



## Editorial

This edition is packed full with Linklater Pavilion news, as we share some of the highlights of the Raising the Roof event on November 11th, and see the building now start to rise above ground. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation made by Peter Mettyear on the achievements of Peter Linklater's voluntary efforts on the fabric of Lewes.

Our next big Linklater Pavilion event will be in March when we will have a topping out



ceremony by Roger Beasley our honorary architect and the driving force behind the Pavilion design.

Liz Williams wrote our application to include the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve in the UN sponsored global awareness campaign, **International Year of Biodiversity 2010**. (see Page 4) We shall be holding a special event on the Reserve for International Biodiversity Day, on **Sat 22 May, 2010** so do keep the date free.

Jon Gunson continues to lead the Minders conservation group on the first Sunday of every month. There are people of all ages who support the Trust in this hands on activity. Jon is always looking for new recruits and the promise of hot soup and congenial company is a great draw. Jon's unusual and beautifully observed pieces for our website and these newsletters, receive much praise. I am planning to publish a collection of them with suitable illustrations next year.

David Sykes designed a simple but effective stand for the artwork produced by the participants as their contribution to the IYB, and those of you at the Nov 11th event were able to see the dramatic and colourful effect of the 19 hexagonal depictions of wild flowers found on the Reserve. When the building is open these will form a teaching aid for all ages.

The raffle held on the 11th November raised £787 and the auction of two paintings generously donated by Julian Bell and Chris Drury raised £405. The sponsorship of Pavilion Rocks brought in £330. Gradually we are amassing the funding required for the building.

David Bradford has promoted by his photographs the extraordinary beauty and drama of the Reserve's flora and fauna. The hugely successful 'Tracking Down the Railway Land' exhibition of his work was held by the RLWT in 2000 at Thebes Gallery. David donated two framed new images as gifts for our JMB retirees, Beth Sedgwick and Christie Cairns. We will display selections of our archives of photos in the Pavilion and David has promised to donate some new images which we will reproduce in 2010.

Our thanks, also, to Jeremy Long, for researching, composing and sponsoring three magnificent boards about Peter Linklater's life and contribution to Lewes.

At 'Raising the Roof' we introduced our 'sponsor list' items. We posted the list, asked for sponsorship in return for a nameplate on each item, and to our delight four of the thirteen inner doors and the three outer doors plus a velux window have been sponsored to a total of £2850. The list is reprinted on Page 10 if you think you, or someone you know, would be interested in having a permanent 'place' in the building please get in touch.

Finally a number of you have commented on how much you enjoy reading the 'chinese newspapers' posted on the hoarding of the site. These updates are compiled by John Parry and they inform the public about the works, and flesh out details of the project. I imagine they will form a publication in due course, but I hope to include some as items in future newsletters.

Pat Rigg



## First signs



**Alltask** provided the bricklayers for the ground floor of the Pavilion. Dave Sykes, Chris Ient and I couldn't resist taking a look on Nov 6th. We met Alan Richardson and his team laying out the first row of blocks.



*This is Kestutis Rutkauskas from the Ukraine - the rest of the team were Richard Sparks and Julian the 'hoddie. Below is Alan Richardson*



*This final picture was taken on the 23rd November and shows despite the rain, the undercroft blockwork completed and scaffolding up for the first floor.*



## Minders Work Programme

Alan explained they work as a team and take a pride in revisiting *their* projects when they are completed.

He understood that we were so strapped for cash that we were going to have to do much of the finishing work ourselves, and he promised to return when we had completed the job.

I returned to the site ten days later, and was delighted to see the walls rising to head height, the crew far too busy to pose for photos.

