

RHNR FRIENDS' NEWSLETTER



A NEW RANGER AND A NEW TRAINEE FOR THE RESERVE

The Friends are very pleased to welcome new ranger Matthew Rich (below) to the reserve.

He has a background in wildlife conservation and was introduced to nature early by his grandfather who took him on walks as a child, pointing out wildlife along the way.

Matthew's main areas of responsibility will be in helping Dave King in the day to day maintenance of the reserve. "We're aiming to create micro-climates" he told us, "and ensure these are protected and not disturbed. We will also be creating big areas for breeding ground-nesting birds."

Matthew will also be leading groups of conservation volunteers to undertake the practical work needed to maintain the reserve for both people and wildlife. It's heavy work,

often involving cutting back invasive plants or clearing new paths through scrub areas, but Matthew is full of enthusiasm for the work ahead.

"For me, it's just a magical experience," he said. "I feel blessed to be here. Waking up in the morning, driving around the reserve, checking things like infrastructure is a total joy. I honestly can't wish for more."



and to engage with the community. "I have to pinch myself each morning as I walk into the reserve," he said. "It is such a joy to be amongst this changing landscape and I am so happy to be here."

Dav has already spent time working on maintaining the electric fencing that protects our vulnerable ground nesting birds.



We'd also like to welcome our new Heritage Trainee David Bridger (above). Dav grew up in Dorset, visiting the New Forest and the Jurassic coast as a child. His early love of nature led to studies in Zoology and Wildlife Conservation and eventually to the trainee role here.

As with our previous trainees, Dav is excited about the scope of opportunities to develop new skills

He has been shadowing Lucy and her team as they undertake the many education and community events both here at the Discovery Centre and during Forest School visits.

Dav hopes that the skills he gains during his year here will equip him with enough experience to go on and become a Ranger.



Photo of Dav working with children courtesy of Kathy Crowther
From blogs by Dav Bridger and Laura Ross

FRIENDS NOMINATED FOR PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

SEE PAGE 8

The *Friends* have been nominated for an award for exceptional voluntary service. Find Out more inside

HAWKMOTHS ROCK!



Small Elephant Hawkmoth



Bedstraw Hawkmoth

Hawkmoths are among the largest insects, with a wingspan of up to 5 inches. Of the 14 species seen in Sussex, all but the rare autumn migrant *Silver-striped*, *Death's Head* and beautiful *Oleander* have been recorded on the reserve. Three of the 11 are migrants, prized by moth trappers for their relative rarity – *Convolvulus*, *Striped and Bedstraw Hawkmoths* – while the other eight breed locally. One of the prettiest is the *Small Elephant Hawkmoth* (above) of the downs and coast, whose foremost colony in Sussex, according to the county moth recorder, is on the shingle at Rye Harbour.



Hummingbird Hawkmoth



Privet Hawkmoth

Most hawkmoths are active only after dark, but the familiar *Hummingbird Hawkmoth* often feeds in the daytime as it flits rapidly between plants, hovering at tubular flowers such as viper's bugloss, red valerian, jasmine, phlox, buddleia, etc. At rest in a moth trap it is remarkably dowdy but it comes to life as it probes the flowers with its long proboscis (see Barry's photo above). Most are migrants, though some hibernate as adults and may be seen nectaring on warm sunny days even in the winter. Dr Ford's classic 1955 *New Naturalist* book on moths claimed that the whirring of the wings "produces a hum so high-pitched

that, though it can be heard by most women, the majority of men become deaf to it, for the pitch audible to them drops when the voice breaks during adolescence" – can you hear it?

When emptying a trap it can be hard to get a hawkmoth off one's fingers, as their feet are like tiny claws that cling on at any angle. Watch as they vibrate their wings to raise their body temperature for flight, but beware the eventual take-off – they don't flit like butterflies but just zoom away seemingly blindly and might crash into you. Yes, hawkmoths really are rock-n-roll insects!



Eyed Hawkmoth



Elephant Hawkmoth



Hummingbird Hawkmoth



Striped Hawkmoth



Cockchafer (L)

Small Elephant Hawkmoth (R)



Lime Hawkmoth

Words and pictures by Patrick Bonham (*Hummingbird hawkmoth drinking* photo, courtesy Barry Yates)

CHAIR'S REPORT BY CLIFF DEAN

The *Friends* had another successful year with membership rising to its highest ever total of 2,190, and a financial surplus of income over expenditure of £41,848 and financial reserves of £703,458 at the end of the year, of which £246,637 was in cash or deposit accounts.

