

Railway Land Wildlife Trust



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Editorial

Dan Ross was appointed a Lewes District Council part-time Ranger in 2002 - taking responsibility for the Railway Land, Landport Bottom and Castle Hill. His post was funded by English Nature. In 2005 the role expanded, and Dan has played a major part in developing the good relationship that has culminated in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust and LDC.

Dan has now been promoted to Assistant Manager of the 'Parks Team' and will have responsibility for all grounds maintenance contracts.



photo © T Outram

As well as giving his time and skill to the Reserve, he has been working effectively and inventively with the 'Nature Corridors for All' group. Thyone Outram has now taken over much of the liaison with the RLWT and the work with the adults with learning difficulties. A new Ranger, Dan Fagan will be joining Lewes District Council in December.

One of Dan's last projects on the Reserve was to solve the problem caused by the water level changes in the dipping pond. Far too often, the dipping platform was underwater as in the picture above! *Take a look at pg 8* to see what the Ranger team have achieved and read Thyone's first report for the newsletter.

We have a band of 35 volunteers who can be called upon to help with Sunday openings, join in bird and flora surveys, (*pg 10*) sit at exhibitions, undertake conservation work with the Minders group, (*pg 8*) and help with events. **Maybe you would like to offer your services?** If so, please contact us at info@railwaylandproject.org and one of us will ring you for a chat about what kind of volunteering you would like to do.

Even though wellingtons are needed on most of the Reserve's paths, there is still much to enjoy, whatever the weather.

The Month of Sunday 2014 gigs kick off with **'An evening with Simon Evans'** on the 26th January, and continue until March (*see pg11*).

Here's to the next 25 years!

Pat Rigg

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Director's Message

The Trust is undergoing a period of transition now as we start to establish firm programmes and lasting links with several local and national networks. It's an exciting but exacting time for both Director and Trustees and much energy is going into our financial and educational strategic planning. The new Primary curriculum from September 2014 with its emphasis on recording change and the importance of natural areas including Local Nature Reserves gives us the opportunity to enhance pupils' experiences. A recent workshop run in conjunction with the South East Grid for Learning attracted 40 Primary school teachers and proved a huge success.



A packed Primary teachers workshop



Our work with Steve Savage and the development of our underwater camera and Bella the Bear will bear fruit this summer and is something we may eventually develop on a county wide basis. Sally Christopher has now joined me one day a week in developing the work of the Nature Corridors group and in particular the use of Ipads and social media which will be an exciting initiative.



We have joined forces with Sussex Wildlife Trust, Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, Lewes District Council and Natural England to produce a booklet for those staying at the newly opened South Downs Youth Hostel in an effort to tempt them up to Lewes and round to Glynde taking in the Railway Land and Southerham en route.

Our Knowtrash Festival next year will be our most ambitious yet and we are very grateful to Ruth and Neil Thomson who have put so much energy and effort into the planning and we are looking forward to working with Lucid Incident on a community event during the two month exhibition which opens on 6th July – a date for your diary as it will be a great day.

It's been a good year – we have made new friends and contacts – we are steadily establishing ourselves as a centre of excellence wonderfully put by founder trustee Phil Belden now Director of Operations of the South Downs National Park Authority when he wrote:

'I have to say, I had a tear in my eye when the sheer volume of creativity, energy, ideas, environmental awareness etc shone through with those images of the Linklater. I felt really proud that I had played a small part in saving the site and helping it on its way, to bigger and better things – it was most impressive and humbling too.'

We welcome Matthew Browning who has taken over the volunteer book keeping from Holly Smith who did such a good job for us. Matthew, with his marvellous smile and sense of humour, is taking us a stage further by producing an even more robust accounting system – I am so grateful to him and Alison Brewer who have been such a support on this critical but unglamorous side of the operation.



Vocalists: Pam Mason, Sophie Smith, Claire McCrae with John Parry and Barbara Dalby

Finally, huge thanks are owed to Ian McCrae and the newly formed Linklater Ensemble who not only played for us at the 8th November Town Hall event but also played 6 environmental songs I wrote with lyricist Barbara Dalby 40 years ago.

Barbara came down from her home town of Bradford and to hear another generation of young women singing our songs in wonderful harmony was a real treat – and to our amazement and delight they want to do the show again at a summer gig so we will let you know when this will happen!



