



Chairman's Editorial

Let's face it, we are a very small Trust but over the years we have arguably punched above our weight and thanks to our founder benefactors the Mettyear Charitable Trust and Viridor credits, we will soon be owners of a building of which we can all be proud – and from which we are confident many good ideas and initiatives will spring.

This has come about due to a lot of work by many people but also through the strength of several 'partnerships' which have grown over the last 6 years. This newsletter will focus on those partnerships and especially that of Lewes District Council which owns the land. It was the 1990 Schools Symposium that, I think, persuaded the LDC Chief Executive at the time, Cyril Mann, to view us as a serious organisation capable of delivering interesting and worthwhile actions. I took him around a preview of all the school exhibits and at the end of it, he turned and generously offered, 'Well I give it to you and your team John, this is all very impressive'. It was an important moment and both organisations have never looked back. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between us and LDC on 7th January, 2004, formally cemented that relationship which Dan details on pages 3 & 4.

I like to view our relationship with our tenant farmer, Colin Turner, as a 'partnership' as well, one that goes back to 1988. We helped Colin secure two Countryside Stewardship agreements over 20 years through our ownership of Chilly Brook and we talk to each other regularly and freely.

The next 'partnership' was decided by the trustees in 2003 when we had a chance to link up with the Eden project or a French project involving adults with learning disabilities. After putting the case for each potential partnership, I shall always remember a very strong plea from our Company Secretary at the time, Barry Pointon, to follow the French link, south across the Channel instead of going far west to Cornwall!

And so it was to be – we linked up with the River Ocean Foundation and secured EU funding for the Nature Corridors for All project.



The Linklater Pavilion - our 'partnership' with the people of Lewes and its valley

without which the Pavilion would probably not have happened.

As Phil Pragnell, Strategic Commissioning Manager for Adult Social Care writes: *'The Linklater Pavilion is a superb local development and one we are proud to be associated with and to be able to play some part in helping it flourish as a real community hub. Our partnership with the project has focussed on supporting adults with learning disabilities to contribute to this hugely valuable local resource. Stepping into the lead partner role of the Nature Corridors Project demonstrated our commitment to the project and we continue to work very closely with the Railway Land Wildlife Trust and their partners as they develop their plans and vision for the future of the Pavilion. Like the participants, this is a future we are all very excited about!'*

I hope you will join us at the AGM because we will have some special news on our continuing 'partnership' story.

John Parry

Sadly, River Ocean's Clive Pepe had to step down after 4 years due to ill health, but our developing relationship with East Sussex County Council Adult Social Care was strong enough for them to step into the administrative role of River Ocean and to support the project beyond European Union funding to what we have today. This has proved a very strong partnership

Two Dates for your Diary

Dawn Chorus Walk

Moth trapping

Saturday May 15th, 2010, at 5am

Jo Clarke and friends from Natural England will lead a walk round the Reserve, listening to the dawn chorus and helping to identify the many different birds that will be singing in mid May.

After the walk, Richard Stanyer, 21 South Street, Lewes, will provide breakfast, he hopes in his lovely garden.

We have decided to restrict numbers to 20.

The cost of the event will be £5, the profits from which will be donated towards a webcam birdbox for the new Pavilion.

Please send cheques for £5, made out to Railway Land Wildlife Trust, to:

Liz Williams,

13a Southdown Ave, Lewes, BN7 1EL

We will meet at the Crossing Gates entrance, Railway Lane, at 5am. Binoculars would be useful.

Friday May 21st, 2010 at 8.45 pm

Steven Teale, Chairman of the Sussex Moths Group, will be setting up moth traps on the Railway Land Nature Reserve from about 8.45 PM on the evening of Friday May 21st. Anyone interested is welcome to see him at work, and learn how to identify the moths that are found. We will show some of the moths at the Wonderful Wildlife Festival the next day.

contact : liz@williamslewes.info 01273 472239

Minders Work Programme

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 May 2nd, June 6th and July 4th. PLEASE NOTE the April date falls on Easter Sunday, and so the meeting is cancelled on that Sunday. Contact Dan Ross on 01273-484408 for more information & other opportunities for conservation work.

