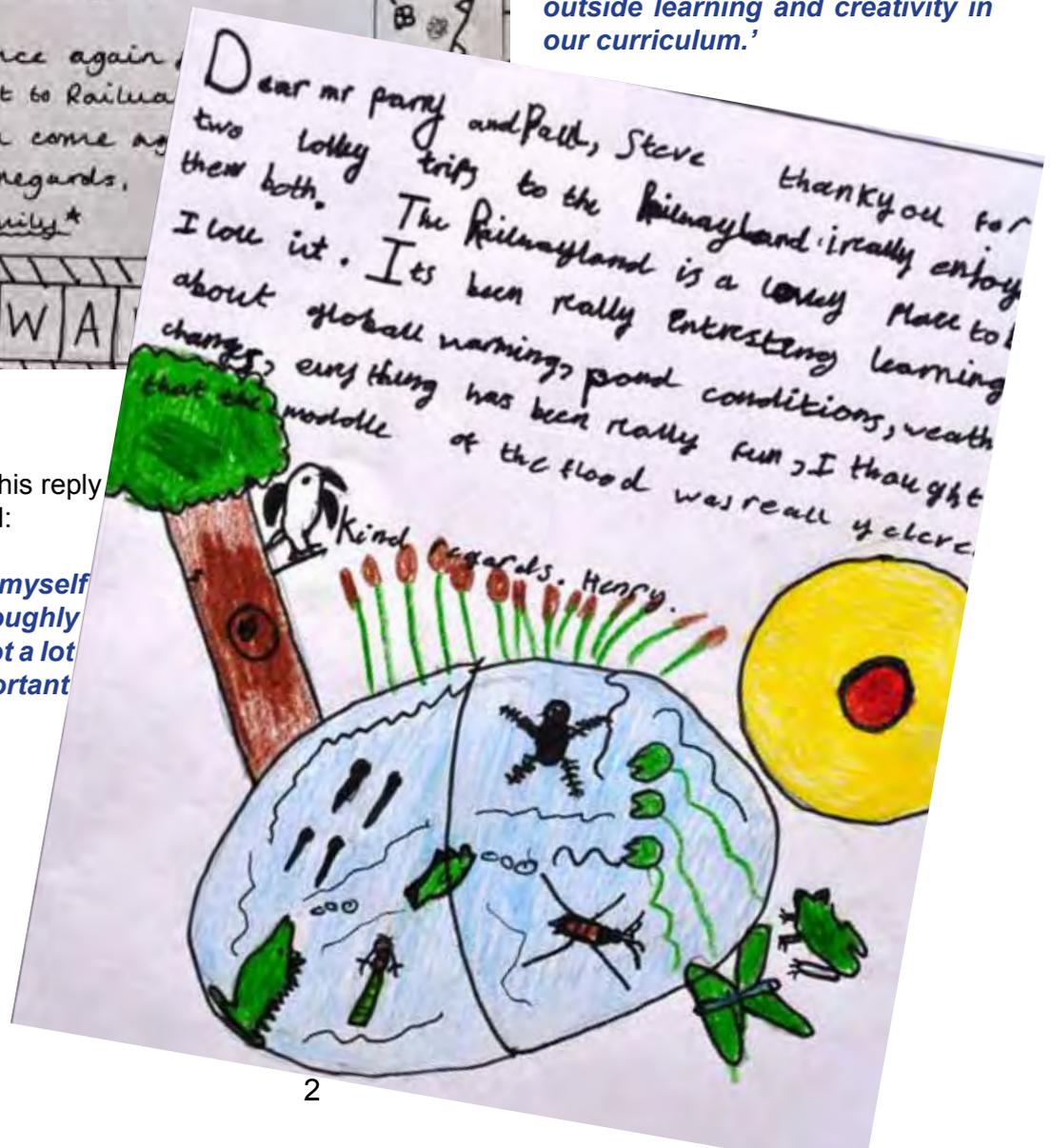
Our final report to the Heritage Lottery Fund is being assembled as I write but, roughly, over the two years of the project we involved 550 children who made 1100 visits. A flavour of their response is captured in some of their letters.

As for the teachers, we have built a wonderful rapport with all of them and in answer to the question, 'Has taking part resulted in any changes to the curriculum?' a typical response has been:

'Yes, I have the tools and more understanding and knowledge of what can be done and how to utilise the Railway Land as well as my own school grounds. Our school will be incorporating more outside learning and creativity in our curriculum.'