194 new members were recruited, perhaps reflecting our improved online recruitment and the active role of our Membership Secretary in reminding lapsed members. Three newsletters were sent out and members were kept informed of activities and events through numerous postings on Facebook and Instagram, as well as the website which is currently undergoing a re-design.

Our programme of afternoon talks has now recommenced for the remainder of 2023, and the Discovery Centre has hosted a Friends Open Day on the second Saturday of each month where second-hand books and craft items are sold. The *Friends* have also organised short and extended monthly walks as well as supporting those advertised by the Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT). The monthly *Guide in a Hide* events have proved extremely successful and a *Guide in a Train* was also run in conjunction with the Kent and East Sussex Railways.

The three books published by the Friends, *The Shingle Shore*, *New Ways of Looking* and *Seaside Flowers* continue to sell well from the Discovery Centre and local bookshops, and the other *Friends'* badged products such as mugs, coasters and tea towels are also popular. Sales of these products increased by 40% over the previous year.

There have been a number of changes to the committee, with long-standing Trustees John Barnes, John Trowell, John Willsher, SC Morgan and Mike Russell retiring to be replaced by new Trustees Claire Bayntun and Stephen Masters, while former Trustee Alan Martin has returned to the committee after a 3-year break. Apart from their distinct committee responsibilities, the retirees have all played a vital role over recent years in steering the Friends through the creation and development of the Discovery Centre, and we owe them our thanks. Whilst SC Morgan has stepped down as a Trustee she has agreed to continue to edit our Newsletter. As a committee we have yet to reach equality on grounds of gender (7/4), the majority of Trustees are past retirement age (8/3) and ethnic diversity is very limited within the local community, but these facts are kept in mind and will be improved when possible.

The Trustees met formally on seven occasions during the year in addition to the AGM in October, but were regularly in contact through less formal meetings and email correspondence in order to progress Friends' business. Separate meetings were also held regularly with representatives of the SWT, both with regard to the ongoing management of the Nature Reserve but especially to discuss the operation and development of the Discovery Centre which is heavily dependent on the *Friends'* pool of volunteers.

The planned changes to the SWT reserves management team and the planned retirement of long-serving Rye Harbour manager, Barry Yates, generated a number of high level meetings with SWT directors to discuss these changes and how they would affect the reserve management and the *Friends'* role.

In particular the Trustees were concerned about how these changes would affect the use of Watch Cottage which is owned by the *Friends* but has been used for many years by the reserve manager for his family, as an office and a storage facility for equipment and materials. At the time of writing many of these issues remain unresolved and there is still a vacancy amongst the local SWT staff to be recruited. However, the *Friends* have determined that improvements are essential to bring Watch Cottage up to a better standard and the property has been revalued.

In order to bring the management of our charity more closely into line with the *Charities Commission Code of Practice*, we have engaged Stephen Gilbert (a Chartered Governance Professional) to guide us through a review of all our governance documents and processes. Following his attendance at an initial meeting a sub-group was formed (of Secretary, Treasurer, Claire Bayntun and Stephen Masters) to take this review forward and report back to the full Board of Trustees. Its initial focus has been on clarifying and updating our Mission, Vision and Strategy statements, to be followed by a clarification and the documentation of trustee roles.

On July 6th 2022 our Chair and the SWT Chief Executive Tor Lawrence were invited to an event where they were presented with a *Sussex Heritage Trust Award in the Public and Community Category* for the design of the Discovery Centre. This award, some 14 months after its opening, is further evidence of the success of the new visitor centre which could not have been possible without the extraordinary support that the project received from members of the *Friends* and local supporters.

One of the main reasons why the *Friends'* financial results were better in 2022-23 than in the previous year was because the financial contributions towards the running costs of the reserve (mainly salaries, equipment and fencing) were significantly less at only £34,291 against £74,168 in 2021-22. Finding the correct balance between short-term expenditure and longer-term investment in equipment and potential further land purchases is always difficult, but the Trustees are actively reviewing how best to support and improve all aspects of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for the benefit of the increasing number of visitors that come to enjoy its wildlife and environment.