Jon Gunson's observations

I recently walked around the Railway Land with some Transition Townspeople, and gave an impromptu lecture on the history and geography of the site. They hadn't actually asked, you understand, but I was feeling expansive. Not for the first time, I found that while it is easy enough to describe the complexities involved, it is hard to find a single word or phrase to explain the reserve. I have given up on 'brownfield site', because this now seems to mean "ripe for development", which is emphatically what we are not. '*Palimpsest*' is perhaps the word I am looking for. The Railway Land is like a manuscript that has been scoured and re-used, but carelessly, so some of the original text remains, and can be deciphered.

There is a good example of this at the northern edge of the meadows. The Minders worked there on Sunday, crossing the ditch to clear the far bank of brambles, and I took the opportunity to climb the fence, fight my way through even more brambles, and take a look at the interesting boundary between the old railway workers' allotments and the brooklands. Hawthorn and elder between old fruit trees: mud underfoot, with clumps of daffodils and (I think) iris foetidissima. Fading trenches which were once vegetable beds, piles of stones where the bottle diggers have been at work, and, running north from the bank we were working on, another drainage ditch. Because these were water meadows, of course, before the railways came.

Which reminds me. If you enter the reserve via Pinwell Road, you will have medieval stew ponds on your left, dug by the Grey Friars. (Who were dedicated to poverty, chastity and obedience). On your right, the railway embankment, built in the 1840s by Irish navigators (dedicated to drinking, fighting, and sending money home when you could). The former have left us...what? A tradition of charity, and a lingering odour of sanctity. The latter left the railways, the canals, the motorways, and most of our housing stock. I think there is a lesson to be learned here, but I can't quite work out what it is. Interestingly for Lewes, of course, their common denominator is Roman Catholicism.

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust's partnership with Lewes District Council

Lewes District Council (LDC) works in partnership with the Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) to help make this wonderful Local Nature Reserve the dynamic and ecologically diverse place it is today. This partnership is essential for both parties, and has fostered a very productive relationship.

The Community led approach to nature reserve management is a key policy at LDC and was a crucial factor in achieving the Green Flag Award that the site gained in 2009. Readers of this newsletter will know much about the fantastic work of the RLWT, but this article seeks to enlighten readers as to the role that LDC plays within this partnership and generally within the management of the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve.

During the past 12 years, LDC has increased the staff resource managing nature reserves within the District. Initially a part time Ranger was responsible for managing the Railway Land and several other sites. Today LDC employ two full time Community Rangers who manage a number of nature reserves and open spaces (including the Railway Land) within the District. Their work on the Railway Land includes writing, updating and implementing the Management Plan, through consultation with the RLWT and the Habitat Advisory Group. The Rangers plan and carry out annual work programmes which include habitat management and maintenance works. They also coordinate the practical volunteer involvement on the Railway Land, through groups such as the Meadow Minders and various other community volunteer groups e.g. the South Downs Volunteer Rangers.

The Rangers also work closely with the RLWT to plan ecological surveys to help improve the knowledge of the area, which eventually feeds back into management activities. They also liaise with the RLWT throughout the Lewes Bonfire celebrations, and co-ordinate the use and subsequent reinstatement of the site following the South Street Bonfire annual celebrations.

The Rangers' role is also to provide technical and practical support to the RLWT. They provide an interface between LDC and the RLWT, which is

formally enshrined through a Memorandum of Understanding. This sets out clearly how the two organisations work together, and includes for example the attendance of the Community Ranger at RLWT committee meetings, a minimum number of hours each week the Ranger will spend on site, and details of the financial expenditure LDC will commit to the site on an annual basis. The Ranger manages an annual maintenance budget funded by LDC, which is used to carry out all routine work on site, e.g. tree surgery, or mechanical scrub clearing.



The Rangers also manage LDC's grounds maintenance contract on the site, which includes weekly litter picking, and summer footpath mowing and maintenance. This contract, has greatly improved the physical appearance of the Railway Land, reducing incidence of litter and providing safe access paths. In addition, LDC provide and empty one dog bin and one litter bin, which incur regular servicing costs.

