



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, Bob Greenhalf, Peter Greenhalf, Miss Liz Blackwell,
Miss Brenda Graves, Warden: Richard Knight, Assistant Warden: Miss Pam Haddon.

SPRING 1984.

NUMBER 17.

WARDEN'S REPORT.

Richard Knight.

Many of you will know already but for some this will be the first news of Pam and myself leaving the Reserve. Some will be sad, none more so than us, and some may be glad!

We shall dearly miss the wildlife and the friendly faces that have sparked so much enthusiasm among us all during the last 7 years. Will there ever be another nature reserve in our lives with so much emotion attached? Spring has now sprung, the birds are once again busy and, I must admit, the intimate feeling I now have with them all could easily bring tears to my eyes - if I were to let it.

Still life goes on and the decision to make a change has been entirely ours. We both will be continuing to work for wildlife conservation, Pam with the Dorset Naturalists' Trust as Assistant Conservation Officer and me wardening for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Our home for the foreseeable future will be somewhere near Dorchester.

We will continue to keep in touch with the Reserve and the new Warden - Barry Yates, and hope that you will help Barry and his wife, Anne, in the same important ways.

You, as members of the Friends, have made it all possible and we would like to thank you all for your unflinching support.

Every good wish for the future,

Sincerely,

R. Knight *Pam Haddon*

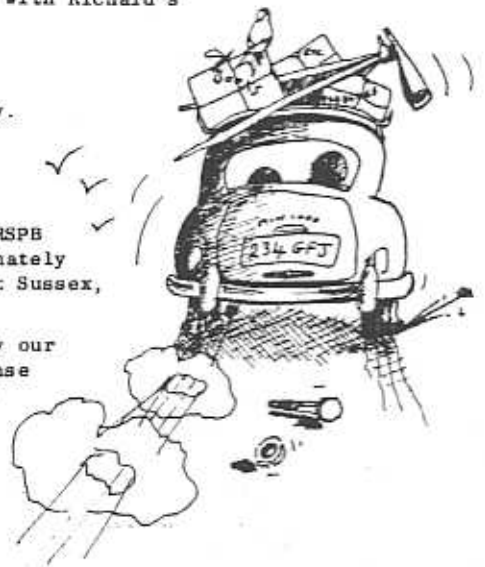
THE END OF AN ERA!

Ian R-D.

It is with great sadness that we said farewell to Richard and Pam on the 27th March 1984, when they finally left Rye Harbour, (they first came here on 12th December 1976). During their time as Wardens for the Reserve, their ideas and innovations have certainly helped to improve the area for wildlife. Probably the most significant increase has been with the Little Tern breeding numbers, these were a special favourite with Richard and particularly with Pam, (and her "babies"). From 1977 when 16 pairs raised only 4 young to the flying stage; to 1983 with 67 pairs produced 69 young to flying - the Reserve has now been firmly established as one of the really important breeding sites for this rare and vulnerable species. Great successes have also been achieved with Richard's Sand Martin breeding bank.

We shall sadly miss their many other contributions to the cause of wildlife too, such as their excellent drawings not only for this Newsletter, but also for our postcards and other leaflets of publicity. In fact many of our members may not have realised that Pam has illustrated several other publications for the Forestry Commission, RSPB and others. Her models of birds defy description - they are superb! She can easily be classed with the best bird modellers in Britain today. Most of her output was specially commissioned by the RSPB for their reserve displays in various parts of the Country, but fortunately a few of her Little Terns and Puffins have not migrated away from East Sussex, and by these, a few of her close friends will always remember her.

As a farewell token of our appreciation, a collection was initiated by our Treasurer - Pat Bonham, and even he was amazed at the wonderful response in such a short time - just over £600. Hopefully this will help them in their new ventures, but we will always remember their generosity, friendliness and devotion to our Reserve.



CONDUCTED WALKS FOR MEMBERS ONLY.

P. H.

Spring walk to Camber Castle - start from Brede Lock at the top of Harbour Road, 2.30pm. on Sunday 13th May 1984, led by local expert botanist Mrs. Breda Burt. This will be an opportunity to study the flora of the older shingle ridges around Camber Castle, do some birdwatching and to see a different part of the Nature Reserve.

Summer walk to Ternery Pool - start from the Information Centre in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour, at 2.30pm. on Sunday 8th July 1984. Birdwatching with the guidance of the Warden.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE FRIENDS.