Thank you for all your support – have a peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

Ian McCrae on keyboard; Marylin Thomas on violin; Emily Kramers on violin; Richard Bailey on double bass; John Harrison on drums

John Parry



We are Neil Thomson, film editor and photographer, and Ruth Thomson, educational author. Our passion is to share stories behind the art and craft of recycling.

Our UK touring exhibition, Treasures from Trash, was first seen at the Eden Project in Cornwall. 'knowtrash' is our unique collection of 4000 contemporary recycled objects from around the globe.

We curate engaging bespoke exhibitions, celebrating creative recycling and inventive and resourceful makers. Everything in the collection was once something else. Waste paper, metal, glass, plastic, textiles and rubber have been remade into sustainable, useful, and often beautiful, objects.

Celebrating 25 Years of the RLWT: November 8th 2013

Although the doors opened to the public at 6pm the Town Hall was a hive of activity from about 2.30 on the 8th November. Environmental stall holders arrived with pop up banners and boxes of materials, the four schools brought their displays - and by 4.30, the Corn Exchange was humming with activity.



Each school stall had representatives who explained their exhibition themes: Rodmell - wild animal homes; Wallands - wildlife of the hedgerows; South Malling - bikes and transport; and St Pancras - recycling.

At 5pm there was time for a final rehearsal, with appropriately clad hedgerow creatures. Then the excited children were introduced to the magnificently dressed Lord Lieutenant. The Assembly Room was now filled with 300+ parents, supporters and guests of the RLWT.

The evening began with a song called ***'We are the Future'*** specially written by John Parry. A steering group of children representing each school had devised words which pretty much brought a tear to everyone's eye. Children from Rodmell, St Pancras and Wallands Primary Schools processed into the hall and the Nature Corridors for All team and the Trustees formed up behind them waving long silk banners.

Linda Ann Powell from Rodmell CP School said: ***'In rehearsals I did have a few doubts creeping in when I saw that the children would have to walk between the audience, thinking the words and their voices might not be heard but as I watched 'the real thing' from the front, it just blew me away....really precious! I felt immensely proud of all of them.'***

Music by the newly formed Linklater Ensemble led by Ian McCrea, performed a live soundtrack to visuals of the three major projects of the last 25 years: bringing the signal box from Uckfield to Lewes; creating the Heart of Reeds; and building the Linklater Pavilion.

Our guest speaker, Professor Chris Baines, paid tribute to the longevity of the Trust saying that environmental groups often tend to focus on an immediate issue and then disperse and that it was a triumph to have kept the project alive and still developing after 25 years. He also expanded the three core Railway Land projects by exploring the possibilities and value of former industrial sites across the country, describing the creation of new habitats in urban areas; taking a fascinating and positive look at the future through seemingly odd partnerships - such as between fisherman and aggregate companies - that can benefit wildlife; and illustrating how natural areas play a vital role in ameliorating the effects of flooding which is becoming so much more common due to climate change. He described how swifts (*apus apus*) bring together Europe and Africa through their annual migration, and the major religions of the world - by nesting in historic temples, mosques, synagogues, cathedrals and the Wailing Wall. Concluding he cited them as wonderful examples of everyday miracles of travel and journeys and a powerful reminder of our connection with (and responsibility for) nature, creation and each other.



The partnership theme was developed in the Corn Exchange during the interval with a fascinating mix of displays from local businesses such as Chandlers and IEKO, to local groups such as the Friends of Lewes and the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Organiser Phil Barnard from Chandlers, commented ***'This was a fantastic opportunity for local business, not only to display their products and services but also to be involved with a community project and to exchange ideas on environmental issues and how our businesses can make a difference now and play our part in a sustainable future'***.

Lewes District Council who own the Reserve, and with whom we have a deepening and long standing partnership were represented by Assistant Ranger, Thyone Outram. Their careful and sensitive management of the site benefits the wildlife and keeps the public safe. The event, attended by Norman Baker MP, was opened by the Mayor of Lewes, Ruth O'Keeffe, who introduced Peter Field, HM Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex.

After ploughman's refreshment and suitable drinks from the bar - the evening ended with a barn dance for all ages led by caller David Sykes, with music by Contraband and a sound system provided by Dr Alan Rae of Fletching Folk Band.