Pat Rigg

*The Meadow Minders meet on the first Sunday of every month, at 1.30pm, by the railway gate. A chance to do active conservation work led by Jon Gunson of the RLWT and Dan Ross, Community Ranger. Please wear stout footwear; tools and gardening gloves are provided. The tasks are varied and suit all ages and capabilities*  
*The next dates will be Dec 6th: Jan 3rd, Feb 7th and March 7th.*

*You can contact Dan Ross on 01273-484408 for more information about these sessions or other opportunities for conservation work on the Railway Land or other local Reserves.*

## Chairman's Corner

At the turf cutting ceremony, one important person was missing – our Honorary architect, Roger Beasley. His turn will come at the topping out ceremony in March (which he is not allowed to miss!) but I do want to take this opportunity to state on paper the fantastic contribution that Roger has made.



Twelve years it has taken (for the reasons so well articulated by Roger himself on page 8) but his account hides the ups and downs, the frustrations and breakthroughs and the endless attention to detail on far too many aspects to mention....and this was before we got on site!

One of the joys of this project has been working at close hand with Roger – sharing the process in which he is so generous and knowledgeable -



watching his finger move to a discrepancy, a highlight, a danger, an inaccuracy. Checking, adapting, giving way at times and emphasising a particular aspect at others. As I write, I know he is working on a huge set of latest plans that have arrived at the last minute – such is the beast!

We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude and I hope that he will feel our thanks every time he walks into the Reception area remembering his catch phrase 'Keep Calm and Carry On!'

John Parry

## International Year of Biodiversity 2010

The RLWT are amongst the one hundred and fifty organisations, charities and groups across the UK who are joining together to play a part in the UN sponsored global awareness campaign, International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

Talks, exhibitions, public dialogues, art work, citizen science experiments and exhibitions encompassing both science and the arts are being planned from January – December 2010 under the banner of International Year of Biodiversity UK (IYB).

IYB aims to help people discover the connections between themselves and the world around them, and to realise the consequences of biodiversity loss, (estimated to be 100 times the natural rate as a result of human activities) as well as the huge benefits that are shared if we conserve and use life on earth in a sustainable way.

Key issues that will be under discussion during the International Year of Biodiversity include:

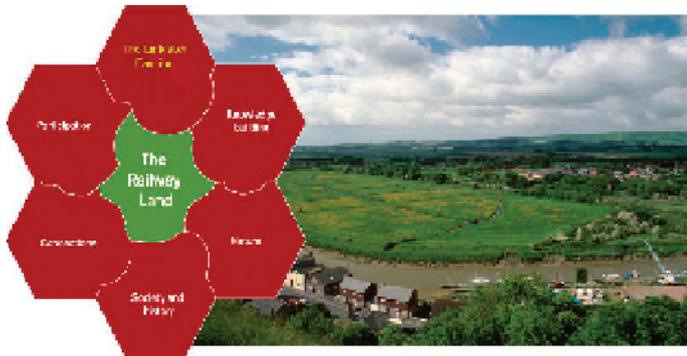
- why biodiversity is so crucial to life on earth for food, wealth and wellbeing
- what the consequences will be to vital natural services such as providing clean water and soil
- celebrating the sung, and unsung, heroes and heroines saving biodiversity
- how world leaders will respond to the challenge when they meet in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan
- how to get involved and help protect biodiversity

We shall be holding a special event on the Reserve for **International Biodiversity Day, on Sat 22 May, 2010.**

Information on how to get involved in events in our area and nationally during International Year of Biodiversity in the UK, can be found at [www.biodiversityislife.net](http://www.biodiversityislife.net) (launched on 25 November 2009).



## Lewes Railway Land Local Nature Reserve's entry to International Year of Biodiversity



A stone's throw from Lewes town centre, southwards along the river Ouse is the Railway Land Nature Reserve, an outstanding area for wildlife, and a conservation success story. The lung-shaped 60 acres have an intricate mix of habitats and historic uses. Former railway sidings, wet grazing meadows, old woodland, the remains of a nineteenth century garden, ponds, ditches, old hedgerows, and a new reed bed made 5 years ago are all found here.