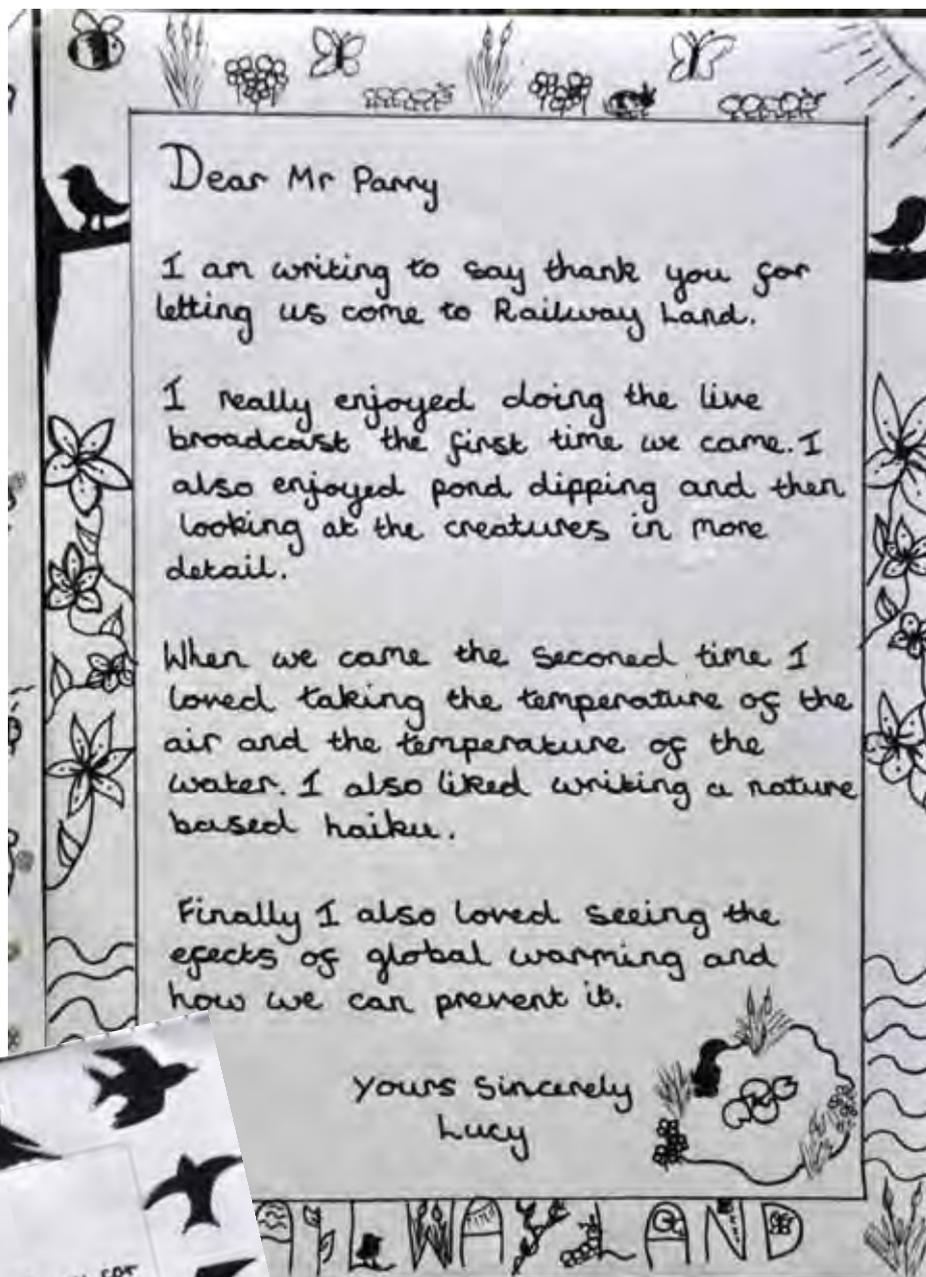
Under general comments, this reply sums up the responses well:

'A fantastic opportunity – myself and the class thoroughly enjoyed both visits and got a lot from both. A really important learning opportunity.'



As far as the public are concerned 4 webcams, two of which were underwater, have been working well with the result that there have been 271 visits from separate internet providers.

Since the library of clips was launched we have had 2,554 views and 755 plays. Webcams have been streaming daily for 15 months and will continue until April 2017.



Special credit must go to Steve Savage who has done a superb job leading groups as well as building a fabulous resource of topics based on the site. He has also led a series of Sunday afternoons enthralling visitors with magnified, projected images of pond life.

Right: Steve and Sunday afternoon group.



The final sessions are from 2 – 5pm are on the 7th and 28th August.

Massive thanks are also due to Paul Webster who has done so much to get the cameras in place and working. This has taken some doing, especially this year with very different water levels.

Paul also made a Lewes model flood tank and led, with myself, on several of the sea level rise sessions with pupils.

Right: Paul Webster explaining the effects of flooding in Lewes. © Jackie



Left: flood tank Q&A session. © Steve Savage

Right: John Parry explains how flood defence walls have risen over the years © Brian



A special feature this year was the encouragement of pupils and teachers to look at their own schools grounds and to explore if they could create their own pond. This challenge was taken up enthusiastically and led to some inspiring work and presentations given to the rest of the school and Governors – the liveliest of which was by Firle School!



