

# HERE & NOW

**AUTUMN 1991 NO. 1**

## **RIVER HAVEN RAN BLACK**

The river Haven ran black and dead carp floated on the surface and this a river where my son once practiced the art of angling.

There are few things more emotive than a dead river. Perhaps it is because we are made to realise that the balances of nature are fragile. One hiccup and the lot can collapse.

Southern News, Hastings Observer, and the Citizen all reported reactions to the black River Haven. Many suspected the tip, spreading ever further into the marsh. They argued that the liquids it contains, swollen by the heavy rainfall of June had found their way into nearby ditches and so into the river. An understandable view if you live within range of the dust, the smells, and the incinerator fumes coming from the place.

But environmental facts are usually most difficult to come by, and an accusation is worthless without facts.

On the facts available a National Rivers Authority officer favoured natural causes as the likeliest suspect, but pointed out that not all the facts were in so no one could yet be sure.

Areas of the marsh upstream of the tip have produced black water, as have

areas on Pevensey Marsh. Ammonia levels are usually high in tip liquids and the water they pollute. Here they are low.

So what is the likely story? Warm wet conditions have been right for bugs to rot flooded vegetation without using oxygen. Sulphur using bacteria have been working on soils rich in iron salts. A smelly mud results which in very slow flowing water sinks to the bottom. In this case cold water from storms may have brought the warm water to the surface and with it this partially rotted yuck. Other bugs using oxygen would set to work finishing the process of rotting and denying fish their oxygen supplies. Result havoc.

### **Truth?**

How true is the story? Oxygen levels were very low but water fleas and the like that could be expected to go missing have not done so.

Clearly more facts are needed and these the NRA are seeking. Samples from the tip and from the river and its ditches have been taken, to look for pollution indicators. Evidence of previous occurrences of this nature are being sought. The results of these

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## **HASTINGS GREEN CHARTER**

It is the intention of Hastings Borough Council to produce an Environmental Charter for its residents. This document will state the authority's commitment to promote conservation and the sustainable use of all resources both locally and globally. This Charter will continually review the Council's policies, programmes and services.

However, the Environmental

Charter must be a document by the people for the people or else it has no authority and for this reason Hastings Borough Council has embarked on a full programme of workshops and consultations. The information collected from these has been considerable and shows how many residents are supporting environmental change.

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## **WATER ISSUE**

### **EAU DEAR**

The water of  
South East  
England

### **HEALTHY DRINKING A DOCTOR'S VIEW**

## **PLUS**

### **WHO'S DOING WHAT?**

Local groups  
listed

### **A SEASON AT RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE & MORE...**

## WHY 'HERE & NOW?'

More and more we are told that our environment is not well. Sadly though, for some it is like a distant relative in a nursing home. There is not much to be done about it except pay the fees, visit when possible and hope that they can do something.

It is not like that. Each of us is powerful. What we buy, use, permit, decides the health of our environment and that of everyone.

We all need to know what is going on internationally, nationally and locally. This periodical is about YOUR local environment, here and now; the air, water and food supplies; sewage and rubbish; the countryside, town and sea around you, and the environment inside you.

To keep the venture going we need your help. We need news of groups, your questions, letters, articles, poems, stories to publish, even though we may not agree with what you say and cannot pay you. We also need your help to run the

organisation, which is voluntary, non-political, non-profit making, and broke before it starts. If you cannot help directly and want to see the magazine survive perhaps you could give a small donation. Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Here and Now, crossed account payee, and sent to the address below. Cash payments can be made for any amount, however small, at any branch of Lloyds Bank in Battle, Bexhill, Hastings or Rye.

If you would like 'Here & Now' delivered for the next three issues please send three stamped, self-addressed, size A4 envelopes and a donation of not less than £3 to the address below.

If you can help in running the magazine please write to this address:

Here and Now, Top End, Furnace Lane, Broad Oak, Brede, nr Rye, East Sussex  
or telephone (0424) 882085 or (0424) 814255.

**When you have finished with this copy, please pass it on to someone else.**



*"Remember the days when the only acid drops were sweets?"*

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We make every attempt to be accurate with our information, but if anything is incorrect please let us know and we will publish a correction in the next issue. Please note that articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor.

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# I WONDER

If a company hires out a skip, then removes it on request, how does it know the contents before allowing it to be tipped? Or does no one care?

