

# Chairman's Statement 2022

## Objectives

The objects of The Charity shall be to further the charitable purposes of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, including assisting the management of The Reserve through voluntary work and contributions, fundraising by way of subscription and activities, organising local publicity for The Reserve, recruiting members to support The Reserve, co-operating with relevant local bodies and authorities and taking any other measures considered to be in the interests of The Reserve.

## Activities for Public Benefit

The activities organised by the Charity and the facilities introduced or improved as a result of financial or other assistance provided by the Charity enhance the public's appreciation and enjoyment of the nature reserve in particular and wildlife and wild places in general. In line with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, The Charity regularly reviews its objectives and achievements in order to ensure that the guidelines are complied with.

## Achievements and Performance

Following the lifting of most Covid-19 related restrictions the new Discovery Centre on the reserve finally opened to the public in May 2021.

In terms of visitor numbers and revenues generated the Centre has exceeded expectations, and has led to an increase in Friends membership to above pre-pandemic levels. Additionally, the Friends have been able to resume trading in branded goods through the Discovery Centre and other local outlets.

The Discovery Centre now provides a home for the Friends' indoor activities, including a new programme of monthly Friends Days, and serves as a base for a programme of outdoor guided walks.

The Friends made a contribution of £31,000 towards the salaries of nature reserve staff in line with previous years, and an additional one-off contribution of £20,000 towards a fill-in post for a member of administrative staff who has moved into an educational role.