Right: Firle's 'save our ponds'.
© John Parry

A flavour of this year's activities on site which included measurements of temperature, wind speed and cloud cover is given below:

© Steve Savage and John Parry



Our thanks to all the schools who took part and the Heritage Lottery Fund for their support of this important work that in terms of legacy has also provided us with:

- 4 working cameras and recording equipment
- A stunning library of videos and an easily accessible digest of all sorts of interesting facts about the Reserve's wildlife and eco system
- A video camera and sound boom
- A Lewes flood model
- High definition electronic microscope
- Pond dipping nets, bowls and magnifiers
- Large set of Gatekeeper guides
- Winterbourne catchment interactive map
- Bella Bear website (see www.bellasworldofwater.com)



The RLWT 2016 'A Place To Think With' Festival



The morning rain cleared, the noisy raft racers had progressed south and we welcomed the Mayor of Lewes to open the 2016 Festival as well as opening the redesigned entrance area.

The new planter includes an apple tree bearing 3 varieties, a little pond for toads displaced by the works and an amazing willow sculpture. Our Adults with Learning Disabilities led by Sally Christopher were part of the team creating this fascinating artwork.

The planter designed by Tom Daniell and built by 50 Priory pupils using wood from the reserve, represents shapes and numbers of biological significance like hexagons and the Fibonacci series. Visitors, and there were about 1000, then hurried off to sample the huge range of activities on offer.

Left: Mayor Cllr Graham Mayhew opens the festival and unveils the planter.

Right: Tom Daniell.



Families with young children made for the woodland to see the Wishworks puppet show, many joined one of the themed walks which encouraged them to regard the Reserve as a place to think with, whether about poetry, climate change or the Heart of Reeds water sculpture, the latter walk being led by Chris

Drury who designed the reedbed.

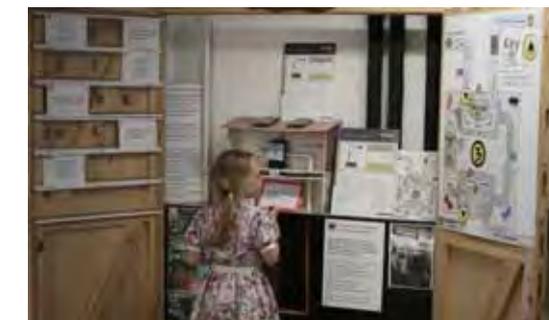
The activities in the undercroft were hugely popular – the chalk aquifer model, the soil display, the ground source heat pump

and the superb chalk and fossil exhibits

complete with 'old fossil' Professor Rory Mortimer, who was offering to identify your fossil finds.



Left: Professor Mortimore challenged many people with his thought provoking questions on sea level rise, coral acidification and fossils of the future.



Above right: One young visitor seemed enthralled with the ground source heat pump display by Priory pupils.



Young people too had the opportunity to tell us about their activities, Priory students preparing for a once in a lifetime visit to Madagascar in autumn 2017 spoke with the Mayor (see left) about the special areas such as agriculture and music they have chosen to work on as preparation. They were very impressive and will be wonderful ambassadors especially since one of the group is a French speaker and will help interpret. (see pg 12)

Younger children also had a chance to talk about their time on the Reserve, one had spent a day during the previous week as part of the Heritage Lottery funded Railway Land Live! programme and was immensely proud of the talk he had given at the end of the day which was filmed and relayed back to his school.



Cllrs Imogen Makepeace and Joanna Carter performed a second ceremony mid-afternoon when they launched the Lewes Wildflower project encouraging residents to create wildflower spaces and then record them by sewing motifs onto a special fabric map of the town. This is a lovely idea which will increase the chances of our rarer species surviving and will spread news of the project in an innovative and attractive way.

Right: Blockbuilders returned to run a specially designed Minecraft session based on the entrance area, which two years ago led to the idea from teenage players of a fruit planter, which was indeed developed and opened at this Festival.

© G Mayhew



The many visitors from the town, the surrounding villages, Brighton and further afield enjoyed the Festival in their own way, some walked the labyrinth on the sidings while others gazed at the calming ebb and flow in the river before going indoors to look at the interactive digital fly-through of the Ouse valley. They emerged with much to consider about climate change and the need for us to learn how to adapt to what is already happening.



'Bring Back the Wolf' performed for the first time sharing the gig with 'The Aftershave'. We are so grateful to Sarah McLaughlin of 'Bring Back the Wolf' and Rob Rosenthal for offering their music at such a generous rate.

There were refreshments nearby and the mysterious instrument reminiscent of "baby bagpipes" which produced a strangely haunting sound, generated lots of conversation.

This was John Parry's last Festival as Director. He has set the bar extremely high but this is now such a very popular annual event that we, as trustees, will do our utmost to ensure that it continues for the interest and enjoyment of local people.

Jenifer Barton, Trustee



A Poet's eye on the Festival...

It was great sitting back in the sun on 3rd July, with lovely music all around, waiting (somewhat like a mosquito larva) for a likely mark -- so that, with the immortal phrase, 'Can I interest you in a word...?' I could leap out and add another layer to the **'Sonnet for the Railway Land.'**

Here, below, is the product of fourteen individuals, none of whom knew what any other person had written. They only knew the word which they had chosen from my list, and that their line about the Railway Land had to end in that word. Some responses were instantaneous, others were mulled over in private for as much as an hour. Some came from eight-year olds, some from eighty-year olds.