Our thanks to all who attended, supported and worked so hard to make this evening such a success.

Bird Report – Autumn 2013 **MAGPIES and JAYS**

*One for sorrow,
Two for joy,
Three for a girl,
Four for a boy,
Five for silver,
Six for gold;
Seven for a secret, Ne'er to be told.*



This rhyme, which is found in books dating back to 1780, tells of a time when Magpies were perhaps less common than nowadays, and of the superstitions associated with this once hapless bird. For a very long time the Magpie has been unfortunate enough to be considered a thief, a threat and a bird of ill-omen. Seen in small numbers, they were, as often as not, shot dead on the spot. They were not wanted. But if this rhyme has any truth in it then we should all be rich in silver, gold and secrets - Magpies on the Railway Land, and in Britain in general, have been doing very well since gamekeepers ceased their slaughter of them.

Magpies and Jays are two especially decorative and raucous members of the Crow family. To hear the 'Chacker, chacker, chacker' of the Magpie as he calls from the treetops is to hear the call of a bird long-persecuted for his habit of stealing eggs, and consequently their numbers went into decline. However by the 1980's the Magpie population had stabilised and it is presently on the increase. Perhaps the Magpie is not so widely persecuted nowadays; it is certainly found living alongside humans. Maybe it's the relative warmth of our towns; maybe it's the rubbish that we leave behind. Magpies eat anything.



The Jay is also increasing in number – a 36% rise over the past five years in sightings in gardens, according to recent BTO garden bird data. This year should be especially good for the Jay – it is greedy for the acorns that are so abundant this autumn. Its harsh screech may be the most obvious indication that one is around but it can also be seen flying, particularly during the autumn, in its rather laboured and floppy manner. The Jay was also persecuted for stealing eggs and, like the Magpie, it has found refuge in towns. These are places where it may be relatively safe (no longer shot at - at least) and where it can find enough insects, caterpillars, fruits, nuts and the acorns that it enjoys eating all year round.

If you would like to join the Bird Group and do an occasional walk through the Reserve, recording what you see or hear as you go, send an e-mail to: Leonie Mercer - leonie.m@tiscali.co.uk or send her a note of a casual sighting. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Linklater Bees - Autumn

What a great summer they had, foraging in the sunshine and building honey stores to carry them through the chilly seasons! As autumn arrived, the hive was looking a bit sad, so Prof Francis Ratnieks came to give them a health check. He was pleased with how well the bees had sustained themselves. There were good stores of honey, the queen was active, producing a good area of brood (new eggs & larvae in cells). But some were not emerging as they should. Francis diagnosed a chill & prescribed insulation. They're now wrapped in a duvet! The aim is to produce enough new bees to survive the winter. We'll help by feeding liquid sugar to supplement their stores. Francis & his beekeeper at the University of Sussex will give the hive an overhaul, probably in the spring. Let's hope the bees have another great summer to look forward to.

Barbara J Cummins

Something Rotten in the Reeds?....

In late October there appeared to be some form of pollution in the Heart of Reeds. After the storm on the night of the 27th October the smell was appreciably worse. Dave Sykes who manages the water levels for the Trust and Thyone Outram, the Assistant Ranger, reported it to the Environment Agency who responded incredibly promptly, sending a man to do tests all round the site. He reported that the southern end of the Heart of Reeds had lowered levels of dissolved oxygen consistent with some form of biological decay not inconsistent with a natural process.



photo © NC4All Group

The most puzzling reading was an unusually high level of chloride which usually means brackish water. The levels were lower than would be expected in seawater, but many times higher than would be expected in fresh water – the type of levels that might be expected in the Ouse because of its tidal nature. Everyone involved was baffled – there seems to be no possible route for the Ouse to be leaking into the Southern ‘ventricle’ of the Heart of Reeds. The Winterbourne, the dipping pond and the Northern ‘ventricle’ were reading normal levels on all counts.