Hastings Town Centre road scheme was estimated to cost in Mar. 90, 10.8 million pounds. Has it reduced or added to the greenhouse effect?

Will supermarkets ever introduce bring-your-own-container shopping? For example detergent could be delivered by tanker and sold by dispensing machine. Science fiction? Could it not become science fact, a correspondent asks? The reduction in packaging and its waste disposal would be immense.

I wonder if the government will subsidise east-west railroads as much as it will motor-roads to reduce the pressure on towns like Rye, Hastings, Bexhill, Battle and their countryside. As the M25 has proved, bigger roads mean more traffic. Surely we should at least consider better trains. To increase the strength of the rail lobby you can join Transport 2000, and/or the Railway Development Society.

Southern Water claims it will invest an average of £3 million a week for the next 10 years to bring all its facilities and services '...up to the standards demanded by the European Community, our own Government, and by our own customers.' (Conservation Matters Issue 12). Why should this be if we really are the clean man of Europe as it also claims? We welcome the investment but also the truth.

I wonder if our Local Councils are pro-environment enough to reduce kerbside parking, put cycle lanes in its place and introduce park and ride schemes?

Dr. David Wheeler of Surrey University says EC directives on viral contamination of sea water are being

ignored. (Environmental Digest Sept. 90). The viruses come mainly from sewage outfalls. Are ours checked for viruses or only for bacteria?

East Sussex is threatened with illegal tipping. County Enforcement Officers are investigating some 40 such tips. They rely heavily on the help of local people. Do you know of illegal tipping or tips being used illegally?

Mike Turner of Transport 2000 points out that the Ashford-Hastings line has space for twin tracks and uses 30 year old diesel units. The single line, hourly service takes 45 to 50 minutes to travel 25 miles. There will be a sharp increase in east-west traffic.

## ACCOLADES

To East and West Sussex County Councils for their programme of guided walks for the family. Tel 0273 477851 or 477893 for details.

To East Sussex County Council. A dripping tap can lose 34 gallons of water a month. ESCC employees have reduced water consumption by 60% in 1990 by reducing water used in toilets and by stopping taps dripping. If everybody in the Southern Water area used a tap for one minute less each day enough water would be saved to nearly fill the Darwell reservoir. And because they would need to produce less clean water, S.W. could lower the rate!!!



To everyone who tries to save petrol. The Gulf War might not have been about oil, but the burning Kuwaiti wells should remind us all how much we rely upon it, and how much pollution is caused by its burning. And a double accolade to those who share a car. Saving petrol saves pollution.

To Sedlescombe Council who persist in their efforts to ban dogs from their playing field. There is nothing worse than a covered cricket ball - other than a plastered pram wheel.

To Hastings Town Planners for resisting the building of a 30ft. radar tower in Fairlight Country Park.. (See 'Who Does What' for details of Fairlight Conservation Group).

To Southern Water for achieving UK and EC requirements in 99.9% of water samples taken (Observer: 26 July 1991). It is a pity the water is brown at times around Brede [see my kitchen tap!]

To Safeway and Tesco (Hollington) for providing recycling collection points. It is a shame that Safeway had to withdraw the recycling bin for paper because of their fear of fire, and because of children (who shall inherit the earth) who used it as a play thing. Please make sure you separate various colours of glass. One brown bottle can ruin a whole lorry load of white glass.

To the A.A for motoring tips to reduce environmental damage. (Members Newsletter Spring/Summer 1991). Will they now campaign for a substitute for the internal combustion engine?

To Brian Griffith (Letters H & St. L Observer 16.8.91) for asking the Borough Council for a cycle track on the promenade.

## RASPBERRIES

To Hastings Borough Council for failing to control flood waters which have plagued the area around the Memorial for time immemorial.

To the A.A. who claim better roads mean less pollution and a reduction in greenhouse gases. (Members Newsletter Spring/Summer 1991).



If cars and lorries were not increasing in numbers they might be right - except for the exhaust gases from quarry excavators, bulldozers, cement kilns, lorries, concrete mixers, aggregate diggers and sorters, graders, asphalt importing lorries, road surfacing machinery, lorries, road marking equipment, and lorries needed to build the roads which then encourage more traffic into this region on bigger and 'better' bypasses all subsidised from our taxes. It needs an ecological costing exercise to be certain, but surely train tracks and electric trains must be greenhouse advantageous. And they may run late sometimes, but can you drive to London and arrive on time? And then can you park?