The result is vibrant biodiversity. We have at least 360 species of plants, from Frogbit and Water Plantain in the meadow ditches, to Mullein, Vipers Bugloss, Weld, and Wild Mignonette on the former railway sidings. Peter Hodge has recorded 1232 insect species, more than 100 of which are listed as nationally scarce, rare, vulnerable or endangered. His interest in the association between insects and plants, and in how the insect species reach and move around in the reserve has much enhanced our knowledge of the special biodiversity here.



The Railway Land bird-watching group, who every fortnight record birds on the reserve, have seen more than 70 species. Many ornithologists come to see the peregrines hunting over the water meadows, ravens wheeling overhead, the summer migrant warblers in the reedbed, and the woodpeckers, gold crests and fire

crests in the woodland.

Without passionate intervention and hard work, this success story would never have been realised. Twenty years ago all the wealth of biodiversity could have been buried under two car parks, 'formal' landscaping and a boating pond, when British Rail Property Board decided to sell the site. Only the objections of such local heroes as the late Peter Linklater, John Chaplin and Dr John Parry saved the Railway Land from the fate that has befallen so many wildlife havens on the edge of urban areas. By campaigning to inform schools, the public and the District Council of the biodiversity and recreational value of the site, they managed to halt the rush towards development and set the path that has led to the Railway Land becoming a refuge for 262 Sussex Rare Species as logged at the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

The Reserve, designated an LNR in 1995 and mainly owned by Lewes District Council, is managed by a group of volunteers who comprise the Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust, led by the very able Lewes District Council Rangers, Dan Ross and Thyone Outram.

The Railway Land is, we believe, the first LNR to have a Junior Management Board, set up in 1996 and made up of young people from 9-15. They are extremely serious in stating their viewpoints and have raised funds for two important developments on the reserve. They set up a wildlife garden, sown with meadow grasses and flowers on former railway sidings at the entrance to the reserve. The Ox-eye daisies, Clover, Mallows, Vetches and other plants attract numerous butterflies, bees and moths in summer and add another habitat to the area. Two years ago they won an award to restore an old pond in the woodland. This is now fringed with Flag Iris, Ragged Robin and Purple Loosestrife, providing attractive nesting sites for duck, and supporting populations of frogs, grass snakes, toads and dragon flies.

In recent years, the Reserve has become a much loved Green Lung for Lewes, as well as a quiet place to observe and learn more about biodiversity and the many different habitats on the site. Students from Sussex and Oxford Universities, and many local schools and colleges have visited the Railway Land. Primary school classes studied the new reed bed, with pupil-designed experiments on how reeds function, and games to show how summer migrant reed and sedge warblers reach the reed-bed all the way from Africa.



Social Inclusion is very much a precept of the Trust. Dr John Parry has organised a five year programme of conservation and recording work on the Reserve with a group of adults with learning difficulties, part of an EU Interreg funded project, with links to a similar group in France. To help enhance floral diversity, the group collected wildflower seed from the reserve, sowed it in boxes and eventually, with the help of the adult volunteer group, planted the seedlings out on to new sites on the reserve, where they are now flourishing.



The group also undertook the cutting back of undergrowth to encourage a mosaic of habitats. One of the strengths of the reserve are

the all-weather paths which allow people in wheel chairs the all too rare chance to observe wildlife at close quarters. This spring a group of disabled people were able to see some of our nest boxes and view local ornithologists ringing the young fledglings. Regular photographs are stored in a specially designed datastore at <http://db.railwaylandproject.org/>

Perhaps most exciting of all, this September the foundations were laid for the Linklater Pavilion, a centre for the study of Biodiversity and Environmental Change, long planned by Dr John Parry. This low carbon building celebrates the life of Peter Linklater who, twenty years ago, did so much to save the Railway Land and its amazing biodiversity. The building will contain an adaptable mix of classroom, laboratory with micro projection facilities, and wet activity areas, forming an adjunct to the outdoor laboratory that is all around us.

There will be innovative educational programmes for schools and colleges, with special open days, such as that on IYB day, to attract and inform the general public about the enormous importance of Biodiversity and environmental change.