'Can I interest you in a word?!'

My part was to put the lines in order, according to the rhyme scheme of a sonnet (ababdcdefegg), select which lines were to be the final couplet, and adapt one or two of the contributions which were too long, or too short.

Half of the rhyme-words were chosen from the list of words omitted in the latest edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary, on the grounds that they were 'peripheral to the lives of most children today'... buttercup, minnow, ash, kingfisher, pasture, willow, heron.

We wanted to put a stop to that!

Special thanks, therefore, to the eight-year old girl who spent ages composing the splendid first line; and to the frail, very old gentleman who gave me the last line.

SONNET FOR THE RAILWAY LAND

**I saw some bright, blazing, blooming, brilliant buttercups
Around the corner in the river came the minnow
Labyrinth calm and peaceful, cranesbill in close-up
Leaves and branches in a squall of willow-billow
An afternoon's musing underneath the ash
A sudden blue surprise, a kingfisher
Dipping pond is active with lots of splish and splash
All things given by the hand of the Great Well-Wisher
A field with cows, and grass for pasture
The brightest of days cast the deepest shadow
Gentle humming, earth-fresh stroll through nettle rapture
Once iron engines, now ancient Empress Willow
The Railway Land in winter looks so very barren
Leave the marsh to the old Grey Heron.**

Lines composed by fourteen separate individuals at the Railway Land Festival, July 2016

Patrick Bond



photo above: © Brian Clifford



July 14th was a day for celebrating the success of two groups which have been working towards the John Muir award. The Mayor of Lewes presented their certificates recognising how they have met the challenges the award presents: discovering a wild place, exploring its wildness, taking responsibility for its conservation and sharing their experiences with others.

We learned from our Nature Corridors for All group of their visits to the National Trust's Sheffield Park in the tercentenary of the birth of its designer Capability Brown. They had met the head gardener and his team, taken many photographs and their paintings based on these will feature in an exhibition at the NT Park, which runs from 6th August to 4th September. They were immensely proud that one of these paintings has been selected by the NT for the cover of their leaflet about Capability Brown. (see *Newsletter 88*) The participants who had earned their awards had recorded their experiences and thoughts in blogs and showed these to the guests, with lively commentaries.

You can access these remarkable documents and photos by going to their dedicated blog site at ncfbsite.wordpress.com

The other group which had earned certificates were from Priory School and they have been spending one day a week on the reserve for the past year. They have been following a programme of Forest School activities, sharing some of these with the Nature Corridors group of adults with learning disabilities. They showed us their books recording their time spent in their special place in the woodland where they have practised survival skills and woodcraft, and come to know the plants and animals which make up the Reserve community.

It was a very happy occasion ending with lovely and eagerly anticipated cakes!

Jenifer Barton, Trustee

What the John Muir Award project meant to Priory School students.....some extracts from their presentations:

It was good meeting the adults. Hard to explain why but I did like it. I enjoyed working with David because we got to know each other quickly and had a strong relationship. I needed to use patience to allow him time to speak because he speaks a lot slower than me. I think I liked being able to help people to learn what I could do. I liked being outside and I liked making things the most. We were doing it to help John look after the Railway land properly. I would like to do it again. Tom



I have worked really well with the nature corridors. I was helpful and kind. The adults needed help in different ways so I was adaptive to each of them



....me and my friend Louie was processing lots of wood. This means getting it ready for making the hurdles. There was a lot of wood needed so it took us two days. The finished ones weren't very tall but was what John wanted to stop cars going on the seeds. I used a knife to whittle it to a point so we could hit it into the ground. It was hard ground but if you hit it a lot it went in. We then used sticks in and out to make a little fence called a hurdle. Ryan

We did a lot of things with the nature corridors group. Like ice breakers, hurdle making, made hexagons, cutting sycamore, willow weaving, cutting wood.

I was worried that they wouldn't understand what I was trying to say to them, I was anxious, worried that I might laugh because I was nervous and incase I made others laugh. I didn't want to upset anyone and I would only be laughing because I was nervous.

I feel more relaxed; once you have done it its like meeting anyone else. It was good helping them and they helped us back. We were a good team. I also know that I can be adaptive and can work good in teams to get a job done. Ebrima

I liked working with the adult group. They were nice. I liked being able to show them things. I especially liked Rob. He was fun. Eli

Throughout the John Muir award we were working with the Nature Corridors For All group. I enjoyed this because I never thought I would work with adults with learning difficulties and it was a really good experience. I learnt a lot about helping others and how to adapt things so that everyone could be involved. When we had to reflect on our work I would help Rob write his ideas down.. Sophie

I was working with Jackie cutting down a bit of wood for the hurdles I love working with Jackie she makes me smile. Ellie



Priory Head, Tony Smith commented, 'We are delighted to have such a strong partnership with the Railway Land Wildlife Trust. This award is further evidence of how social inclusion can bring groups together to learn about and deliver positive action to protect and enhance

the environment.'