LDC also employ two Parks Wardens, who patrol all of the District parks and open spaces (including weekly visits to the Railway Land), keeping an eye out for anti social behaviour. Through a partnership with the local Police, such incidents are reported quickly and dealt with where possible.

LDC own all of the land within the Local Nature Reserve, and take their role as landowners very seriously. They have a duty of care to the public, staff and volunteers alike to maintain the site as safe as possible when they invite people onto their land. In order to comply with their public and employers' liability insurance, they must undertake health and safety checks and works as necessary. Through a risk assessment process, these include maintaining safe footpaths, inspecting / managing trees, and supervising any works by volunteers or contractors.



Papers for the Annual General Meeting of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust

7.30 pm Friday 16th April 2010 at Greyfriars Court

The RLWT are grateful to the Management and Residents of Greyfriars Court for allowing us to use their sitting room for our AGM.

Please bring this publication to the meeting.

Gift aid forms will be available and Annual Subscriptions can be renewed before and after the meeting.

7.30 - A special announcement about latest developments in the Linklater Pavilion Project led by John Parry.

8.30 – AGM

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Approval of last year's minutes (see below)
3. Annual Report (pg 7)
4. Financial report, year ending Nov 09 pg 8-9
5. Election of Officers and Members of the Management Committee
 - Rotation of Committee Members
 - Election of Officers: Chair, Treasurer, Company Secretary
6. AOB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 3rd April 2009

at Greyfriars Court at 7.30 pm

Welcome: John Parry welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained how we are progressing with plans for the Linklater Pavilion first, after which we would conduct the Annual General Meeting business

Present RLWT Committee: Jenifer Barton, Jon Gunson, Liz Lee, Jane McIntosh, Neil Merchant, John Parry, Pat Rigg, and the following members: Jean Cash, Hugh Forbes, Pamela and Ben Franklin, James Franks, Sue Hamilton, Ruth and David Hutchinson, Peter Mettyear, Graham Shuttleworth, Brian Walker, Ron Wilkins,

Apologies: Roger Beasley, Phil Belden, G Bull, B Cramp, Tessa George, C Heymanson, Chris Ient, Alex

LDC assist the RLWT in managing Chilly Brook (owned by the Trust), providing regular inspection, advice and support. For example, during 2008-9, the Rangers managed a project to dredge and re-profile the drainage ditch network on Chilly Brooks, including ploughing and re-seeding the ditch margins.

LDC also provides administrative functions to help with the smooth running of the Railway Land. For example, the Junior Management Board administration; convening habitat advisory meetings and producing minutes, updating and laminating site notices, providing expert designer assistance for interpretation boards, event posters and flyers, or assisting with publicity for events taking place on the site.

Most recently, senior management and LDC Directors have contributed significant amounts of time to help facilitate the Linklater Pavilion project, and provide advice and support through regular meetings throughout the planning and building stage. LDC would like to wish the Trust all success in completing this very exciting and innovative project.

The success of this partnership has been achieved through a consistency of support, and through striving for mutual aims; the improvement of the Railway Land for both wildlife and people. The memorandum of understanding provides a solid base for the continued success of this partnership into the future.

Dan Ross, March 2010.

Kirby, Derek Lamport, Jeremy Long, M Marwood, Angela McPherson, R McQueen, Cllr Susan Murray, Cllr Ruth O’Keeffe, Joan Russell, A Scott, David Sykes, B Wade, Liz Williams

The Linklater Pavilion – Dream to Reality (JP)

8 tenders were obtained of which the lowest at £843K represented a sum we were unable to raise.

We were offered the help of a property consultancy, Lambert Smith Hamilton (LSH), to explore a ‘design and build’ route which led to a tender price of £556,000 which with additional management and legal fess adds up to a total build price of £630,450 from ISG Jackson, a firm with a Tonbridge base to build a workable shell which could be added to later if funds were available.

What we have had to give up

- The ventilation shaft – we hope the windows will be sufficient
- Ground source heat pump with possible pollution risk from site, using instead an air source heat exchange pump, with the ratio of 3 units of energy out for every 1 in
- Rain water harvesting
- Photovoltaic cells – no grant currently available
- Half the original number of windows – more wall space now available for display
- Juliet balconies
- Two Spiral staircases replaced with one dog-leg design.

