



# NEWSLETTER

## The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

c/o. 1 Coastguard Cottages, Rye Harbour, Rye, East Sussex,  
TN31 7TS.  
Telephone: Rye 3862

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 Runley-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.

SUMMER - AUTUMN 1981  
\*\*\*\*\*

### WARDEN'S REPORT.

R.K.

It is a pleasure to report another interesting and successful season and to recall memories of previous years. My mind is at last relaxed in knowing that we have broken the trend of failure for our ground-nesting bird species, a trend that became so apparent and depressing in the late 1960s, before I knew Rye Harbour and before the Reserve was established. Even during the first few years of the Reserve's history, one could not call the breeding bird populations healthy. Only by hard work, determination and support by all concerned has the change been made possible. We all have a feather in our cap to be proud of!

Star place has to go of course to the Little Terns, which this year increased in numbers to 59 pairs and, despite harassment from a Fox and a pair of Little Owls, reared to flying 45 young. Increases also in the numbers of Common Terns brought their total to 91 pairs, rearing 70-80 young at Ternery Pool, and Ringed Plovers to 35 pairs, rearing about 30 young. Wheatears on the other hand dropped in numbers from 17 pairs in 1980 to between 10 and 12 pairs this year - a result perhaps of the poor summer weather of 1980 - which gave favourable conditions for only one brood per pair before the insect supply was cut off by the onset of cold, wet weather in mid June. This year a similar pattern of weather occurred, although not so wet, and again the Wheatears only managed a single brood per pair, rearing 20+ young. All the adults had left the area by the third week in June.

Some other bird species were in very similar numbers to recent years, but were able to achieve far better success due to our new, extensive (48 acre) enclosure of electric fencing - bringing the total area enclosed in this way to 75 acres. Eight pairs of Lapwings reared to flying about 10 young, 10 pairs of Oystercatchers reared to flying 10 young and 13-15 pairs of Redshanks reared to flying at least 12 young.

When engrossed in solving the problems of our most vulnerable species, one finds little time left to study the plants, insects and many other interesting forms of life inhabiting the Reserve. Some time however, must be found, for these too are important to protect. At the time of writing, a final count of our rarest plant the Least Lettuce (*Lactuca saligna*), a late-flowering species, is yet to be made, but initial observations indicate fairly good numbers again this year. Mrs. Breda Burt, our local authority in the botanical field, has carried out detailed survey work in other parts of the Rye Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.), and has added a few new species to the list.

Among the mammals, Hares have greatly benefitted from the Fox-free areas, where a number of leverets have been safely reared. Badgers were seen more often and a sett was found near the village where a pair reared 4 cubs. Insects of note were 2 Clouded Yellow butterflies during early August, the first record of this migratory butterfly on the Reserve for many years. Also an *Orthetrum cancellatum* dragonfly, only the second record for the Reserve.

The departure of migrant birds is somehow rather a sad time, but we can rest assured for the winter, suitably rewarded for all our efforts - the Friends have aided the year's successes well.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WORKING PARTIES.

P.H.

These will be held on Saturday 10th October 1981, Sunday 14th March 1982 and at Easter on 9th & 10th April 1982. Please meet in the Martello carpark at 10.00 am. and bring lunch, gloves, rubber boots or tough shoes, suitable outdoor clothing and if possible a shovel, spade, fork or rake as well as binoculars. Finish at about 4.00 pm. There will be all sorts of tasks to be done, large and small, so please do not feel that they may be beyond your capabilities - many hands make light work.

\*\*\*\*\*

EYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE - Past, Present & Future. Saturday 24th October 1981, 7.30 pm.

Enclosed is a leaflet giving details of this our public fund-raising event. Please publicise this as widely as possible for us, either by giving it to a neighbour or by displaying it in a prominent place such as a shop, library or other suitable public meeting hall. We hope to see you and all your friends at this event in the Community Centre in Conduit Hill, Rye. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

As described in our last Newsletter, this is an opportunity for Members of the Friends to learn a bit more about the Reserve. The next one will be held on Sunday 10th January 1982, and will start from the Information Centre in the Martello carpark at Rye Harbour at 2.30 pm. and finish back there again at about 4 pm. Each participant is strongly recommended to bring binoculars.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHO'S FOR COVENANTS, AND GOD BLESS THE TAXMAN.

Chris Cummings.