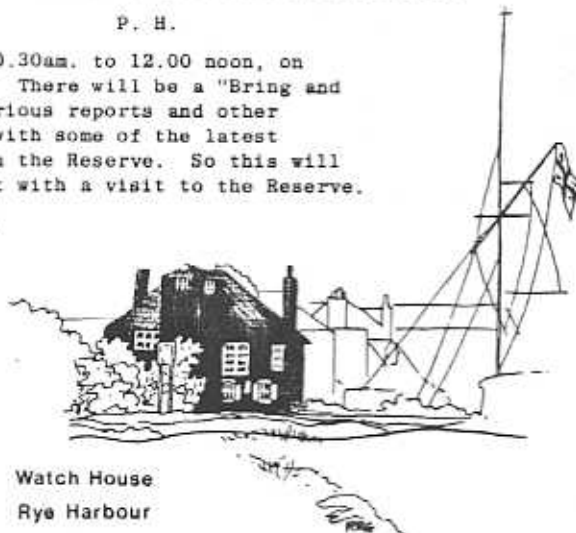
P. H.

By kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Blattman, to be held from 10.30am. to 12.00 noon, on Sunday 29th July 1984, at Watch House, The Point, Rye Harbour. There will be a "Bring and Buy" stall, as well as an opportunity to obtain some of the various reports and other publications about the Reserve. The Warden will be available with some of the latest information about some of the breeding results of the season on the Reserve. So this will be an ideal opportunity to combine some mid-morning refreshment with a visit to the Reserve.

As this will be basically a fund-raising venture, please bring along your friends and neighbours as well, also please ask them to publicise this event locally so that we can make it a really successful and enjoyable morning.

Please remember to bring along something for our stall.

While on the subject of fund-raising, very many thanks to all those members who have sent contributions for the Land Fund - your donations have so far added a further £263 to the Fund. Details of this special Fund were announced in our last Newsletter, and of course it is still open for further contributions.



Watch House
Rye Harbour

WORK PARTIES.

Sunday 30th September 1984 and Sunday 14th October 1984. Meet as usual at 10.00am. in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour, bring lunch, work gloves, any useful tools and wear suitable working clothes and boots.

TERN WATCH 1984.

P. H.

The Little Tern protection wardening scheme will once again be operating this year. It consists of a rota of voluntary helpers who come and watch over the nesting Little Terns, and other vulnerable 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-August and each spell of duty usually lasts about 3-4 hours.

Regular helpers PLEASE NOTE - since I shall have left by the time the terns arrive, Peter and Joan Philpot of Broadwater, The Ridge, Winchelsea Beach - telephone Rye 225998, have very kindly offered to organise the rota until such time as the new Warden can take over. All enquiries and bookings, whether from previous helpers or new volunteers, should be directed to Peter and Joan.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE.

P. B.

Please note that members' subscriptions become due on 1st May, and can either be posted to our Treasurer, Mr. P. F. Bonham, 87 Winchelsea Road, Rye, East Sussex, or may be handed to him at the Annual General Meeting. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. The minimum subscription is still £1.00; family membership £1.50. Special forms for Bankers' Orders and Deeds of Covenant will be available at the A.G.M. or can be obtained by post from the Treasurer. Thank you.

LEASAM HOUSE NATURE DAY.

Ian R-D.

The Headmaster of Leasam House School at Playden, near Rye, has very kindly agreed to allow the Friends to hold a special fund-raising event there this summer. Plans are still being formed as to exactly how we will run this event, but it is hoped that the boys will help us to arrange a Nature Trail around some of the interesting parts of their grounds, parts of which are woodlands. There will also be certain items of natural history interest on display, as well as views of their large heronry from an adjacent hide. There will be many other attractions as well as our usual sales stall.

A provisional date of Sunday 17th June 1984 has been set, but please watch out for further details nearer the time. We will need maximum publicity for this venture to make it as successful as our large summer events in previous years, such as the Farm Day and Strawberry Teas Afternoon.

STOP PRESS FROM THE DEPARTING WARDENS.

Rick & Pam.

We just managed to catch this Newsletter before it slipped off the page and went to press. Overwhelmed would be an understatement of our feelings and super-generosity an underestimate of all your kindness. We just did what we could in the way we knew best. There are many things we shall miss and its comforting to know that they are in your safe hands. Thank you for everything.