



NEWSLETTER

The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

2, Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, Winchelsea, East Sussex. TN36 4LU.
Telephone: Rye (0797) 223862.

A registered charity (number 269535) founded in 1973 to aid in the establishment and management of the Nature Reserve within the Rye Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (known as the SSSI).

CHAIRMAN: Ian Rumley-Dawson

SECRETARY: Liz Blackwell

TREASURER: David Marshall

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Peter Philpot

COMMITTEE: Steve Danny, Bob Greenhalf, Peter Greenhalf, Frank Palmer, Anne Yates.

WARDEN: Dr. Barry Yates.

SPRING 1990

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35.

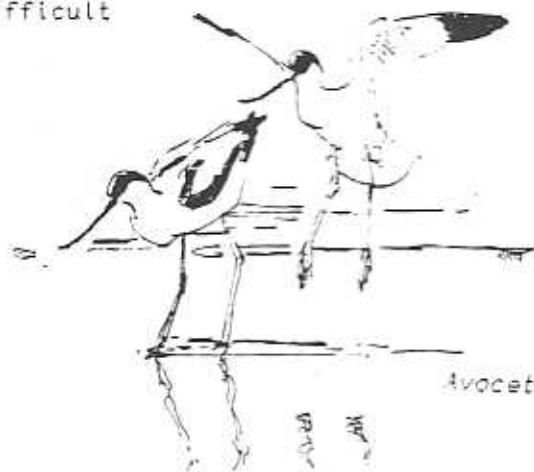
WARDEN'S REPORT - for the period mid-December 1989 to early March 1990.

The weather has been exceptional, with very mild, wet and windy weather giving rise to many early signs of "spring" during February; RINGED PLOVERS displaying from 1st, COLTSFOOT flowering from 5th, COMMON WHITLOW GRASS from 12th, BRIMSTONE butterfly noted on 22nd and SMALL TORTOISESHELL from the 24th. In March the first WHEATEAR and CHIFFCHAFF were noted on the early dates of the 8th and 10th respectively.

Probably as a result of the mild weather there have been few very unusual birds recorded, with many of the "northern" species being quite scarce, for example, HEN HARRIER, SHORT-EARED OWL, RED-THROATED DIVER, SMEW, WIGEON, BRAMBLING and TWITE were only noted on a few dates. There have, however, been some long-staying birds that have proved popular with visitors, 6 (including up to 2 adult male) GOLDENEYE and several drake PINTAIL at TERNERY POOL, up to 6 LONG-EARED OWLS on an island of the NARROW PITS, a SLAVONIAN GREBE and a drake SCAUP on the LONG PIT and an EIDER at the RIVER MOUTH catching crabs.

Since the last newsletter there has been a major change to the reserve. This happened during the early hours of February 27th when a tidal surge coincided with storm force winds. The result was that the huge waves reached the top of the sea defences along the whole length of the reserve and at the western end caused severe damage to the sea wall. A vast amount of shingle was moved by the sea and in a few places this allowed a lot of sea water in. By the morning the normally dry fields were covered by the sea - this caused damage to the farmers crops but immediately attracted large numbers of birds; thousands of gulls, including several LITTLE GULLS, many SHELDUCK, DUNLIN, RINGED PLOVER, REDSHANK, LAPWING, a few RUFF and a couple of AVOCETS. The sea water also filled many of the beach hollows and the whole of the flat area behind the WADER POOL. This really did make the area look different. With the sun shining, the reserve looked very attractive at a time of year when there is little colour to brighten up the shingle. Access to the CRITTALL HIDE was made very difficult by the sea cascading down the footpath and into TERNERY POOL where the level increased to a height that I had not seen before; the holes of the SAND MARTIN bank were covered, as was the large island at the eastern end of the pool.

What a contrast to the low levels of the autumn, I just hope that the levels will subside by the time the TERNS start nesting in May !!



Avocets

SHALLOW POOLS UPDATE - by Barry Yates

The aim of enlarging the WADER POOL this spring had to be postponed because we considered that there was not sufficient mud available at the site to retain the area of water that was envisaged. We have to be very careful with an arable field nearby. In addition, the National River Authority is very busy maintaining the sea defences so it was doubtful they would have had sufficient manpower for the works that were necessary. We will reconsider the project in a years time.

TREE SPARROW NESTBOXES UPDATE - by Barry Yates

My request for help with nestboxes for the declining population of TREE SPARROWS resulted in about 20 being offered. These have now been sited and I will report on their success in the next Newsletter. Thank-you to those that helped. If you would like to supply a nestbox they are of the classic Blue Tit design, but with a slightly larger hole of 28mm.

ASSISTANT WARDEN - by Barry Yates

This year it has again been possible to fund an assistant Warden for the Reserve for five months, to help study and protect the wildlife as well as showing visitors around. This has only been possible because of you, the FRIENDS, and a 50% grant from the NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL (NCC). This year we are able to offer accomodation because we were generously given a caravan by a member of the FRIENDS. Thank-you.

We are fortunate in having an assistant, DOMONIC FUNNELL, who has worked in recent years for the RSPB and the NCC, wardening Tern colonies and wetland. He has already proved a valuable asset in preparing the Reserve for the coming spring.