"Surely", said the Treasurer the other day, "almost every one of our members would covenant their subscription if they really knew how it helped us". Let's try to show you how it works.

What is a covenant? It is a promise to pay to someone a certain sum of money for a certain number of years, properly signed and witnessed.

How many years? As long as you like, but at least 4.

And how much? It depends. If you are covenanting a subscription to a charity, then that is the sum. If it's a donation, it can be anything you like.

So -- what's the point? The point, if you covenant to a charity, is INCOME TAX. Charities don't pay tax. But, if you do, they can get a refund of some of the tax you paid.

My aunt pays no income tax at all. Then she shouldn't covenant. Nobody benefits.

I pay tax at the basic rate only. At present, that is 30 pence in the £. Say you covenant £7 a year to a charity. The Taxman says:- "Before I got my hands on your money, that £7 was £10; I took £3 of it (the basic rate), and left you with £7 to give to the charity. A charity pays no tax. So, when they ask me, I will give to the charity the £3 of tax you paid". So you have paid £7, but the charity, between you and the Taxman, collects £10.

Do I get anything back from the Taxman? Not in this case. And you pay him nothing extra, either.

Okay. But my dad pays tax at higher rates -- what then? Lucky him. There are some nice new rules here. Take the case of the same covenant -- £7 -- but someone paying it from income that, at its top rate, is taxed at 60 pence in the £ (say, 45% income tax plus 15% investment surcharge). The Taxman does the same little sum as before and gives £3 to the charity. But then he says:- "Out of that original £10 I took £6 (the 60%), not £3. I've paid £3 of it to the charity; now I must see that the giver doesn't pay the other £3. If he puts the details onto his Tax Return, I will make him an allowance of £3". So in this particular case, the charity still ends up with £10, and your dad, once he gets his allowance, is only in for £4! A splendid result.

The sums, of course, are different for different amounts and different tax rates; and you must have enough income, taxed at the higher rates, to cover the covenant; and you cannot covenant more than £3,000 a year.

What if I die before the 4 years are up? Your payments can stop.

So what shall I do? Ask us for a covenant form. Fill it in, following the instructions, and send it back. Go on paying your subscription as you have done. If you are sent a yearly Tax Return, remember, on the next one you get, to note your payment in the place the Taxman asks you to.

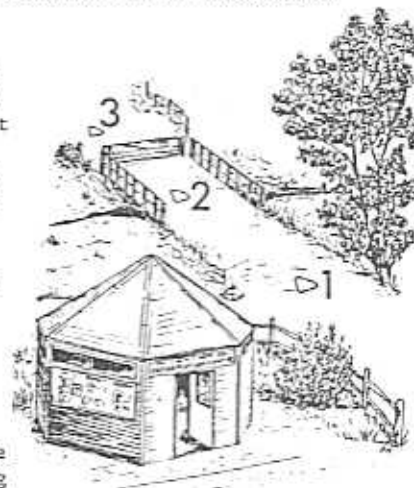
Thank YOU for arranging such a nice bonus from the Taxman.

\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLICATIONS.

In order to make people more aware of some of the interesting features of the area and also to help raise funds for the Reserve, the Friends have just issued two new publications. One is a postcard, (partly shown on the left), which is from a black and white line drawing by Bob Greenhalf, who is a well-known local artist. He has also helped to illustrate the new GUIDED WALK leaflet which works in conjunction with the newly painted guide dots numbered along the road from Rye Harbour to the River Mouth. Pam Haddon, our Assistant Warden, has devised and drawn the clever and unusual front cover of this leaflet, (partly shown on the right).

These and other Reserve publications are available from the Wardens at the address shown in the heading at the top of this Newsletter. Please be sure to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your requests.



	Price:	Postage:	Envelope Size:	
Postcard "The River Mouth"	10p each (or 12 for £1)	11p (or 19p)	7 ins x 5 ins.	} (or one copy of each item ordered at same time, total postage = 36p)
Guided Walk leaflet	15p	11p	12 ins x 9 ins.	
Annual Report (of previous year)	50p	19p	12 ins x 9 ins.	
Annual Bird List (annotated)	25p	15p	12 ins x 9 ins.	
Botany List	25p	11p	12 ins x 9 ins.	
Report of "Little Terns in England & Wales 1977-79" by R. Knight & P. Haddon	£1	19p	12 ins x 9 ins.	

Some back copies of the Annual Report for past years are still available on request.

\*\*\*\*\*