



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 the SSSI).

Chairman: Ian Rumley-Dawson.	Secretary: Clifford Percival.	Treasurer: Pat Bonham.
Committee: Miss Evelyn Stewart,	Bob Greenhalf, Peter Greenhalf,	Miss Liz Blackwell.
	Warden: Dr. Barry Yates.	

W I N T E R 1 9 8 4 / 8 5 .

N U M B E R 1 9 .

WARDEN'S REPORT.

Dr. Barry Yates.

Following a very mild autumn, the winter birds have been fickle in their appearance, however, it did permit an extended flowering of several shingle plants, with Yellow-horned Poppy, Viper's Bugloss and Herb Robert flowering into December!

On the night of 21st November, storm force winds combined with spring tides to severely test the sea defences, much sea water entered the Reserve and altered its character. All the beach hollows were filled with water as was much of the adjacent farmland. At Ternery Pool the water level increased by nearly 2ft., covering most islands and destroying most of the shelter for resting birds. Much of the water is still here at the turn of the year and it seems such a long time ago that the 'drought' of 1984 gave the low water levels that attracted so many waders to Ternery Pool. I shall look forward to the return of the islands.

The notable birds since the last Newsletter are:- Peregrine = 1 during a September Work Party was the first for the Reserve, (as illustrated on the right). Wood Duck = 1 female at Ternery Pool on the evening of 10th December, also another first for the Reserve, but was probably an escape from a wildfowl collection. Hen Harriers = 1 - 2 ringtails (brown) regular. Wryneck = 1 along the footpath from the Caravan Site for a week in September. Goldeneye = up to 3 present at Ternery Pool throughout December. Slavonian Grebe = present throughout October and most of December on the Narrow Pit. Shag = 1 at Ternery Pool on 24th November. Firecrest = almost numerous at end of October.



The bird community on the Reserve changes with the weather and season, so a list is now displayed in the old hide and in the information centre that describes the birds seen in each half month period. I hope this proves valuable when you next visit.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983.

This is now available for 50p (plus postage) from the address in this Newsletter heading. The Report contains full details of the Reserve and how it is run, the birds recorded in 1983 and their breeding success, new species of plant and observations of other animals. There is an extensive list of moths recorded and a very readable and informative account of the aquatic life of the Reserve.

FRIENDS GUIDED WALKS.

These will start from the Information Centre in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour, at 10am. Bring lunch, binoculars and extra warm clothing (except perhaps in June and August!). The walks will visit Ternery Pool, the Long and Narrow Pits and in April, August and October the Wood.

Dates:- 9th February, 21st April, 22nd June, 18th August, 19th October, 1st December.

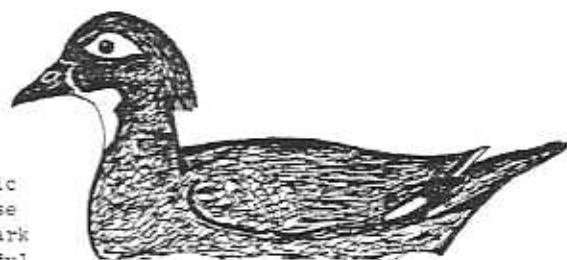
A botanical walk led by Mrs. Brenda Burt will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve will be held on Saturday, 4th May 1985, at 7.30pm., in the Winchelsea Beach Village Hall, Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach, East Sussex. Further details together with the usual agenda will be announced in the next Newsletter.

WORK PARTIES.

Barry Yates.

The continued success of the Reserve is dependent upon a handful of work parties each year to carry out essential management during brief periods of disturbance. Tasks will include the collection and burying of litter, island repair and maintenance of artificial nest sites. The work can be as energetic as you like and is often rewarded with good views of birds. Please meet at 10am at the Information Centre in the Martello Tower carpark at Rye Harbour, with lunch, rubber boots, work gloves and any useful garden tools.



Wood Duck ♀ by Barry Yates.

Dates:- 3rd March, 5th and 6th April (Easter).

NEWS FROM THE WEST.

A Little Bird.

Just after the last Newsletter was printed, good news arrived that Richard Knight and Pam Haddon, our two previous Wardens, had married each other in October. On behalf of all their many friends in Southeast England, we wish them a very happy life together in the years to come. They now have a little cottage near Dorchester in Dorset. (Note: Richard said they even managed to do some birdwatching during their honeymoon in Cornwall!)

NEW WADER POOL PROJECT.

Ann Yates.

It is hoped that in the near future, a new pool will be created to attract more birds to the Reserve, and maybe, eventually, even another hide can be built to watch over this new feeding area, which may resemble the 'Scrape' at the RSPB Reserve at Minsmere. Obviously it will take several years to achieve such a major task, which will entail much hard work as well as hard cash, but hopefully birdwatchers and botanists will soon realise the many advantages that this project will bring to wildlife, visitors and education.

To help raise funds for this project, the Friends are holding a special Raffle, and we ask your help in selling the tickets enclosed with this Newsletter. Additional books of tickets are available from Barry Yates at the address shown in the Newsletter heading.

The first prize is a Double-bed size Quilt, made with the help of ladies from Rye Harbour village and a few Friends - 50 helpers in all. The theme for the quilt was "Nature" and each of the 36 squares shows an animal or plant, birds being the most abundant. Each square is a small work of art involving many hours of work, and we hope that the overall effect will please the lucky winner. It has also helped draw the community of Rye Harbour together to help improve the Reserve.

The draw and the Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Saturday 4th May 1985, and NOT the 5th as was printed in error on the tickets. (Sorry! Printer's error, not ours, honestly!)

Please try to help this interesting and worthwhile project by selling your book of 10 tickets, and then return the stubbs and cheque/P.O. (made payable to the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve) to Barry Yates. Also please remember to complete the stubbs with the name and address or telephone number of the purchaser.

Any additional gifts, suitable for prizes will be gratefully received and the Quilt together with all other prizes will be on show at the A.G.M.. This should make an interesting display, so - come along and see it, YOU might be the winner!

BIRD SUCCESS AT BHARATPHUR.

Ian R-D.

About 190 people attended our annual autumn public event this year on 13th October, when the well-known author, lecturer and tour leader - John Gooders, took us on a most amazing and picturesque trip around one of his favourite bird spots at Bharatphur in India. It certainly is a wonderful place with a tremendous variety of different species as well as large numbers of some of the species. John gave us some very fine close views of the birds and their surroundings with his excellent slides. Our grateful thanks to John for a most interesting evening.

Our thanks also to the ladies of the RSPB Battle Group Sales Team who put on a very attractive sales display - with benefit to the Friend's funds.

Any ideas forthcoming for a suitable summer fund-raising event? Practical suggestions please to the Friends Committee, soonest.

OBSERVATIONS AND NEWS ITEMS.

We are always hoping for a few brief items of interest for inclusion in the Newsletters, and particularly small illustrations to brighten up the text. These little pictures should be done in Indian ink or black biro with a large blank area all round so that it can be best positioned to fit the text on the page.