Cllr Graham Mayhew, Mayor of Lewes said, 'Penny and I had a great time talking to the adults and looking at their blogs. Their enthusiasm, commitment and achievements were a real inspiration. We were really impressed and wish the project continued success for many years to come as its benefits to everyone who takes part are enormous and life-changing.'

Kay Holden, Head of Service, Learning Disability Directly Provided Services, Adult Social Care observed, 'It is always a privilege to visit the Linklater to see the work of the participants. Their enjoyment and enthusiasm is evident and the way in which people of all ages work together on projects, each bringing different talents, is highly commendable.'



Blake's presentation

I processed a tree to help John and the adults make hurdles to stop people from parking on the grass and spoiling the wild flowers. But the adults time here may be cut short as the government need to cut back on money so they can't fund the adults anymore so they may not be able to come anymore. So this problem needed to be solved. So the news people came to interview John and some of us and the adults in the hope that government will see how much of a positive thing forest school is for the adults and also for us working with them and not cut the funding to the adults



We did some indoor activities as well but the outside was the best bit. we showed them our camp and lit a fire and had hot chocolate with squirt cream. When the group came to our camp we cooked fairtrade banana pancakes. Some of them were nice but some were not. The weather had been raining and it was hard to light a strong fire so some of the pancakes didn't cook as much. They weren't as good.



I suppose it is good that our groups joined up. I learned that it isn't too bad meeting new people and even though I will get nervous it can be good. These are the stakes that we hammered into the ground to make the hurdles. I had never done anything like this before but I found out that I was good at making them. Everyone kept asking me how to do it. I helped to start a willow structure with Sally. I found it quite easy to do the straight weaving.

This is me showing the pheasants to the adults. They really liked the feeling of the feathers and it was something new for them.

The reason that the teachers have set up forest school is so that we get a day out of school where we get to do things we would never be able to do inside of school and it gets us out of an environment where we really don't behave and don't get along with people. So we get to work with people that we probably never would if it hadn't of been for forest school. I really think that forest school has had a positive impact on me and some other people in the group. I've really enjoyed forest school so far and am looking forward to many more things that we do. I found I am good at things to do with nature. I did enjoy doing the John Muir award because it was fun showing the Nature Corridors new stuff and even though I found it hard to start with I learnt that I could get through my worry and become confident.

Blake



The 2017 Madagascar expedition

One of things that stepping down as Director will allow me to do is to spend more time, hopefully, inspiring young people about environmental issues both at University, Secondary and Primary levels.

One idea that has been hatching for a while has been the possibility, at the invitation of CEO Director Al Harris of Blue Ventures, to take a group of teenagers to see and take part in an extraordinary conservation project on the south west coast of Madagascar.

I am delighted to say that 12 Priory pupils have risen to the challenge of raising a total of £24,000 to cover their travel and took part in a 'soft launch' at the Festival when they met the Mayor of Lewes. (see right)

I will be joined by teacher Sasha Lakeman and triathlon athlete Jane Pendered who was blown away by the quality of presentations made by the young people to justify their place. This is how the young team have succinctly described themselves and the project:



'We are a team of 12 young people, from Lewes in the South East of England, in northern Europe, where the land and countryside is mainly made up of chalk and the weather changes frequently and seasonally. We currently study at Priory Secondary School and between us we have skills in music, art, science, geography, IT and French that we can utilise in the Madagascar Project. Blue Ventures, a conservation organisation, with a base in Madagascar, have invited us to partake in a conservation project.'

The purpose of our trip is for the communities in Lewes, England and Andavadoaka, Madagascar, to learn from each other about adapting to rising sea levels. We will learn about many aspects of how the communities function and their approaches to conservation, such as learning how the communities section off parts of their fisheries so that marine species can replenish, thereby creating a bigger yield for fishermen. We will be visiting schools, families and meeting Malagasy children before feeding back what we have learned to local primary and secondary schools in our area.'

Each member of the team is also to hoping to personally achieve goals whilst out in Madagascar, and a summary of each personal view will be displayed at the official launch of the project on 26th September at 6.30pm at Priory School.

Furthermore, I am delighted to say that several of the Lewes Primary schools will also be taking part by producing a series of presentations from cattle rearing and sea fishing to seasons and sheep farming for showing to Malagasy children of the same age. The Priory teenagers will, in turn, gather information from the Malagasy children for sharing with the Primary school children back in England. See <http://www.bellabearsworldofwater.com/#!/madagascar-project/c1qtk>

This website, created by Steve Savage, will also form part of an outreach programme with Paul Webster that is being put together under an HLF Resilience fund launched on 28th July 2016.

Much thought and effort is going into the next phase of the Railway Land Project and hopefully there will be much to report over the next year. So please stay with us!