What we have retained

- Original size and footprint
- 2 floors
- Sedum roof
- Natural lighting and ventilation
- Construction on pilings with contractor accepting pollution risk
- Ability to flood undercroft without damage
- Gabions and chalk display round concrete pillars
- Toilets and lift

Features of the building

- Each wall will be 9.6m long
- Chalk core from North Sea obtained free

will fill internal gabions and provide an exhibition about chalk while outside gabions will be made up of six different rocks from six significant geological periods.

- Loss of 2nd entrance and halving of windows represents significant savings.
- Fire regs. limit capacity from 80 to 60 with one entrance
- Partitions, doors and underfloor piping included in contract price

Finances available / promised

Balances: (RLWT account	£11,446)
Pavilion account	£34,000
Mettyear Trust grant	£235,000
Viridor grant	£300,000
Glyndebourne concert etc.	£10,000
Interest free loan	£15,000

	£594,000

Capital cost

Building	£556,000
Design contingency	£10,000
LSH project management fee +VAT	£28,750
Payment to release Viridor grant	£30,700
Contingency and legal fees	£5,000

	£630,450

Shortfall is £36,450 + £15,000 loan to be repaid ie. £51,450

Commitments we have made

- Building and filling gabion walls
- Laying continuation of JMB railway sleeper path to Pavilion
- Laying road surface (MOT grade 2) with hammerhead turning point
- Disabled parking bays
- Kitchen fittings
- Carpets
- Better than basic lighting

Risk - the cost of connecting services, no quote available at this stage

LDC lease on land is for 60 years, the first 25 years at a peppercorn rent, negotiable after this. Terms are that RLWT is responsible for repairs and maintenance, use

is principally for education but no reasonable requests for sub-letting are to be refused

Timetable

Building starts late August, completion / opening Spring 2010

Staffing and Passerelle Bid

E SCC will fund a Director 3 days a week and 2 adult social care workers, the Pavilion would therefore open 3 weekdays and 1 day at weekends.

A successful Passerelle bid would fund, in addition, an Administrator post and an education residency, it would also contribute £140,998 towards fixtures and fittings. Outcome expected late October 2009.

Other projects included in Passerelle are:

- Lewes Arboretum suggested by Richard Green
- Feasibility study for Lewes / Newhaven cycle track by Priory School pupils
- Community orchard led by Action in Rural Sussex
- C15 Banquet with Sussex Wildlife Trust, also wildlife co-operation

JP showed supportive quotes from the Head Teacher of Priory School and Alex Kirby. He reminded members of the 2020 exhibition at the Phoenix Gallery from 17th to 20th June and the Town Hall launch on 11th November.

He then took us on a musical journey through the 21 years of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust. This will be used on 11th November.

In the discussion which followed JP thanked the POST group for their work and willingness to take risks. He promised to ask the community for suggestions for use of the Pavilion. GS suggested a "Gift Day", this idea will be used at the 2020 exhibition and the Town Hall evening to help raise the remaining sum needed. Brighton Youth Orchestra players were suggested to provide entertainment at the Town Hall meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS

Minutes of AGM held on 16th March 2007

These were approved as a true record and adoption was proposed by Pat Rigg and seconded by Neil

Merchant. JB was thanked for minuting meetings.

Annual Report of the RLWT

This was compiled by PR and printed in the Notice of this meeting as required by the Charity Commission. JP added that the film made by the JMB has been used in schools to recruit 20 new members who will be involved in planning aspects of the Pavilion. He thanked PR for her report and the many ways she supports the RLWT.

Financial Report for the year ending 1st November 2008

NM standing in for the Treasurer TG, explained that the JMB had received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and that expenditure included sums for Pavilion preparation procedures.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jon Gunson and seconded by Pat Rigg.