RESERVE VEHICLE - by Barry Yates

For many months the Reserve has been without a vehicle which has made the running of the Reserve particularly difficult. This problem has been alleviated by several people helping out with the occasional loan of vehicles. Thank-you.

However, we have now, for the first time, purchased a new vehicle, a white Bedford Astramax. This was funded mainly by the FRIENDS, but we also recieved a grant from the NATIONAL RIVER AUTHORITY. As well as being be very useful it will also present a far better image of the Reserve than previous vehicles, and will advertise the Reserve wherever it goes with our logo and name on the side.

LEFT RED UX UPDATE - by Barry Yates

This colour ringed CORMORANT (described in the last Newsletter) was recorded on the LONG PIT February 9th, 23rd and March 4th. Please have a close look at the legs of all CORMORANTS and note the colour and position of any coloured rings as well as th lettering. In this way you may help to find out more about the habits of this species.

LITTER COLLECTION UPDATE - by Barry Yates

Most of the great mass of litter that has been blown on the reserve has now been removed. The Rye GREENPEACE Supporters group held a successful collection in January, but the FRIENDS February date was washed out, however, the March date did a great deal to clear the beach and on April 1st we should complete the job. Thank-you to everyone that helped.



Slavonian Grebe

HOLIDAYS ON THE RESERVE

No.2 Watch Cottage is available for weekly lets from Easter until the end of October. It sleeps six and some weeks are still available. For full details send a s.a.e to; Mrs June Underwood, Mill House, Mill Lane, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex. TN31 6XA. Tel: (079721) 340.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 1990

Guided Walks

29th April - Sunday - 5pm-dusk (8.30ish). 2 mile walk. Birds especially roosting waders including lots of Whimbrel.

27th May - Sunday - 9am-3pm. 6 mile walk. Breeding birds and spring flowers.

23rd June - Saturday - 8pm-after dark. 3 mile walk. Watch and listen to bats with the Sussex Bat Group during National Bat Week.

15th July - Sunday - 10pm-4pm. Treasure Hunt with cryptic clues. In association with the Sussex Ornithological Society.

28th July - Saturday - 3pm-6pm. 3 mile walk. Migrating birds and summer flowers.

Meet at Information Centre for the start of all Guided Walks.

Plant Recording

7th April - Saturday - a practical introduction to the study of flowering plants within the SSSI. Please contact the Warden for further details and booking. Places still available.

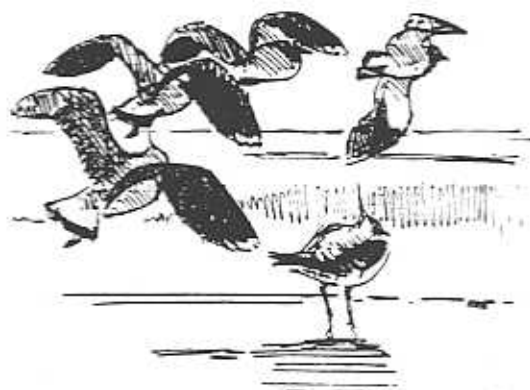
Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

28th April - Saturday - 7.30pm. See attached sheet for full details.

DETAILS OF SALES ITEMS

The range of sales goods not only raises money for the work of the Reserve, but also raises awareness.

Descriptive Leaflet & Map.	20p
Annual Report	£1.00p
Guided Walk Leaflet	20p
Plant List (300 species)	50p
Postcards	10p
Car Sticker	50p
Small Tray	£5.50p
Large Tray	£6.50p
Chopping Board	£3.50p
Tea-towel	£2.20p
Mug	£2.20p
Writing Paper (x10)	£1.50p
Notelets (x10)	£1.50p



Lapwings

Items are on sale at the TERN WATCH Caravan (mid-May until early August), they are also displayed at the RYE HARBOUR STORES and can be obtained from a house nearby, or they can of course be obtained from the Warden's cottage or vehicle.

DO PLEASE RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

SEE OVERLEAF

TERN WATCH 1990 - by Barry Yates

The regular voluntary wardening scheme from mid-May until August will again be organised by Peter Philpot. A TERN WATCHER spends periods of 3 or 4 hours dealing with visitors at the caravan overlooking the Little Tern colony. If you would like to participate please telephone Peter - (0797) 225998.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT - by Peter Philpot

I am pleased to report that we have, at last, reached the 1,000 membership. Of the 189 who hadn't renewed by the last Newsletter, 115 have now done so, and add to this new members, we now have a membership of 1120.

Now I shall be twitching for 1500! Well why not? Lets have another membership drive and whenever we bring a friend to the Reserve point out the tranquility and beauty of the area as well as the tremendous variety of species to be seen, particularly at close quarters from the hides.

Please try to enrol new members whenever you have the opportunity.

The bad news is that despite our increase in membership the AVERAGE subscription has dropped from the £7.50 it was two years ago to £6.00 now. Let me emphasize that the MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP IS STILL £2, but our individual subscriptions actually range from £2 up to a magnificent £100, we just leave it to you to give what you can and hope for the best.