Dr John Parry

Wildflower Lewes makes a Buzz

I am so pleased that another long-held idea of a textile map, originally offered to the Lewes Arboretum project, has found its place with an exciting wildflower initiative that has brought together Town & District Councillors, Lewes District Council Rangers, the Sussex Wildlife Trust, local ecologists and interested wildflower enthusiasts, the Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere and ourselves!

John Parry

This is true partnership, which we fully welcome, and here is Dan Fagan's description of it:

'Wildflower Lewes has set out to create wildflower habitat throughout Lewes, wherever we can find small patches of suitable land. Our aim is to make stepping stones and corridors of beautiful wildflower habitat that connects our town to the downs and the rest of the countryside; and give people an opportunity to enjoy and care for the nature on their doorstep, and bring colour into the town.'

It's a well-cited fact that there has been a 97% decline in wildflower meadows since WWII. Lewes is lucky to be situated in chalk downland; rare worldwide, but locally abundant, and particularly species-rich. We'd like to find space in Lewes to bring the downs into the town, and create space for other natural habitats that celebrate our wild heritage.

We are asking for people in Lewes to help identify possible patches of land near their houses that they would like to become wildflower patches and giving people the chance to get involved in creating and looking after spaces for wildlife. We are also looking at suitable land owned by the Town & District Council to create more natural wildflower habitat through changes in mowing regimes and selective planting of native species.'



The campaign was officially launched by Cllrs Imogen Makepeace and Joanna Carter at the 'Place to Think with' Festival held by the Railway Land Wildlife Trust on Sunday 3rd July at the Linklater Pavilion. (see left)

This innovative centre for the study of environmental change was the perfect place to act as the hub for the campaign and now houses a ginormous specially commissioned textile map of Lewes town. When new wildflower areas are created, the canvas can be rolled down and members of the public or groups can sew onto the canvas their wildflower area.

The first area was sewn to mark the first site of planting which was within a specially designed mathematical planter built by Priory Pupils led by Designer Tom Daniell and funded by a Railway Land Wildlife Trust Heritage Lottery Funded Project. The planter was filled with wildflower plugs from the local nursery at Stanmer Park.

Dan Fagan, Community Ranger for Lewes District Council said *"in many ways the town of Lewes is like a barrier blocking insects and plants from travelling across the downs or along the river Ouse. This project aims to make holes in that barrier by creating green paths and corridors that wildlife can use"*.

If you are interested in taking part in the project or simply want to learn more, visit our Facebook page by searching [Wildflower Lewes](#) or visit our blog wildflowersinlewes.wordpress.com

Some Thank Yous

We have been so blessed with help over the years from supporters who have given their time voluntarily and my final list of people to thank include Malcolm Jones from Creative Light and Power Ltd sales@creative-light-power.co.uk who very kindly helped us out with the final touch of lighting for the fossil display put together by Rory and Diana Mortimore. Such work cannot be done these days without a qualified electrician which is why it was so good of Malcolm to give up a Saturday morning.



Right: Malcom with Rory and Diana

Thanks should also go to Merlin Milner who kindly supplied the movement detector for the fossil lights.



Left: Steve Ward hard at work

We have also had the help over several months of Steve Ward who has acted as odd job man from washing down the steps, helping complete the soil display, putting up and taking down and cleaning display boards, working with Dave Sykes on our Wildflower Lewes textile map and a host of other fiddly jobs. He leaves us for Rutland but thank you so much Steve for all your hard work always done with such good humour.

Also a huge thanks are owed to Wendy Brewer and Liz Mandeville whose unsolicited offer of

help with fund raising led to whittling down an 80 page list of funding bodies from the House of Commons library to nine hopefuls. I asked Liz and Wendy to focus on the Nature Corridors adults with learning disabilities aspect of the project and so they are seeking a minimum of one year's funding of one day a week.

I should also thank another team of Steve Savage, Tim Hall, Helen Meade, Sam Smith, Ken Walker and Paul Webster who are helping put together a much larger bid to the new Heritage Lottery Resilience Fund. Competition is huge but we will do our best.

Thank you to my Railway Land Live! team of Tim Hall who has done a great job on the website and especially the videos at <http://www.railwaylandlive.org/live/video-library/> and Phil Bracegirdle on identifying recorded clips and especially Paul Webster and Steve Savage who did so much on the recent spate of school visits. These were very rewarding, but hard work, and it has been great working with you all.

A special thanks to my Festival planning team of Helen Meade, Sharifin Gardiner, Margaret More, Paul Webster, Andy Jesson, Dan Fagan and Patrick Bond who did so much to support the Festival theme of 'a place to think with.'

And finally a big thanks to Helen Meade who has taken on most of the bureaucratic duties that can be somewhat unrecognised and yet are so necessary – and always with a smile!

Thank you all.

John Parry

.....A few more thank yous from Helen Meade!

As well as adding my voice to John's list, I'd like to thank a few more people who have been helping out in all manner of ways over the last few months.