Elections to RLWT Committee conducted by Jane McIntosh – Company Secretary

According to our statutes 3 members must stand down but this year all are willing to stand for re election. They were re elected as follows:

Roger Beasley proposed by Jenifer Barton and seconded by Tessa George

Jane McIntosh proposed by Jon Gunson and seconded by Alex Kirby

John Parry proposed by Pat Rigg and seconded by David Sykes

List of Directors/Trustees for 2009-10

Jane McIntosh (Company Secretary for Company House and Correspondent for Charities Commission), Jenifer Barton, Roger Beasley, Phil Belden, Tessa George, Jon Gunson, Chris Ient, Alex Kirby, Liz Lee, Neil Merchant, John Parry, Pat Rigg, David Sykes, Liz Williams

Election of Officers

The Chair John Parry, Hon. Treasurer Tessa George and Company Secretary Jane McIntosh stood down but offered themselves for re election. No others wished to stand and it was proposed by Graham

Shuttleworth and seconded by Jean Cash that they be re elected.

AOB

JP expressed the hope that the next AGM would be in the Linklater Pavilion

JM thanked JP and everyone involved in planning the Pavilion for keeping the project on stream even at the times when the outlook did not seem very promising.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Annual Report - Nov 2008-9

Linklater Pavilion Project: The Trust needed to raise another £180,000 to reach the £671,000 target by the end of January 2009. The tendering process run by Lambert Smith Hampton had agreed a shell and core approach to building the Linklater Pavilion with ISG Jackson. We had raised £130,00 by May and written major applications for grants from the Lottery Fund and Interreg.

The turf cutting ceremony took place on September 8th and building commenced on September 14th. We expect to have formally opened the building by November 2010.

Membership & public awareness: A drive to increase membership and raise awareness of the Linklater Pavilion Project raised the membership to 250. The Pixel Pavilion promotion and the Rock Sponsorship scheme raised between them £6,000, from existing members and the general public.

The Pavilion was chosen as the design for the new £10 Lewes Pound launched as legal tender in June 09. The Ranger, Dan Ross successfully applied for Green Flag status for the Reserve which was awarded in July 09.

Maintenance and surveys: Bird surveys continued with volunteer help, with the results described regularly in our newsletters. Ditches on the brooks were reprofiled, cattle scrapes were created and re-seeding of areas of spoil were undertaken, led by the Ranger and assisted by volunteers. The public were kept informed by information panels at the entrance and through our newsletter and articles in the local press.

Educational Projects:

From 16-20th June the 2020 Vision exhibition was

held in partnership with Artemis Arts at the Foundry Gallery. This involved 4 primary and 2 secondary schools from the Ouse Valley and Lewes. 280 pupils participated, 300 parents, children and guests attended the opening and three days of workshops for schools were held. A family challenge drop-in day attracted over 100 visitors. The theme was to study obsolescence of ordinary objects, and the potential effect of reduction in natural resources and changes in climate.

JMB: The drive to attract new members for the Board from local primary schools was very successful. The Ranger and John Parry used the JMB video of 2008 as a recruiting tool, and we now have a new Board aged 8-11. This group have started their first project to create interpretation boards for children at the restored Leighside Ponds.

Participants from St Nicholas Day Centre: This adult group have continued their project work of taking fixed point photos; adding an assignment from the National Trust to take photos of the Cuckmere Valley. ESCC Social Services have kept funding the project, now called 'The Link' in the hope that the application for the Passerelle project for the next five years would be successful. The group continue to lead public walks on the reserve, this year's was on June 9th.

Town Hall Event 11th November: This event is being planned to attract over 300 people to a promotional celebration of the commencement of building works on the Linklater Pavilion. The aim is to widen partnership and participation with many different groups and organisations within the town, to celebrate what we have in common, and to stimulate joint projects for the future.

Through all the above activities the Trustees are confident that they have fulfilled the charity's aims regarding public education and through the Linklater Pavilion are providing an inclusive and much needed resource for the public benefit of the people of Lewes.

The Trustees are also proud to show that the administrative expenses have continued to be kept low, because of the huge amount of voluntary work and support given by the Trustees to the many projects, and the successful application for appropriate funding and grants for every project undertaken.