From the enclosed accounts you can see how the running of the Reserve depends on the funds raised by subscription, so I hope you will all continue to support us generously.

A REMINDER - Please note that the subs for 1990 are due on the 1st May.

Those members who wish to pay at the A.G.M. can help immensely by filling in the Membership Renewal Form BEFOREHAND. This will save time and congestion at the meeting. Below is the Renewal Form, but if you have already paid for 1990, or pay by Bankers Order please ignore this request.

COVENANT and BANKERS ORDER forms will be available at the A.G.M., or can you can write for one.

We receive more than £600 each year from the Inland Revenue through covenanted subscriptions, so please consider this form of payment if you are a tax-payer, it does not cost you any more.



Wheatear

----- CUT ALONG HERE -----

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Subscription renewal for the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the period
1st May 1990 to 30th April 1991.

Name: _____ Address: _____
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Sum enclosed: £ _____ cash/cheque. _____
Postcode: _____

Tick box if Bankers Order & Covenant form required.

Please return this form to;
Membership Secretary Friends of RHNR,
Broadwater, The Ridge,
Winchelsea Beach,
East Sussex. TN36 4LU.

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1990

Please note that the 18th Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm, on Saturday, 28th April 1990, in the Winchelsea Beach Village Hall, Sea Road, Winchelsea Beach, East Sussex.

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 6th May 1989, will be displayed on the walls of the hall for members to read prior to the start of this meeting.
3. Matters arising from those previous minutes and approval of same.
4. To approve the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1989.
5. Chairman's chat - Assistant Wardens; sales goods; new car stickers; cottage repaired; future.
6. Any further nominations for 1990/91 Committee?
7. Election of Committee for 1990/91. Any new nominations for the Committee should be sent in writing to the Secretary at:- 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4LU. Otherwise, all members of the current Committee offer themselves for re-election in the same posts as presently held, which are as follows:-

CHAIRMAN	= Ian Rumley-Dawson.	COMMITTEE:
SECRETARY	= Liz Blackwell.	Steve Denny.
TREASURER	= David Marshall.	Bob Greenhalf.
		Peter Greenhalf.
		Frank Palmer.
MEMBERSHIP	= Peter Philpot.	Anne Yates.
SECRETARY	(ex officio).	Barry Yates (Warden).
8. Appointment of Honorary Auditor for the coming year.
9. Warden's illustrated report - hurricanes, floods, fences, latest sightings and news.
10. Any other business.

The Annual General Meeting will be followed by an interval for refreshments and an opportunity to buy some of our Friends sales goods, as well as Reserve leaflets or reports. There will be a raffle to help pay for the hire of the hall. After the interval there will be a short illustrated lecture:-

AROUND JACA IN THE SPANISH PYRENEES

Bernard Flack is a much travelled member of the Friends, who has visited many exotic places to watch birds, as well as other forms of wildlife. He will be giving us a brief glimpse of some of the birds, flowers and magnificent scenery of this rugged mountainous region which he visited recently.

If you have any items to exhibit in connection with the Reserve, such as photo prints or reports, etc., then please bring them along to this AGM for everyone to see and to help make it an interesting evening.

FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1989

EXPENDITURE

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Addressograph and Accessories	60.66	-
Printing etc.	346.20	15.88
Postage Newsletters	242.07	284.51
Stationery and Sundry Postage	105.80	148.37
Books etc.	35.85	20.30
Sale Goods	302.40	991.33
Equipment	995.75	255.25
Sundry Expenses	35.64	98.34
Cottage Loan Repayment	4375.00	4375.00
Hides and Signs	695.21	32.37
Reserve Fencing	644.14	317.53
Legal Fees	-	315.50
Wages - Assistant Warden	-	850.00

Overall Excess	3882.13	5089.67
	<u>11720.85</u>	<u>12794.05</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1989

Current Account	1501.12	2304.43
Deposit Account	9.65	10.24
General Fund Savings Account	5976.38	7107.26
Land Fund	28630.92	31743.94
Wader Pool Fund	1260.49	1398.86
Colin Green Fund	345.35	345.35
Cash in Hand	96.50	-

	<u>£ 37820.41</u>	<u>£ 42910.08</u>
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Treasurers Note Assets to be shown at 31.12.89. were stock valued at £880.75 and the Wardens Cottage valued at £48,000.00 at cost, with liabilities of £4375.00 by way of outstanding loan.

I have examined the books and vouchers of The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the year ended 31 December 1989 and certify that their accounts are in accordance therewith. (Signed) FRANK CLARKE (Hon. Auditor).

INCOME

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
Subscriptions and Donations	6018.62	7729.74
Sales of Publications and Goods	629.36	671.50
Deeds of Covenant Tax Refund	725.17	-
Events	462.65	634.95
Grants	770.00	-
Interest on Deposit Account	.38	.59
Interest on Savings Account	304.80	505.88

LAND FUND		
Interest	2446.71	3113.02
WADER POOL FUND		
Interest	63.16	88.37
Donations	-	50.00
COLIN GREEN FUND		
Donations	300.00	-

	<u>11720.85</u>	<u>12794.05</u>
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