Cliff Dean

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
Income from		
Membership subscriptions	24,992	27,638
Donations and legacies	36,404	36,357
Trading income	11,540	8,377
Gift Aid	11,388	5,374
Events	2,365	2,037
Interest	1,700	1,205
Other income	2,004	1,615
Total income	90,393	82,603
Expenditure on		
Nature reserve projects and salary contributions	34,291	72,818
Merchandise costs	6,963	6,039
Newsletters and leaflets	1,912	2,730
Legal and professional costs	3,274	3,420
Other expenses	2,006	2,400
Bank charges	99	104
Total expenditure	48,545	87,511
Net income/(expenditure)	41,848	(4,908)
Fund balances as at 1 April 2022	961,610	966,518
Property revaluation	(300,000)	-
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	703,458	961,610

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
	Total	Total
Fixed Assets		
Freehold property	450,000	750,000
Current assets		
Cash at bank	57,818	22,620
Deposit accounts	188,819	188,238
Trading stock	3,140	2,388
Debtors and prepayments	6,088	805
Total current assets	255,865	214,051
Creditors falling due within one year	(2,407)	(2,441)
Net current assets	253,458	211,610
Total assets	703,458	961,610
Fund balances	703,458	961,610

**NOTICE OF THE AGM OF
THE FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE**

to be held at the Discovery Centre
Saturday 14 th October 2023 at 11.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of the Committee's Report for the Year
3. Approval of the Accounts for the period 1 st April 2022 – 31 st March 2023
4. Election of Officers and Committee for 2023 / 24.

Current Officers:

Chair: Cliff Dean

Vice Chair: Phil Jones

Secretary: John Baker

Treasurer: Alan Martin

Membership Secretary: Pat Bonham

The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary offer themselves for re-appointment.
Committee:

The current committee comprises the officers and the following members:

Claire Bayntun, Catherine Emmitt, Stephen Masters, James Tomlinson, Linda Wren. (Co-opted member Christine George).

All the current officers and committee members, including the co-opted member, with the exception of Vice-Chair Phil Jones, offer themselves for re-election.

Any member of the Friends who feels that they would like to put themselves forward for election to the committee should contact the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner

6. Any other Business (Any member wishing to raise an item under AOB is asked to send details to the secretary at jvr.baker52@aol.co.uk at least 7 days before the meeting.)

NB: The AGM is scheduled for a Friends' Open Day at the Discovery Centre when a talk entitled *Gardening for Insects* will take place commencing at 1.30. Anyone wishing to attend this talk will need to book a place through the Website in the usual way – it is not included as part of the AGM.

SAFEGUARDING OUR YOUNGER VISITORS

If you have concerns over the safeguarding of children, young people or vulnerable adults please contact either:

Catherine Emmitt (Committee Member) , 07762 630477, catherine_emmitt@hotmail.com

East Sussex Statutory Safeguarding Authority (Single Point of Advice) 01323 464222

NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

Children at Friends' events remain the responsibility of their parents or responsible adult at all times. If you do not wish your child to be photographed please speak to an organiser.

FRIENDS NOMINATED FOR KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Earlier this year, Chris Corrigan, interim CEO of *Sussex Wildlife Trust* met the former High Sheriff of Sussex, Jane King, for a tour of the reserve.

In June Jane returned to meet *Sussex Wildlife Trust* staff and *Friends'* trustees at Rye Harbour: she was so impressed that she intends to nominate the *Friends* for the *King's Award for Voluntary Service*.

This is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. It is the equivalent of an MBE and it is awarded for life.

The process of selection is a long one. Nominations are made before September 2023 and then between December 2023 and May 2024 assessment takes place. Those who have been successfully nominated are announced in November 2024 and will then receive the KAV award.

The assessment panel is made of those involved in both the business and charity sectors.



We will have to wait until next year to discover if our nomination is successful but the very fact that the *Friends* have been nominated at all is a high honour and says much about the work undertaken by us on behalf of the reserve.

Former High Sheriff of Sussex, Jane King also presented us with a certificate and a donation of £250.

Above: Jane King, former reserve manager Dr Barry Yates (left) and *Friends'* Chair Cliff Dean



FRIENDS' NEW FILM

It's only a cabbage, but what a cabbage! Sea Kale is a marvel of adaptation to its inhospitable habitat.

From winter invisibility deep among the pebbles, its root erupts into tightly folded clusters of imperial purple, which throw open a dome of broad waxy leaves, pink-edged seaglass green, enfolded and channelled to direct rootwards every last quicksilver drop of dew, drizzle, mist and rain.