This was a relief - worries about possible sewage pollution seemed to be unfounded....but this alarm was puzzling.... The last time the water quality appeared cloudy was after heavy rainfall which had produced a dried clay run-off - colouring the water. Dave later gave these possible explanations for the smell and cloudiness:-

1. Very mature decayed layers were giving off long buried gas - due to the high wind pummeling effect on the water surface coupled with significant current flow from the wind (nearly 4 mph in the gusts). The sheltered north end was much less smelly.

or

2. The sudden excessive rainfall had activated the underground ‘stream’ we have suspected exists, pushing up (through long buried silt) releasing its gas load and clay into the water courses.

All was well on this occasion, but it illustrates the importance of observation by regular users of the Reserve and a willingness to report concerns so appropriate action can be taken.

Many users do not realise that the Reserve is owned by Lewes District Council and their Rangers will respond to public concerns. Their phone number is 01273-484408. The Railway Land Wildlife Trust, in partnership with LDC, assists with and supports conservation work, public events, interpretation and education for all ages on the Reserve, and can be contacted most efficiently by email - info@railwaylandproject.org

Ranger's Report:

- This autumn we have built a new split level dipping platform at the dipping pond using the existing base for the lower level, with a new access path. It is made from recycled plastic to match the existing fixtures. You may have noticed that for several years, the levels in the pond have meant that the dipping platform has been flooded for large parts of the year. The new platform will allow people to use it even when the water levels are high.



- Sadly we lost one of the large Railway Poplars recently. One of the largest trees on the Railway Land, it had been standing dead for some time providing a wonderful habitat for woodpeckers, fungi and creatures of all kinds. However a huge split down the trunk and increasing decay made it very unstable and it had to be felled (with a resounding crash that made the ground shake!). We have left it where it fell to continue to form a decaying wood habitat for, among other things, insects and the birds that feed on them. I recommend taking a look at the amazing Ganoderma bracket fungus on the stump and feeling how hard it is. The Railway Land's very largest Railway Poplar is alive and kicking despite being completely hollow and having been set alight in 2010.



photos above © T Outram

- Agrifactors (a local agricultural contractor) has carried out our regular major end of season scrub clearing. This year we cleared the large areas either end of the sidings including much of the bank, areas around the reedbed, large glades along the Ouse riverbank and cut back overhanging vegetation around paths. We also cleared a new area between the pond dipping area and the woodland. This work is partially funded by our Higher Level Stewardship Programme.



We fully appreciate the work of Don Burtenshaw on the Reserve on behalf of LDC. He always has a ready smile and does a great job.

photo © John Parry.

- The Minders have been hard at work clearing scrub and vegetation round the Leighside pond and meadows ditches, weeding the trees planted in the last two years and keeping paths free of encroaching vegetation. I am pleased to say that a second young Minder has decided to pursue a training in conservation. Perry Hockin, who has been working regularly at the monthly work parties as a child, now, as a young man, has started a level 3 BTEC in Countryside Management at Plumpton College. It shows how valuable the group is, not just for the work they do for the Railway Land but how the group can help to inspire the members. He is still coming out with the Minders every month and I'm sure we can learn from his newly acquired knowledge.

- We are delighted to report that the Railway Land has won the Green Flag Award for the fifth consecutive year. This award is endorsed by the central government through the Department for Communities and Local Government, and confirms high standards of management.

Thyone Outram, Assistant Ranger

Volunteering

Thea Fox is our youngest volunteer and has been helping with Sunday openings during the summer. Fulfilling the community element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award with the RLWT, she has become an established member of the volunteer team. Thea already had a considerable knowledge of bee behaviour and by using the excellent short film on the waggle dance, and pointing out on the live webcam our own bee behaviour, she has explained this complicated routine to all ages of visitors.

Thea, from Priory School, recently started working with the Minders group on their monthly conservation tasks led by Thyone Outram, LDC Assistant Ranger. This group works all year round on the first Sunday of each month, meeting at 1.30pm at the Railway Lane entrance. Give Thyone a call on 01273-484408 if you would like to help look after the Railway Land.



If you are a user of the Railway Land, walking your dog, or for health and pleasure, then there are ways you can help us keep this space special! If you feel able to remove litter from just one favourite spot, that would be a great help; LDC do regular litter picks, but it is never enough! reporting serious littering or damage directly to the Rangers - is also a great help.