Opening early during IYB 2010, the Linklater Pavilion will strengthen the understanding of the vital idea that 'Biodiversity is Life', and promote curiosity and care for the environment. It will surely help continue the great success story of the Railway Land Nature Reserve in celebrating and protecting Biodiversity.

Elizabeth Williams, Trustee, 13th October 2009.

## Lectures Organised by the Sussex Ouse Conservation Society

### **The formation of the river**

At Beechwood Hall, Beechwood Lane, Hamsey  
Thursday, 26th November 2009 starting at 7pm.  
Geoff Mead of the University of Sussex will explain how the geology of The Weald influenced the formation of the river.

### **The history of the river**

The Lecture Room at Lewes Town Hall.  
Friday 22nd January 2010 starting at 7pm.  
The eminent historian Dr. Peter Brandon will describe the impact of man throughout history on the structure of the river.

### **The ecology of the river**

Plumpton Village Hall,  
Thursday, 18th February 2010 starting at 7 pm.  
Dr. Martyn Stenning will show how the environment of the river has influenced the plants and animals that live there.

### **The present day demands on the river**

The Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall  
Friday 19th March 2010 starting at 7pm.  
John Spence of Southern Water will clarify the Water Framework Directive and its influence on current discharge and abstraction policies.

The presentations will last for approximately one hour followed by questions and refreshments. Admission to lectures is free but donations will be welcome. For more information contact Mary Parker Tel: 01273 400452

‘Ja, I must remember to steal some oxen...’



At the end of the last work-day I had to clear the dipping pond of floating beer bottles. A pitchfork is a good tool for this job: one carefully inserts a tine into the neck of the bottle, then

raises the head of the fork, but not too quickly, or the bottle slides down the tine and....yes, quite. As usual, the wind had taken the bottles to the inconvenient side of the pond, so I had to yomp round through the nettles, and cross the old ditch on the other side. Standing there, bottle-bearing fork at ‘high port’, like Neptune on a bad day, I found myself thinking, ah yes, old ditch. How old?

I have no dating evidence for this one. However, a comparable ditch on the other side of the railway line surrounds the leisure centre and its running track, and these were established on a field known, in the early eighteenth century, as East Ham. (There was a West Ham at the other end of town). Not ‘ham’ for homestead, I suppose, but ‘ham’, an enclosure, usually by a river. I think we may further presume that a boundary is as old as the field it surrounds, and that a feature named in Anglo-Saxon was probably *named by an Anglo-Saxon*. So perhaps in the fell summer of 491, when the air was foul with the reek of burning thatch, and the slaughtered Welsh of Pevensey still lay in their blood, one of Aelle’s sea-wolves took a long look at this piece of land and thought, given a couple of ditches, that might make decent summer pasture for the oxen. Ja I must remember to steal some oxen....

But then the Romans were there before him, and long before them, as the erudite Mr Bleach points out, the Southover spur carried a kind of Bronze Age trunk road down to the ford at Southeram. So we just don’t know, or at any rate, I don’t. But there are a couple of interesting implications here for conservationists. Firstly, we are always being asked to keep everything “natural”. I often wonder, when was natural? And secondly: climate change must inevitably bring changing patterns of land usage. Many people (I am one of them) get very worried that things will look very different. But they always have looked different, haven’t they? And yet, reassuringly, much remains the same.

Jon Gunson

## Birdwatching with the RLWT

The RLWT bird surveyors group is celebrating two years of regularly recording the birds seen on the reserve. We have been making fortnightly walks recording all the species we see and counting the numbers of each. It has to be said that this is easier when there are fewer leaves on the trees and birds can be seen. In the spring we have to listen hard to the singing and some of us have to relearn the songs each year!

We are now reducing our regular formal surveys to once a month but will fill in with extras when we can. **We can always do with extra help so if anyone would like to join us please contact Liz or myself (see below). We are a supportive group and we help each other so do get in touch.**

We often meet other walkers on the Reserve who tell us they have seen interesting/unusual birds (or they have met a man who has) but cannot give details. PLEASE, if you see a bird that you think is special make a note of exactly when and where you saw it and let us know. We would rather hear three times about the same bird than not at all.