Pat Rigg on behalf of the Trustees

**RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST
 (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 1st November 2009

INCOMING RESOURCES	2008-2009 Restricted Pavilion	2008-2009 Unrestricted	2008-2009 Total	2007-2008 Total
Subscriptions and donations		2,711	2,711	1,224
Inland Revenue rebate (gift aid)	8,279		8,279	3,974
HLF Grant for JMB Water Poster and Pond Restoration				11,600
From LDC for John Parry's work on Heartof Reeds		1,035	1,035	
Rent		36	36	36
Sale of posters		20	20	
Donation for benches				400
Bank interest on Nature Reserve Account		38	38	224
Grants and donation (John Parry) for 2020 Vision event		3,000	3,000	
Public donations to Pavilion Appeal	39,352		39,352	22,703
Loan from Mettyear Charitable Trust donated	5,000		5,000	
Viridor Credits funding of Pavilion construction	79,288		79,288	
Bank interest on Pavilion Account	7		7	820
Total income	131,926	6,840	138,766	40,981
EXPENDITURE				
<u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u>				
Maintenance -Chilly Brook				2,625
Display Materials				40
Surveys		100	100	100
Newsletters		698	698	913
Web-site hosting		138	138	
HLF Costs				11,600
Costs of 2020 Vision event		3,000	3,000	
Pavilion - architects for planning application				61,187
Pavilion - promotional costs	4,197		4,197	
Pavilion - construction costs	117,140		117,140	
Subs to SOCS		10	10	25
Total direct charitable expenditure	121,337	3,946	125,283	76,979
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Insurance		457	457	454
Publicity				675
Sundries		283	283	327
Total admin expenses	0	740	740	1,456
Total Expenditure	121,337	4,686	126,023	78,435
SURPLUS/DEFICIT THIS YEAR	10,589	2,154	12,743	-37,454
Balances brought forward 2 November 2008	2,767	11,481	14,248	51,702
Balances Carried Forward 1 Nov 2009	13,356	13,635	26,991	14,248

Registered Charity No 800655
Company Limited by Guarantee Reg No 2313579
Company Address: 115 High Street, Lewes, Sussex, BN7 1XY

**RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

BALANCE SHEET as @ 1st November 2009

Fixed Assets - Land	3,530	
Bank balances	<u>24,572</u>	
<u>Total Assets</u>		28,102
Less Liabilities:		
Grant from Heritage Lottery Fund as yet unspent	911	
Owing by 2020 Vision event	<u>200</u>	
		1,111
<u>Net Assets</u>		<u><u>26,991</u></u>
 <u>Represented by:</u>		
Accumulated Fund:		
Restricted Fund - Pavilion Appeal	13,356	
Unrestricted Fund	<u>13,635</u>	
Accumulated Fund at Year end		<u><u>26,991</u></u>

For the year ended November 1st 2009 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A(1) of the Companies Act 1985.

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 249B(2).

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- i) Ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221; and
 - ii) Preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of its financial year, and of its profit and loss for the financial year in accordance with section 226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.
- The accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part VII of the Companies Act 1985 relating to small companies.

Signed on:

_____ Director, Chair of Committee of Management

_____ Director, Member of Committee of Management

International Year of Biodiversity

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. The aim of this declaration is to celebrate the diversity of life and raise awareness of the importance of our global biodiversity.

Safeguarding our biodiversity requires effort from everyone and International Year of Biodiversity encourages the global community – individuals, organisations and governments – to work together and take the immediate action needed to ensure a sustainable future for us all.

Events will be taking place across the UK throughout 2010 to:

- Increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity to our lives
- Highlight the continuing pressure faced by species
- Celebrate the successes achieved so far in conservation

On Saturday, May 22, which is World Biodiversity Day, the RLWT in partnership with Lewes District Council are holding a **Wonderful Wildlife Festival** on the Railway Land Nature Reserve. The day runs from 11am to 4pm.

As you will see from the enclosed flier, we have included interesting and exciting events and information for all ages, on most of the types of wildlife on the Reserve.

The slogan for the day is:

Biodiversity Leads To Biological Complexity Which Leads To Biological Balance And Stability.

We hope that everyone will come away with ideas of what they can do to encourage biodiversity in their gardens or local area as well as in the wider world.