While our three previous films sought to present an unfamiliar view of the reserve from high above, in this case we asked filmmaker Simona Zineviciute to dive down close to the stones of our globally rare shingle beach, from which she presents an intimate portrait of this seashore specialist. "I was captivated by the breathtaking beauty of the reserve and its diverse plant life," she said. "Amongst the many remarkable species, the Sea Kale stood out with its elegant presence. It was a true pleasure to witness its growth journey, from the small, curly purple leaves to its majestic, full-flowered form. The reserve provided a serene backdrop for capturing the ever-changing stages of Sea Kale's development, showcasing the resilience and natural wonder of this remarkable plant."

The one and a half minute film, is accompanied by a haunting soundtrack, created by Julius Zubavicius.

Sea Kale is not hard to find: every year, thousands of visitors walk past its leafy domes. We hope that, having seen this film, they too will stop and get down close to savour the intricate structure, rich colours and honeyed scent of this most marvellous cabbage.



NIGHT WILDLIFE ON THE RESERVE

On the 21st July, 16 lucky participants went on a night walk on the reserve.

We met at the Discovery Centre at 8pm for a fascinating and funny talk by Michael Blencowe about the various birds, mammals and amphibians that can be heard at night.

We listened to recordings of eerie Barn Owl screams and blood-curdling Fox screeches along with the beautiful calls of Nightingale, Redwing and the strange churring of Nightjars, before setting off in the dark to try to hear some of our own.

We headed up through the village to the reed bed viewpoint, stopping along the way to listen for bats on our detectors. There was high excitement as we identified Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats flying around the Harbour Road and through the trees at the church. This was further heightened when Michael's high-tec kit identified Serotine and Noctule bats and the rare, migratory Nathusius' Pipistrelle.

At the viewpoint we heard the Marsh Frogs 'quacking' call. These frogs are not native to Britain and were introduced from Europe, where they are known as 'Laughing Frogs'. Sadly, despite their friendly call, they are a threat to native frogs in the area as they outcompete local frogs for available food. We heard a Tawny owl in the distance, various ducks and waders and were lucky to have more Pipistrelles fly over.

This was a great initiative by Lucy, that opened the reserve to visitors in a totally new way.

WANDERING WILDLIFE WITH PHIL JONES WHEATEAR

The Northern Wheatear is a member of the chat family. It is a migrant that is usually one of the first species to arrive here in the spring. It is generally a ground loving bird that has a very wide geographical distribution on its breeding grounds, Alaska, virtually all of Europe and northern Russia and Siberia. It winters in middle Africa, south of the Sahara.

The principal feature to identify this species is its white rump – this gave rise to the old English name *white-arse*, which is where the Bowdlerised version of its common name comes from. In spring and summer the male has a blue grey crown, nape and back. The female is much paler brown and has no markings on either its breast or throat. The youngsters are very spotty and look a bit like a very upright juvenile Robin.



Male Wheatear



Wheatear singing

The reserve at Rye Harbour is important to the species as a breeding site. It is only just holding on as a breeding species in the South East. The two sites that still hold breeding birds are here and at Dungeness – which may be an extension of the French coastal population. Until recently the number of breeding pairs on the reserve averaged eight with a maximum of seventeen pairs in 1980. In recent years the typical number is now five pairs, but there has only been one pair attempting to breed this year.

Preferred breeding sites can be holes in walls, rabbit burrows or ruined buildings. In many places rabbit burrows are the most popular nest sites. They will also use nest boxes hidden on the ground in the shingle. There are about 25 nest boxes in place on the reserve and these have been used in the past. The females will generally lay up to six eggs and will also have two broods during a typical season. They take two weeks to hatch and just over two weeks to fledge.

The oldest known Wheatear was recorded at eight years, three months and sixteen days. The typical lifespan is however only about two years.

Their food is chiefly insects, located by sight. They will either hunt in flat areas of short grass, where they can run or perch on scattered bushes and then drop down to grab their prey, much like Robin and Stonechat will do. They will occasionally hover like a Kestrel. The diet can be supplemented by grass seeds or berries, if available.

Probably the best place to try and spot one is the road that runs parallel with the beach, especially near the river mouth. The birds leave our shores from mid September to mid October. A chick ringed by Barry here in a box on 31st May 1991 was found dead 2,156 kms south in Morocco on 4th March 1992.