Birds are not always cooperative in revealing themselves when we are surveying. This is particularly true for birds just passing through on passage to somewhere else. They may stay only a few hours to feed and rest before moving on. A few weeks ago Jo and Heather identified a redstart which was the first time we had recorded one. This bird is about the size of a robin but with a bright orange-red tail and rump. It would have been on its way to central Africa and we were delighted to ‘host’ it and that it was spotted.

We are now looking out for winter visitors, so do look out for the winter thrushes – fieldfare and redwing. We have recorded one redwing on a survey but think there are likely to be more out there.

Please get in touch if you would like to help or further information. Liz Williams & Leonie Mercer  
EWill47223@aol.com  
leonie.m@tiscali.co.uk

# “Raising the Roof” November 11th 2009

**Oil Internet’s** Peter Hislop & Andrew Goodson the railwaylandproject.org website designers spoke.  
**Symphonic Circle** and John Parry performed his composition ‘**Tribute**’ dedicated to the Nature Corridors for All team

*Our Town Hall event was a great success.*

Over 300 people packed in on a windy and wet evening to hear some wonderful music and singing, to share and delight in the achievements of the Junior Management Board and the participants from St Nicholas Centre; and to hear some inspiring presentations.

The programme was:

‘**Dream to Reality**’ the last 21 Years in Images to Palladio by Karl Jenkins.

Peter Mettyear spoke about his friend Peter Linklater; and the Linklater Family responded.

Dr John Parry presented ‘**The Purpose of the Pavilion**’ – its aims and our hopes.

Ali Bishop and the **Ouse Angels** sang a selection of songs.

‘**Linklater Pavilion-design and size**’ presented by architect Roger Beasley.

**Meeching Valley**

School performed an original song about the decline of Newhaven shipping.

The **Junior Management Board** displayed the latest Leighside Pond information board & Mayor Amanda Dean made a presentation of

certificates to retiring JMB members Beth Sedgewick and Christie Cairns. David Bradford, photographer, gave them new photos on behalf of RLWT

**The Nature Corridors for All team** – their massive contribution recognised.



Patron Ivor Goodson spoke about sponsorship of elements of the building and a large inscribed board by John Skelton was presented to the RLWT by Sir Richard and Alison Jolly.

There was an interval during which there were raffle tickets for sale, Community stalls in the Corn Exchange with a Bar run by South Street Bonfire Society and curry for sale by Sussex Downs College.

**Ouse Angels** sang ‘**Heartland**’ composed specially for the RLWT.

Three academics spoke on their vision for the building: Professor Francis Ratneiks on plans

for a **beehive** built into the Pavilion; Professor Derek Lamport on **hexagons in nature**; and Dr Tom Crossett on **rocks, soil, rivers,**

**water**

Syrinx by Claude Debussy was played to accompany the RLWT’s **video of Ouse valley.**

Two local artists, presented work inspired by the Reserve. **Chris Drury’s** Heart of Reeds,

and ‘The view from Chapel Hill’ by **Julian Bell**

Graham Shuttleworth announced the result of the raffle, the first prize (of many) was a week’s rental of a flat beside Lake Garda.

Finally a specially composed piece

‘**Linklater Revolution**’ by **Ian McCrea** closed the evening.

*The RLWT would like to thank all those who made the evening possible, those who provided prizes for the raffle and those who came to Raise the Roof for the Linklater Pavilion.*