Chairman's View

My view of being Chairman has always been that it is a role best played largely behind the scenes. So it is with great pleasure that, after just over two years in post, I feel compelled by two recent events to break cover in the newsletter for the first time: our 25th anniversary, and the recruitment of new Trustees: Thurstan Crockett, Martin Fox, Vicky Lawrence and Lilian Pittam.

Our celebratory event in Lewes Town Hall was a great expression of what we do, bringing together many diverse groups to get inspired about nature and the environment and have fun at the same time. My message to the packed Assembly Room was that whilst we do face a range of complex and urgent challenges with environmental change, we are much more likely to turn things around if we have more fun than all the people who don't care - we need to attract people to the cause. The fun that evening was ample demonstration of this principle in action.

Your Trust is run by a group of extraordinary people - committed, capable and generous. All of your Trustees are also volunteers on the Railway Land on many days of the year, as shown in this newsletter. The transition from the phase of building the Linklater Pavilion - a huge achievement - to its operation has also made new demands on our governance. We now have a substantial asset that needs constant care as well as the ability to put on a growing programme of events. The Trustees need to answer a series of testing strategic questions: what is the difference that we passionately want to make, what can we be really good at, and how do we attract resources of people's support, time and money? All of this requires careful thinking by people who are willing to take on the legal responsibilities of running a charity.

So it is with great pleasure that we welcome four new Trustees, all of whom bring an immense range of skills, networks and experience. As befits an organisation of our size, we went through an informal but careful selection process and are very grateful for their willingness to join us.

We look forward to seeing you and them at many future events. I hope you enjoy a warm and harmonious Christmas and winter.

Alister Scott

The Railway Land Flora Survey

You won't have missed that it's our 25th anniversary, so to mark this event we decided to re-visit the last plant survey of the Reserve, done in 2002 to see what changes to species diversity have occurred. We expected that some of these changes would be attributable to the creation of Heart of Reeds in 2004, dredging the meadows ditches in 2007, building the Linklater Pavilion in 2009-10 and limited shrub and small tree plantings round the edges of the site as well as the evolving management practices carried out by the Rangers.



The three J's surveying: Jean, Janet and Jenifer

It was an ambitious project but we found 12 volunteers willing to take on a small group of habitat compartments and by visiting throughout the spring and summer note which plants had survived, which were no longer present and which were new arrivals. We also assessed the relative abundance of each species. You will know from the board in the undercroft on summer Sundays that there is a great variety of plants out there; grasses and sedges are particularly challenging to identify but the team, ranging from very experienced botanists to keen learners, has worked enthusiastically and covered a lot of ground.

What we've found this year is very interesting and as expected includes survivors like the great Swamp Cypress from the formal gardens of Leighside House and Horseradish which the railwaymen would have cultivated on their allotments to accompany their roast beef. Species loss has been more than balanced by species gain and we noted the arrival of Rosebay Willowherb, taking root on bare bits of ground and Yellow Toadflax along the accessible path where the Ranger has been controlling the growth of brambles. Interestingly most of the latter are Blackberries but Dewberries are also plentiful now though with their smaller berries perhaps less desirable for the crumble and jelly makers. Orchids are rare but Pyramidal and Bee species have been recorded in our survey and always cause excitement to Reserve visitors.



Round the Heart of Reeds we've seen a succession culminating in Nettles as the dominant plant. This is good news for the butterflies which use them as food plants for their caterpillars but we are trying to control them so that a more diverse plant population is established round the reedbed. A plant which has been successfully controlled is Japanese Knotweed; we were pleased to record only very few single plants remaining on the Reserve.

We know that the survey will take another year to complete but this year's data is very interesting indeed and we shall be discussing it with the Rangers to see whether there are implications for their management practices. Next spring we shall be reviewing progress so far and deciding how best to fill the gaps. We know there are others out there who could join us; you would be very welcome whatever your level of skill so do get in touch and come to our first meeting of 2014 which is likely to be in March.

Jenifer Barton & Barbara Cummins

February 2014 - Photographic Competition and Exhibition



The exhibition will open with a reception for those who have submitted photos, on Valentines Day, Friday 14th February, and continue that weekend and again from Thursday 20th February closing on Sunday 23rd. This is timed to coincide with 'half term', so we hope families will visit a warm and welcoming Linklater and enjoy voting for the 'people's choice' in each category. Winners will be announced at 2.30 pm on Sunday 23rd February.