The day starts at 11am with a childrens' Wildlife Fancy Dress competition. We are hoping for lots of ladybirds, flowers, grasshoppers, butterflies etc so please encourage your children and grandchildren to

come along and enter the Parade.

For most people this will be the first chance to see inside the amazing new Pavilion building. John Parry will be leading tours of the building, explaining the plans for each area, and several activities and talks will be taking place on each floor. As the Pavilion will not be fully completed, it will still be surrounded by fencing, and will be closed again until late summer when we open properly.

We have a really exciting range of activities and organisations coming on May22nd, so all we need now is a large interested audience, who can learn lots more about the Reserve.

Please publicise the day in any way you can, perhaps using the flier included here. We would welcome any offers of help with publicity before the day, or help with activities on the day.

Please contact:
Liz Williams,
liz@williamslewes.info
01273 472239

Topping Out Tuesday 16th March

We were blessed with glorious spring weather on the day we celebrated the final beam being laid. Our architect Roger Beasley was feted for his stunning yet unfussy design.

Rodmell pupils at the Topping Out ceremony with their banner



Sir John Tomlinson 'sings in' the new building

The participants enjoy the spring sunshine





Advance Notice

important date for your
Diary!

WONDERFUL WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

Celebrate International Biodiversity Day at the
Railway Land Nature Reserve, Lewes
(Near Lewes Station)

Saturday May 22, 2010, 11 am to 4 pm

Organised by Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust and Lewes
District Council

Explore and Discover!

Wildlife trails and a bonanza of activities for children and adults.
Learn about flowers, seeds, trees, fossils, dragonflies, moths,
birds, mammals and pondlife on the Reserve.

Catch a minibeast! See it magnified and projected onto a screen
in the Pavilion

Learn how to make willow dragonflies, baskets and butterflies.
Competitions, Singing, Dancing, Music,
Refreshments.

Wildlife Fancy Dress Parade

Tours of the new Linklater Pavilion

Information and activity stalls run by Lewes District Council,
the Railway Land Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, the Sussex Wildlife
Trust, the Dragonfly Society, Sussex Biological Record Centre,
the Woodland Trust, the Mammal Society, and the Sussex Ouse
Conservation Society

For more information, contact: Liz Williams (Railway Land
Wildlife Trust) liz@williamslewes.info or
Dan Ross (Lewes District Council) dan.ross@lewes.gov.uk
www.railwaylandproject.org

Topping Out continued

The participants were interviewed for a film being made for the RLWT, here are some of their comments

Miles *'I was asked what I think about the building - I said that it is lovely and I am proud of my contribution. Today's event was nice and I loved the cake'*

Katie *'The pavilion is so good especially when we were shown where we will be sitting in future. I was amazed to see how beautiful this building is and I hope in future I will be able to work from there'*

Andrew *'The man sang very well, the building is fantastic, the day was really good'*

Robert *'I enjoyed my speech. I like the building, everything inside is so sophisticated.'*

Alec *'There were a lot of important people there, they enjoyed themselves. I've been in this from the very beginning, I've watched the structure go up. We are lucky to be part of it and I'm proud.'*

Finally Rodmell's poem by Kaya, India and Mia

The best place I have ever visited
How do they make it so good?
Enough to blow your head off!

People visit the pavilion from all over the world
Animals and creatures will be very happy here
Very happy tourists
Information gathering
Lovely flowers all around and a great learning environment for children and adults

Interesting research
One of a kind building
Nature all around



Roger Beasley and Lord Healey surrounded by sponsors and supporters

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For access to past newsletters go to:
www.railwaylandproject.org and follow the link in the 'knowledge building' section.

Biodiversity website: www.biodiversityislife.net

To contact the Railway Land Wildlife Trust
email: info@railwaylandproject.org

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Charity Concert

Mozart's Requiem at GLYNDEBOURNE

3.00pm, on Sunday 18th April.

I hope you will forgive a little advertising but Glyndebourne Opera productions are supporting the Linklater Pavilion in their charity concert this year. I attach the flyer. Tickets are going fast, so apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Please spread the word and display the fliers in your windows or at work. More are available at the Information Bureau.
Pat Rigg, Editor



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