Links to videos

<https://youtu.be/Wciw3SJqKnw>

<https://youtu.be/8GU-uFXActc>

https://youtu.be/xY_Hrt3vXZA



Juvenile Wheatear

NEWS AND PROJECTS

BEES OF SUSSEX PRE PUBLICATION OFFER

James Power, a great friend of the *Friends*, has spent the last two years writing *The Bees of Sussex*, a comprehensive atlas of all the bees in our county.

Sussex is one of the richest counties for bees in Britain, and this fabulous atlas explores them all. The book is full of colour photos of bees, some by our previous reserve manager Barry Yates and some by bee enthusiast and *Friend* Peter Greenhalf. The atlas also shows the diversity of bee habitats, along with the latest and most accurate maps of recordings.

The atlas shines a light on the state of bees in our county at a time when many who are interested in invertebrates are beginning to despair of their future.

The hardback version of the book is due to come out in February 2024 and James is offering a special pre-publication price of £22.50 which is a saving of £7.50 per copy. If you want to learn more about these fascinating insects you can order online at:

naturebureau.co.uk/bookshop

Proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated to Bees, Wasps & Ants Recording Society and Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

The Bees of Sussex is supported by

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SWT CALENDAR

Sussex Wildlife Trust is producing a 2024 calendar, supported by the *Friends*, featuring photos by Barry Yates, of wildlife found at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Half the profits from sales of the calendar from the Trust's online shop will go directly to help the reserve. Funds raised from the 2023 calendar have already funded management of the nature reserve.

The calendar will be available from the middle of September 2023 at the Discovery Centre or online from the SWT shop.



GOOD NEWS FOR LITTLE TERNS

After several years of very poor nesting and fledging results for the reserve's Little Terns, this year has been more successful.

Eight chicks have fledged and this may be because Sand Eel numbers have been higher in the bay.

Many *Friends* may not know that the reserve was originally established back in the seventies to protect the Little Tern and the *Friends'* logo features a Little Tern. Forty years ago *Friends'* members would volunteer to camp out overnight in a caravan to protect the nests and fledglings from inadvertent harm from passing dogs or walkers.

Over the years fencing has been erected to protect their ground nesting sites, but despite all the care and effort, numbers of Little Terns have steadily been decreasing.

This year's fledgling success is very welcome.

HIDE IS YARN BOMBED



The latest project of the *Craft Group at the Discovery Centre* was to work on the suggestion of yarn bombing a hide for *30 Days Wild* throughout June. Yarn bombing is a type of street art in which knitted objects are used to temporarily drape or disguise various outdoor areas.



The group set to with enthusiasm and produced all forms of wildlife from limpets to octopus, kingfishers to a bittern, ladybirds to mice, in various forms of authenticity. These were then arranged within the Gooders Hide for the month of June. Natasha also produced a few items made by visiting children to the education centre and these were added to the display

Some items will find their way to the classroom for further use by children's visits, so the project will live on.



REFURB FOR FRIENDS' COTTAGE

The *Friends* have been busy refurbishing 2 Watch Cottages after Barry's retirement and move to a new home in Icklesham. *Friends* committee member Stephen Masters has taken on the job of organising the interior redecoration and some exterior work. The work has meant the cottage will be fresh and inviting for its new tenant.



WHAT YOU THINK

"A lovely place. You can take the 313 bus from the train station and arrive with public transport at the doorstep of the reserve. Nice coffee shop ... lots of waders. "

Dan F

GUIDE IN A HIDE

Please note, previously advertised 4pm finish times have now been changed to 3.30pm

Saturday July 22nd	Saturday Nov 18th
10am until 3.30pm	10am until 3pm
Sunday Sept 17th	Sunday Dec 17th
10am until 3.30pm	10am until 3pm
Sunday Oct 29th	Friday Dec 29th
10am until 3.30pm	10am until 3pm

LUCY GETS A NEW SHELTER

The *Friends* have been pleased to help finance a new shelter for Lucy and her team to use during their many children's education days. "It's so helpful," Lucy told us, "for really hot, sunny days or for when we have a light shower. It means we can stay outside as much as possible, which is why the children are coming here in the first place."

The shelter was designed by Joseph Williams and is made of sustainable eco-friendly materials including bamboo for the uprights and a stretchable fabric awning. The awning can be taken down and packed away easily when not in use, which makes the shelter almost invisible.

