



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

c/o. 1 Coastguard Cottages, Rye Harbour, Rye, East Sussex,
TN31 7TS.

Telephone: Rye (0797) 223862

A registered charity founded in 1973 to aid in the establishment and maintenance of a nature reserve within the Rye Harbour site of special scientific interest, (known as an SSSI).

Chairman: Ian Rumley-Dawson. Secretary: Clifford Percival. Treasurer: Mr. Pat Bonham.
Committee: Miss Evelyn Stewart, Aubrey Sinden, Bob Greenhalf, Peter Greenhalf.
Warden: Richard Knight. Assistant Warden: Miss Pam Haddon.

SPRING 1983.

NUMBER 14.

WARDEN'S REPORT.

Richard Knight.

What a wonderful time Spring is and how lucky we are to live in a part of the world where the seasons are so well marked, yet very rarely extreme or unpleasant. The seven inch deep sprinkling of snow in early February followed a remarkably long, mild winter spell and was, well, dare I say it, very enjoyable. Deep snow is quite a rare occurrence at Rye, so one just had to give way to the distraction and trudge at times with snow over the brim of the wellies, to revel in the changed landscape.

Now, in Spring, how different things are - this morning was so much more mild, with *lapwings* "peewitting" as though eggs had to be laid by the end of the day, and, at Ternery Pool, the *little grebes* "tittering", *shelducks* "whistling" and all sorts of excited song and display. Out of the cool breeze one could easily fall asleep in the warm sun.

By the time you read this Newsletter, the *lapwings* will be incubating their eggs, and the *sandwich terns* and *wheatears* will be back from Africa, with *swallows*, *sand martins* and *chiffchaffs*. As usual people will be "worrying" about how early the *swallows* are, or how late the *cuckoo* is calling! The most exciting time of the year has begun and I don't know about you, but I'm going to make the very most of it, (or did I say that last year?)

For birders who like to know what they have missed since our last edition of the Newsletter, the following species have been seen on or around the Reserve:-

January = 2 *green sandpipers*, 2 *short-eared owls*, *merlin*, *smew*,
goosander.

February = *merlin*, *bramblings*, *red-breasted merganser*, *garnets*,
red-throated diver, *velvet-scooters*, *pintails*, *water rail*.

and throughout the period = *sculp*, *goldeneye*, and a *hen harrier*.

So you can see that there is always something of interest to watch at the Reserve whatever time of year you care come. In fact quite often there is a wider diversity of species around the Ternery Pool in winter than during the summer months as far as birds are concerned.

PLEASE NOTE: The telephone number of the Reserve has been changed. It is now Rye (0797) 223862

DATES TO REMEMBER IN AID OF THE FRIENDS.

COFFEE MORNING, by kind invitation of Miss Phylis Meek, to be held from 10.00am to 12.00noon on Saturday 30th April 1983, at Strettons, Main Street, Iden. Bring and buy and plant stalls, as well as other items and information about the Reserve

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends, to be held at 7.30pm at Winchelsea Beach Village Hall, Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach. After the main meeting there will be a WILDLIFE QUESTION TIME. See agenda enclosed with this Newsletter.

FARM OPEN DAY, similar to last year's most successful event, but this year to be held at another farm, further details and date to be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

WILDLIFE OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE, public fund-raising show at Tenterden on Saturday 8th October 1983, further details to be announced in next Newsletter.



WORK PARTIES FOR 1983.

Pam Haddon.

Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd April; Sunday 4th September; Saturday 8th October. Meet at 10.00am by the Information Centre in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour, or later at Ternery Pool.

Tasks will include collection and burning of litter, island building and in the Autumn, island weeding.

Please wear suitable, warm outdoor clothing, rubber boots (for island work), or tough shoes and strong working gloves. Also bring your lunch, binoculars and if possible shovels for island building and small hand-forks for island weeding.

These work parties are friendly gatherings of conservationists of all ages, they are good fun and provide a valuable contribution to the Reserve's management. So why not come along and join in.

TERN WATCH 1983.

Pam Haddon.



Once again the wardens will be organising a rota of voluntary helpers to watch over the nesting *little terns*, as well as other birds, to protect them from disturbance and the threat of egg collectors. The watch is maintained all day and every day from mid May to mid July and each spell of duty usually lasts 3 - 4 hours. If you would like to help in this important work or maybe just wish to know a few more details about this simple but effective protection scheme, then please contact Pam Haddon (Assistant Warden) at the address shown in the heading of this Newsletter. Thank you.

CONDUCTED WALKS FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

Richard Knight.

These are intended to offer you an opportunity to become more familiar with the Reserve and its wildlife. They all start from the Information Centre in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour. They usually last about 3 hours, and are not particularly strenuous.

SPRING FLOWERS - Sunday 24th April 1983, start 10.30am, led by local botanist Mrs. Breda Burt.

SPRING BIRDS - Sunday 8th May 1983, start 10.30am, led by the Warden Richard Knight.

SUMMER WILDLIFE - Sunday 7th August 1983, start 2.30pm, led by the Warden and/or assistants.

RUNNING A NATURE RESERVE - Allocation of Funds or Where Your Money Goes.

R.K.

The Friends' accounts for the year ending 31st December 1982 are enclosed herewith, but perhaps you would like to know a little more about how your contributions help in the running of the Reserve.

We are perhaps fortunate at Rye Harbour in that the cost of materials for management work, eg. the fencing, island maintenance, habitat management, etc., is not too great and is very often subsidised by offers of practical help. Also when large projects have been undertaken - such as the excavation work at Ternery Pool, then other bodies such as the World Wildlife Fund and the Nature Conservancy Council have given grant-aid towards the costs. To these groups we are most grateful. Consequently, most of the expenditure entailed is the cost of employing the wardens and providing the essential work facilities of an office, storeroom, workshop, a telephone, and a vehicle etc..

During the past year (that is since April 1982), the Friends have contributed a total of £2,400 towards the running of the Reserve and maintenance of buildings and equipment. The money has been spent on employing an Assistant Warden, telephone rental (without which we could not operate the Tern Watch etc.), some repairs to the Reserve van, and two major items of improvement to the cottage which belongs to the Reserve - double glazing and central heating. The latter which cost just under £1,000 does not yet appear in the accounts because it occurred after 31st December 1982. In addition to this, the Friends have produced a large display stand which can be used at various meetings and exhibitions to advertise the Reserve, as well as to encourage more support. Finally, there is the ever increasing costs of printing and mailing our Newsletters (£80 - £100 each time), enrolment forms and hiring halls for fund-raising events including the A.G.M. etc..

Obviously £2,400 is quite a large contribution to be made by such a small charity as ours (current membership = 472), and whether we shall be able to give a similar amount during the coming financial year remains to be seen. Therefore when you renew your subscription next, please try and give a little extra, or if you have not already done so, why not covenant your subscription at no extra cost to yourself but which does enable the Friends to collect a good bit more from the Tax Man on your behalf. If you don't know about covenanting, then please write and ask us. You can also help further by coming along to our fund-raising events and bringing a friend and hopefully persuading them to become a member. Certainly, we hope you agree that the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is well worth supporting and that is the main aim of our membership.

WANTED - WOOD.

The Wardens.

Have you any logs or other bits of unwanted wood which could be burned in our newly acquired multi-fuel central heating boiler, as this will save immensely on coal bills! Offers to the wardens please at Rye (0797) 223862 .