The competition is for two age groups, adults (over 17 on 1.1.14) and youngsters (under 17 on 1.1.14)

There are three Categories for submitted photos:

- Reflections
- Structures
- Surprise

Please e-mail electronic versions of your photos with captions to RLWTphoto14@gmail.com and deliver a hard copy of your photos (no bigger than A4) to one of the following places in Lewes:-

- Lewes Framers
- H A Bakers, High St

Dates for your Diary

26th January, A 'Month of Sundays' fund raising licensed event.

We welcome back comedian SIMON EVANS who set off our 25th Anniversary Celebrations with a bang a year ago. It is incredibly generous of him to do another fund raising gig for us. He's packed the Linklater before so don't miss out on getting a hot ticket for this show.

£13 includes a complimentary drink on arrival. Tickets from Harvey's Shop, Lewes Mobile Communications and IEKO. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

photo@performingartistes.co.uk



14th February Photographic Exhibition 10-4pm weekends until 23rd February, plus Thursday 20th, and Friday 22nd February.

23rd February, A 'Month of Sundays' fund raising event with Alasdair Harris's illustrated talk on his work in the seas off Madagascar (www.blueventures.org) Tickets £6 from Harvey's Shop, Lewes Mobile Communications and IEKO. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

30th March, 'Month of Sundays' fund raising event 'Queen of the Sun' film on bees

Tickets £6 from Harvey's Shop, Lewes Mobile Communications and IEKO. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

2014 Sunday openings start: 27th April

Throughout July and August a major community event at the Linklater: 'Knowtrash Exhibition' with bookable and drop-in workshops, for schools, families and the general public.

Birds Eye View

I jotted notes in my diary one morning about a month ago, which could literally be termed a seagulls' view as they were all perched along my guttering.

A pair of swans, hovered, one a few yards behind

the other facing upstream, both very still until the downstream one made a furious show of feather ruffling. After a few moments upstream mate waggled tail wildly, before turning to proceed regally downstream, followed placidly by the ruffler. The dialogue of the scene is easily imagined!



What a triumph last Friday was. One highlight for me was the view of John Parry stepping slowly backwards down the aisle of the hall on very bent knees, encouraging the children in the song.
Jean Heywood

Winners!

Grateful thanks to the donors of the RLWT25 Celebration Raffle prizes!

1 'Thrilling Day Out' lifestyle voucher: Helen Cash

2 'Family Fun Day' out on the Railway Land' for a party of up to 8 including a picnic: Jo and John Porter

3 Lunch for two at **'The Shelleys Hotel'**: Margaret Tyzak More

4 Three course Sunday Carvery lunch for two at the **'Legacy White Hart Hotel'**: Bernard Pittam

5 Framed **Edward Reeves** Print of the Railway Land: Sarah(Rodmell)

6 Back Massage - £40 **'Still Room'** voucher: Helen Smith

7 £40 voucher from **'Lewes Framers'**: Kate Edmonds

8 Twelve designer cupcakes - **'Clarks Cookies & Cakes of Lewes'**: Roger Beasley

9 £25 **'Baltica' Pottery** Voucher: Margaret Stoner

10 Gift box & Voucher - **'Cheese Please'**: Keith Dodman

11 Special Selection box - **'Bonne Bouche'**: Michael Rudman

12 A Year's membership of RLWT: Jo Saunders

13 Bottle of Champagne: Ella

14 Picnic Hamper: The Goodman family

15 Signed Print of Neil Gower's Pictorial Map of Lewes: Nevil Harrison

16-25.... free year's membership of the RLWT: Hemmings, R Cheesman, A Lawfield, J Davies, N Cash, T Crossett, Juliet, Hilder, A Schulte, T Smith.

Unspecified prizes were donated by Jean Cash, Pat Rigg, and the RLWT:

The raffle made £1002

Madagascar Project: The RLWT is funding Dr Hantanirina Rasamimanana and 4 students to write a conservation project for an area of primary forest on the royal hill of Ambohimanga. Like the Railway Land, the forest is small but important because it is accessible and educational. It is a UNESCO world heritage site because of its cultural significance. We will feature their report in the next newsletter.



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

www.railwaylandproject.org

& click 'newsletters' in the left hand column

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