The *Friends* shared the cost of the shelter with the *833 Lottery* and Lucy and her team also contributed to it. We hope that lots of classes will be glad of its shade and shelter during our increasingly hot summers.



ABOUT THE FRIENDS

The Friends work in partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust, other local organisations and landowners through a management committee to agree the way forward for Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

The Friends now have more than 2,000 members who make a big difference to the reserve by providing funds, but many also give their time as volunteers to support the work of the reserve staff. Friends are kept informed about the reserve with three of these newsletters per year and staff organise exclusive guided walks for members.

The Friends are involved in a huge range of activities on the reserve. They help fund staff and equipment, they help with outdoor workparties, with educational activities, they staff the information desk at the Discovery Centre, they produce and post out the newsletter, manage membership and organise great talks and events. The Friends have also funded five hides on the reserve, all of which are accessible.

The Friends funded the original purchase of Lime Kiln Cottage, the installation of the temporary information centre and, most importantly, the initial contribution of £1.5m towards the Discovery Centre Project. Friends' donations helped to buy Castle Water and to transform it from a gravel dredging site to the amazing reed bed that it is today.

They also pay for vehicles and machinery to maintain the reserve. Friends contribute annually to providing staff on the reserve so that we have a wide variety of fun activities for adults and children alike.

Friends volunteers have helped offer information to visitors for many years. Staff regularly have volunteer work parties to litter-pick, create and maintain habitat such as the wader pools and reed beds and to help out with the various jobs that need to be done on the reserve.

The Friends are an amazing group... thanks for being one of us.

OPEN DAYS AND TALKS

Friends' Open Days in the Discovery Centre:

Saturdays Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, each preceded by a 2-hour guided walk from Rye Harbour car park at 8.30. At Open Days it's hoped to have the craft stall and the second-hand wildlife book stall. The monthly Lottery Draw is at 11am and there's a chance to browse the Art Wall and the wide range of sales

Illustrated talks at the Discovery Centre:

Sept. 9: *Seaside Flowers of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve* by Dr Barry Yates. Booking is now open <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seaside-flowers-of-rye-harbour-nature-reserve-tickets-641501657727>

Oct. 14: *Gardening for Insects* by Chris Bentley. Booking opens at 8.00 am on 1st September: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/gardening-for-insects-tickets-641535167957>

Nov. 11: *Artist Paul Nash and his Association with Rye* by Jim Northover. Booking opens at 8.00 am on 1 Oct: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paul-nash-and-rye-tickets-641549871937>

Dec. 9: *Friends' Christmas Quiz* (general knowledge). Teams of up to 6 people. Booking opens at 8.00 am on 1 Nov: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friends-of-rhnr-christmas-quiz-tickets-641950289597>
Entry is free to members, but to avoid disappointment you are strongly urged to book in advance.

Please ensure the membership secretary, Patrick Bonham bonhams422@btinternet.com, has your current email address, even if you get a printed newsletter. Members without email may book by phoning Christine George (07786 077280) as soon as possible after bookings open.

Please note that to avoid any disturbance to those attending, dogs will not be allowed in the talks, which are held in the classroom. Also, please book a place only if you feel confident you will be able to attend on the day. If you need to cancel, for whatever reason, let Christine know in advance so that she can offer their place to someone on the waiting list.

FRIENDS ADDRESS:

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
c/o Rye Harbour Discovery Centre,
Rye Harbour Road, Rye Harbour,
Rye TN31 7FW

Contact: 01797 360960

Site Manager Paul Tinsley-Marshall
(starting 7th August 2023)

Rangers: David King
Matthew Rich

Learning & Engagement Officer:
Lucy Bowyer

FRIENDS' COMMITTEE

Chair	Cliff Dean
Vice Chair	Phil Jones
Secretary	John Baker
Treasurer (temp)	Alan Martin

Committee:
Linda Wren, Catherine Emmitt,
James Tomlinson, Claire Bayntun,
Stephen Masters, Christine
George

Membership Secretary
Patrick Bonham
3 North Salts, Rye,
TN31 7NU
01797 222480

WEBSITES:

THE FRIENDS

www.rhnrfriends.co.uk

ABOUT THE RESERVE

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/ryeharbour

THE NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor: S Morgan
We print on paper made from: timber/
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