As always, the Linklater Pavilion has been open every Sunday from May for the public to look around the building, enjoy the displays and take part in a free activity or walk. This is run entirely by volunteers, who deserve huge thanks: Jan, Tony and Naomi Peplar, Carole and David Archer, Thea Fox, Mary Benjamin, Jenifer Barton, Paul Harley, Pat Rigg, Jane McIntosh, Angie Smith, Caroline Kenward, Patrick Bond, Paul Webster, Michael McCoy, Ann Butterfield and Rose Beale.

The conservation grazing project on the water meadows has been progressing well, and this is also dependent on volunteer cattle lookers, out in rain and shine to check the health and welfare of the cattle and keep an eye on what they are eating and the impact on the meadows: Chris Browning, Laura Warren, Helen Hockin, Elsa Woodmeade, Jenifer Barton, Leonie Mercer and Angie Smith.

A huge amount of work goes on behind the scenes simply to keep the building and the Trust running smoothly. Barbara Cummins has been a big help in recent weeks, working through contact lists with me to make sure that our newsletter and other communications reach everyone they should. Thanks are due to Anne Parry who has now handed over to Angie Smith. She magics our rubbish away every week and has also improved our level of recycling. Simon Cooper, who designed our fabulous new website, has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping with our communications, IT and social media related shenanigans. And finally, in the last few weeks, Michael McCoy has been coming in regularly to offer support with the maintenance of the building.

It has been a great pleasure to get to know all of the many volunteers and supporters of the Trust. The fact that this 'thank you' section is so long is a credit to the time and effort that people from all walks of life are willing to put in!

Helen Meade

Paul Webster

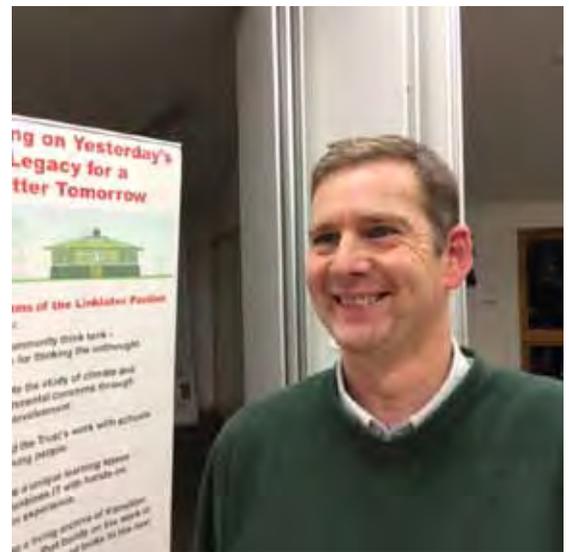
Some of you will have already met Paul who will be taking on a new part time role as our part-time Education Consultant after Dr John Parry steps down as Director of the Railway Land Project on 1st September 2016.

The swingeing ESCC cuts to funding for voluntary bodies like the Railway Land Wildlife Trust mean that we are not in a position to appoint a new Director. We are confident though that with Trustees taking on greater responsibility for the direction and oversight of our affairs, and with able support from project coordinator Helen Meade, the Trust will continue to flourish, grow and evolve.

Paul will be a key person in that process. He knows the Trust well from his involvement in the very successful Heritage Lottery funded "Railway Land Live!" now coming to an end after its 2 year run and he will be leading on the new project John has been planning with Lewes schools. This has had a very well received pilot run this year and we anticipate a full start in 2017.

Paul will also lead on the successor we are planning to the long running Nature Corridors for All programme for adults with learning disabilities. This is expected to start on Thursdays in September and will be focussing on a range of environmental activities.

With a wealth of experience in environmental matters, including work with schools, and a range of skills such as the very popular Forest School activities Paul is an ideal person to take on this new role. We are fortunate indeed to have him.



Jenifer Barton, Trustee

The iguanodon and Lewes

Although the areas around Cuckfield and Maidstone are where the actual fossils of the ancient herbivores were uncovered, Lewes town played its part in the iguanodon story. The town of Lewes was the birthplace and home of Gideon Mantell who found and identified the first fossils, and gave the Iguanodon its name. The Linklater Pavilion, is the location of a **Fossil Festival on 24-25 September** which will commemorate the life and contribution of Gideon Mantell with a series of talks, events, family activities and street theatre. The programme of talks that will run on Saturday 24th September will be available shortly and a commemorative souvenir brochure is planned. Many of those who planned and delivered a conference in 1990 for the bicentenary of Mantell's birth are also involved in this event including John Cooper of the Booth Museum. John will be speaking on the discovery of the iguanodon and showing some of the fossil bones kept in the Booth Museum.

On **Sunday 25th September** the Iguanodon Restaurant street theatre show will feature; based on the famous meal in the Iguanodon from 1853. This will be set up next to the Linklater Pavilion by the river in Lewes. Two free showings of a street theatre play by Emeraldant (12 noon and 2.30pm), will feature all the key characters: Anning, Cuvier, Smith, Owen, Darwin, Hawkins, Buckland and Mantell himself. This has had its inaugural showing at the Lyme Regis Fossil Festival, the 35ft model Iguanodon being created partly in Lewes.