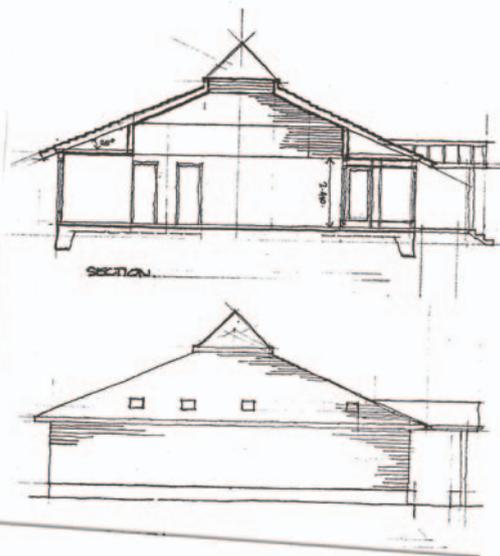
## An architect's perspective

Peter Linklater had been chairman of the executive committee of the Friends of Lewes for many years and when the committee knew that he was seriously ill they discussed the idea of a possible memorial and came up with the idea of a room in Strickland's warehouse.

At the time the Lewes Buildings Preservation Trust were trying to buy the lower ground floor for community use and the top floors for the YHA and were negotiating with the owner when in late 1995 a developer made a bid for the property that the Trust couldn't match. At least Peter would have been pleased that the developer made a good job of the conversion. Just before Peter died I asked him if he thought a building on the riverside for the society and the Trust would be a fitting memorial. He said he would think about it but in two weeks he was gone.

For sometime we were all numbed by the sense of loss of such a powerful advocate for the Society and the Trust but eventually the Friends picked up the idea and started to develop it with the Trust.

The first sketches appeared in 1998 and showed a square single storey timber framed and clad building with a pitched shingle clad roof. The building was approximately 145m<sup>2</sup> in area and featured a central top lit space with surrounding facilities some of which opened up into the central area and this principle hasn't changed much in the 12 years of design development!



By 2000 the building shape had changed to an octagon because it was felt that the square building appeared too bulky and later a hexagon was chosen because it is a shape that occurs frequently in nature.

The friends made it their project for 2000 and the Mettyear Charitable trust made a wonderful gesture

by promising £100,000 so we were off...

Well that's what we thought but then came the flood...

The site was flooded to a depth of 1.5metres in places and Lewes was devastated with over 800 houses damaged and many businesses flooded, some never to return....

But it is an ill wind... because if we had moved into Strickland's we would have been flooded and might have lost all our archives and if we had proceeded with the new building at a faster pace, the whole building would have been flooded because the levels set by the environment agency at that time were lower than today.

So we were lucky and in redesigning the building we lifted the main floor well above the new flood level and created an undercroft, which would provide the Trust with a very useful space.

We were just getting into our stride again when along came the town storm drain – right across our site and we had to relocate the building. However it is an ill wind...because although the site we now chose was smaller than the original site, it was closer to the level crossing gate and the main part of the reserve and therefore clearly associated with the reserve rather than Strickland's and Greyfriars.

In addition the new location behind the existing trees softened the approach to the building and gave the JMB the opportunity to create their wonderful garden as an introduction to the site.

In the late summer of 2006 we had collected enough money to make applications for planning and obtain tenders. 8 tenders were received in the summer of 2008 but the lowest tender was £834,000, which we couldn't afford.

In the meantime, Lambert Smith Hampton as project managers, had offered to try the 'design and build' route at no charge if we did not proceed, because they felt they could obtain a keener price and we agreed to proceed with them and got the price down to £500k for the shell only.

## Peter Linklater's contribution to present-day Lewes

We were now faced with a deadline from our main sponsors who said that they could hold funds until the end of Jan 2009 but if we could not decide to proceed by then funds would have to be allocated to other projects and we couldn't blame them. Viridor had already stretched their rules and the Mettyear Charitable Trust had been waiting over 8 years!

Following several desperate meetings, we omitted a number of elements and agreed to do much more work ourselves and at the end of January 2009 decided unanimously to go ahead with a shell and core plus building at £566,000 and collect some more money!

This was not ideal but better than no building at all. With events like this (11.11.09) and a little more money we are confident it will be a fitting memorial to Peter and we need to remember that he couldn't have achieved so much without Pauline, who put up with the endless telephone calls, meetings and papers all over the house, so it is really a memorial to them both.

In a way, and it is a strange thing to say at an event like this, we already have a memorial...when we ride on the bypass or in the tunnel or walk in the town square or on the nature reserve. These are some examples of Peter's life's work but I am sure he would have loved the fact that the pavilion only came about because of the hard work and determination of many members of the committee over a considerable time – he knew that scene so well!

He would also have enjoyed a building by his beloved river and been amused by the fact that the project has taken almost exactly the same time as the whole relief road / bypass saga.

Roger Beasley Nov 11th 2009

As mentioned on page 7 **Sir Richard and Alison Jolly** generously presented a large board designed and executed by John Skelton. This will adorn the interior of the Linklater Pavilion. The inscription reads:

*A vision without a task is but a dream.  
A task without vision is but drudgery.  
A vision with a task is the hope of the world.*

The two greatest successes without which Lewes today would be scarcely recognisable were undoubtedly the defeat of the so-called Inner Relief Road and building of the by-pass and the Cuilfail Tunnel. In both these cases it was Peter, the Friends of Lewes, the then local council and the townspeople of Lewes which were implacably opposed to the Highways Department of East Sussex County Council, who through out these sagas remained Public Enemy No 1. The saga of the Inner Relief Road is worth telling if only to bring your eyes out on stalks in horror at what might have been.



*Peter Mettyear and John Parry unroll the original plan for the inner relief road ( IRR).*

The County Council announced their plan for the Inner Relief Road in 1955. Stage One was the Phoenix Causeway bridge which was fairly universally accepted as needed. Before that the A27 trunk road was 2-way over Cliffe Bridge. The new bridge is exactly where one first proposed in 1826 was to be. But then the IRR was to carve its way through the area of Sun Street, St John's Street, flatten the Elephant and Castle, then up the middle of the Paddock, under Western Road in front of St Anne's Church, crunch through much of St Anne's Crescent, over Winterbourne Hollow on a high level bridge, through where Baron's Down now is and finally rejoin the Brighton Road with a roundabout near Southdown Avenue. In all 130 houses would go.

As you can imagine the people of Lewes did not like it. Peter and the Friends of Lewes began mobilising forces using his wide range of personal contacts at national level. They promoted the idea of a southern by-pass as an alternative to the IRR. The issue rumbled on until the first Public Enquiry in April 1962 when Peter 'led' for the Friends for the whole of the first week arguing against the IRR and for the concept (there were as yet no plans) of a southern by-

pass. The outcome: victory – or so it seemed – the Minister rejected all but stage one (the bridge which we of course now have) and included the by-pass as a possibility.

But when the PE took place in 1966 into the detailed plans for the bridge it was quite clear that those dreaded highway engineers still hankered after the complete scheme – even contemplating a dual carriageway through the Paddock! Lewes really rose up in arms this time. I was one of those who helped collect 5000 signatures on a petition which said, in effect, “Southern by-pass FIRST. If it works the IRR will not be needed”. To provide more ammunition Peter persuaded the Friends to commission a study by a distinguished planner – Sir Hugh Wilson – whose report “Traffic in Lewes” came out very firmly in favour of the by-pass. At this point the County Council gave in, dropped all thought of the IRR and the Minister concurred. The aim was to have the by-pass by 1974 (it actually opened in 1978)

When the County Council showed their first plans you would be forgiven for thinking that they were determined to get their own back on Lewes and Lewesians for thwarting their plans for the IRR. Their idea was that the road would, instead of going through the present cutting, go across the hockey pitches and cricket ground, turn north with a huge split level – or ‘grade separated’ as they call it – gyratory where Cranedown is, pass behind the Swan and avoid the dip of Winterbourne by building a viaduct on stilts up to the Brighton Road. Try to imagine this horror.

Once again Peter rose to the challenge deploying his own skills and careful research but also that of a formidable array of real experts who he enlisted to the cause. I remember taking time off work to witness him utterly demolishing the road engineer’s plans both technically and because they had hopelessly underestimated the costs of this absurd grandiose scheme. Added to this triumph was the decision to construct the Culfail Tunnel. The alternative would have been the demolition of virtually all of South Street. So, he – or we – had won again!