Further information: <https://gideonmantell.wordpress.com/2016/05/18/the-lewes-fossil-fest/> or email debby.matthews@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01273 483228 (leave a message if out)

Below right: Emeraldant's show in Lyme Regis <https://emeraldant.com/>



Contact Details

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email: coordinator@railwaylandproject.org

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photos ©RLWT unless attributed
Newsletter published by:
Railway Land Wildlife Trust
Charity No 800655
www.railwaylandproject.org

to access underwater camera live feeds
www.railwaylandlive.org

printed by Elephant Print, Barcombe
www.elephantprint.co.uk

The Railway Land Peregrines

Observations from the Signal Box

Lewes Local Nature Reserve

Sue Angell and Edward Ford



The Railway Land Peregrines..

is a full colour illustrated booklet based on the diaries and daily observations made in 1998, from the newly erected signal box.

Follow the highs and lows of Peregrine family life - played out on the cliff face and high over the Railway Land.

The booklet is now in sale for **£5** a copy to help raise funds for the Trust.

Available now either from the Linklater during Sunday afternoon openings, or by arrangement with Helen Meade or Pat Rigg. (Please email to agree times when Helen will be at the Linklater and when Pat will be at 115 High St).

coordinator@railwaylandproject.org

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Figure 4 Photo of nest site and perches © RLWT

It also pointed briefly at 7 o'clock below roost 1. A second Peregrine was soaring high over the cliff near the tunnel. It circled for a few moments and was then mobbed by Herring Gulls. Driven off south in a continuous glide - with no wing movement whatsoever until lost from view. The first Peregrine then glided to and fro across the cliff face creating much panic amongst the Jackdaws. The Peregrine swooped suddenly on a Jackdaw and at the same moment was itself swooped on by a Herring Gull. The Peregrine was driven down into the trees by the industrial estate and the Jackdaw escaped!



The 2016/17 season of Autumn & Spring talks in the Linklater

We are putting together the next season of Sunday afternoon talks and events, and would welcome any suggestions you may have of good speakers or performers who you think would interest our members and the wider Lewes public.

Please contact Helen Meade or the Trustees' Fund Raising Group with your ideas on:

coordinator@railwaylandproject.org

or

info@railwaylandproject.org

The annual income from our lettings covers the basic cost of maintenance, but It is important we find ways of continuing to raise funds - to pay for the extra public events and services the Trust provides, and ensure sufficient administrative support.

Your continuing involvement in the various Trust-led activities is therefore very much appreciated.

Overleaf are details of planned events that all ages can enjoy.

Pat Rigg, Trustee

FUND RAISING MATTERS

Dates for your Diary

Sunday openings: continue through August and September, and the free 'walks and talks' are listed below. All ages are welcome, and I do recommend you make a note of titles and dates that interest you. They start at 3pm and usually last an hour. The Linklater is open each Sunday from 2-5pm with many different exhibits, and underwater images to enjoy.

- 07/08/16 Railway Land Live - ideal for children - Steve Savage and John Parry will give a view of the underwater creatures to be found on the Reserve
- 14/08/16 Buzz Club - ideal for children - Helen Meade
- 21/08/16 Poetry - more adult orientated - Patrick Bond will share on a walk his love of John Clare's work and the outcome of his year as Poet in Residence
- 28/08/16 Railway Land Live - ideal for children - Steve Savage and John Parry will give a view of the underwater creatures to be found on the Reserve
- 04/09/16 Meadow minders - practical management and conservation - led by Dan Fagan
- 11/09/16 Bird walk -- ideal for all ages led by Paul Harley - some binoculars provided but bring your own if you can
- 18/09/16 Buzz Club - hoverfly lagoons, air bee'n'bee - Helen Meade makes bug hotels, a great activity for children
- 25/09/16 Mason bees - fascinating close up of the habitat of these creatures with Paul Webster

Fossil Festival: September 24th and 25th
a series of talks, events, family activities and street theatre - see page 16 of the newsletter for more details and timings

ARTWAVE 2016:

Our Artwave Exhibition opens at the Linklater with a Preview from 6-8pm on Friday 19th August. All are welcome. Thereafter it is open Saturday the 20th August, between 2-5pm, and continues at the same times each weekend, and on weekdays from 11-3pm until 31st August. The exhibition is open again for a final weekend on the 3rd and 4th of September.

This year the exhibition is co-hosted by the Nature Corridors for All group for whom this is their final art and photography exhibition, and by David Stacey who is showing his wonderful series of photographs of people who use the Railway Land and the inspirational Linklater Pavilion.

If you would like to 'sit' the exhibition on Saturday afternoons, on the 21st & 28th August and 3rd September please contact Helen Meade on coordinator@railwaylandproject.org

Due to Popular Acclaim!:

'Wishworks' puppets will be returning to the Linklater for a season of shows in December, further details of dates will be sent out in November. Perfect pre-Christmas fun.