Peter Mettyear

## Make your mark on the Linklater Pavilion Sponsorship List

**£15,000 for lift -  
plaque in lift**



**£2,000 for kitchen fit out  
- room named after the donor**



**£1,900 for glass doors to the lift -  
plaque in reception**

**3 large downstairs doors at  
£1,500 each - your name on  
each door**



**7 velux roof windows at £750 each  
- names in central hall**



**£500 for a servery - name  
of donor on the side**



**13 interior doors at £200 each**



## A word from Chris Drury

My congratulations to the RLWT for finally having a roof over your heads and a building you can call your own. A fantastic effort to have brought it this far - and well done for all your hard work raising the money.

My hope for this building is it can act as a conduit for all the creative research - that will feed through it and into the wider world via connections on the net etc - and that other similar institutions may make links to the young people who will be using it - and that it fosters a yearning in all peoples for more biodiversity on the planet.

The Railway Land Nature Reserve is a really precious resource to have on our doorstep and it is wonderful that this building will help to collate, foster and spread the research done here.

We spend too much time these days indoors, staring at screens. It helps make the world come into our living rooms, but at the same time it also disconnects us to what is real and tangible just outside. What I would hope therefore, is that the Linklater Pavilion will play its part in encouraging children and adults to explore and experience at first hand, this rich biodiversity.

Rather than talking about our brains, our minds, we should see that in reality we are in a bigger mind - and the universe is mindful - and the way to connect to that mind is not within four walls in front of screens, learning dry facts, but it is out there where it rains, where there is wind, mud, plants, insects, birds and all manner of small lives going on - each with a voice which needs to be heard, seen, experienced, felt and touched.

Only then can we understand that we are just a small part of that.

It is my expectation that this building be used as a creative space, where art and science can come together, and stories be told and passed on.

That it be an open space, open to the outside and open to new insights that may be fostered within it.

We will need this kind of thinking if future generations are to survive a rapidly warming planet.



## Rocks for Christmas Socks

Railway Land Wildlife Trust  
2009/10  
Linklater Pavilion Appeal

### Make your mark!

**Sponsor a rock for £5  
or six rocks for £20**



In Spring 2010 the Pavilion lower walls will be clad with six types of fascinating rocks found in Britain. You can play your part in creating this unique exhibit and know you have made your mark on the Linklater Pavilion!

To sponsor a rock and to receive a certificate that will entitle you to place it in the wall, send this slip and £5 (for each rock) or £20 for all six and £1 to cover postage costs to:

*Pat Rigg, 9, Barn Stables,  
De Montfort Rd, Lewes, BN71ST*

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to: Railway Land Wildlife Trust.

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Our land and the diversity of life we share the space with, will be the most important reality for future generations and this centre can play a large part in reconnecting and re enchanting us.

Chris Drury 2009

Circle which rock(s) you want to sponsor and we will send you a certificate with more information about each rock. **If you would like to place your rock(s) in the wall in Spring 2010 we will also need an email address.**

Name(s) to appear on certificate Please PRINT
address
email



Marble



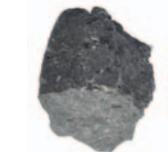
Granite



Limestone



Slate



Basalt



Gneiss



**METTYEAR  
CHARITABLE  
TRUST**



**Sponsors of the Linklater Pavilion**

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### For access to past newsletters go to:

[www.railwaylandproject.org](http://www.railwaylandproject.org) and follow the link in the 'knowledge building' section.

### To keep up to date with construction news go to:

<http://www.railwaylandproject.org/Pavilion%20latest>

### and for photo history of the construction go to:

<http://www.railwaylandproject.org/Pavilion%20photogallery>

Biodiversity website: [www.biodiversityislife.net](http://www.biodiversityislife.net)

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Newsletter published by:

Railway Land Wildlife Trust

Charity No 800655

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

Printed by Elephant Graphics, Barcombe