**Q**uestion: What did we once think was renewable, could clean itself forever, and never run short? Answer: Freshwater in South East England. But why not now?

As always water evaporates off the sea and land, drifts around in clouds, drops down as rain, hail, sleet or snow, fills up rivers, lakes and the rocks below us, waiting to be used, then flows down to the sea again to be cleaned in a natural cycle on which all land life depends.

That cycle has not changed. What has changed is that there are more people, with each one of us demanding more water. More people using dishwashers, washing machines, hose pipes, car-washes, and swimming pools means more water has to be found. If the demands of industry and intensive farming are added to that, and the drought of the last two years is taken into account, it becomes clear that we have a serious problem, despite the rain early this summer.

There is a limit to the amount the rivers, lakes, and rocks can hold for us, and a limit to the rate at which it can be replaced. Increasingly we are over-reaching that limit. Last summer the Darent, once a small but vigorous river which runs through Dartford to the Thames, ran dry in places because too much water was pumped from underneath it. Even in November stretches of it were still only a trickle, instead of the healthy stream it should have been. Eastbourne once took all its water from underneath the massive chalk hills of the Downs, until water levels in wells near the coast sank so low that seawater started to flow in. The reservoir at Arlington was built to change that situation, and now that does not hold enough. Hastings and district is in a similar position. The Darwell and the Powdermill reservoirs hold water pumped from the Rother. They hold just enough for the (approximately) one hundred thousand people they supply - providing there is no drought.

To meet present and future local needs,



Southern water want to enlarge the Darwell. The extra water will have to come from the Rother, and although we are told by Southern Water that there should be enough, ultimately there is a limit to the amount that the river



*Blue green algae have been discovered at the Darwell reservoir. We have all helped to put it there by using detergents containing phosphates and by demanding higher farm production, which means using nitrate and phosphate inorganic fertilisers.*

can supply. Some environmentalists are up in arms about the project, but in fairness to Southern Water, they are doing what they are required to do - supply us with water. In the process they point out that they are asking Sussex Wildlife Trust, the Field Archaeology Unit of University College, London, and the Nature Conservancy Council, to help assess the environmental impact.

The bottom line though, is with us. Somewhere, some time, we have to call a halt, and the first step must be to meter the water. This does not mean that 'Here & Now' supports charging for water, metering could also be used

for rationing, which many argue would be a fairer way to treat such an essential commodity, but whatever system is used, it is essential that we limit the amount of water used, and make people aware of the whole situation. Careful use of water will reduce the energy required both to dig and dam future reservoirs, and to clean and move the water. This will reduce Greenhouse pressures, lower the demand for quarry spoil, gravel, and land, and ultimately benefit the whole planet.

To show what can be done, consider Hastings and district where Southern Water supply about 100,000 people, living in 40,000 properties. On average, if for each person a tap ran for one minute less each day, then we would save 364 million litres each year, which is twice the capacity of Powdermill reservoir.

But saving water is not enough. The natural cycle cannot keep it clean of the things we now put in it, some of them invisible and gradual, others obvious and mucky. Not around YOU? Well look about. A number of examples have been reported to us lately: during July the River Haven running black and all the fish dead; a stream at the head of Fairlight Glen with an unhealthy colour; drainage pipes and run-off discharging into Mapelhurst Wood, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest; industrial waste brought directly to the Long Sea Outfall.

Colours, waste, do not mean pollution, but they are not natural. Neither are large scale fish deaths and streams and ponds choked with plants looking like green scum.

Look about you. Become an environmental inquirer, and when you find something you do not like the look of - ask, ask, ask.

Ask the National Rivers Authority, Rother Environmental Health Dept, and your Local Councillor what is happening. Answers will not come easily and you will have to keep up the pressure but the more you ask the more likely a clean up will start.

For addresses see The Back Page.

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### HOW MUCH DO WE USE...

USE	Litres
General Household	25/per person daily
Bath	100
Shower	20
Flushing the loo	9
Washing machine	115
Dishwasher	50
Garden hose	1000/hour

Using a hose for one hour consumes the equivalent water used by one person in a week.

# DOCTOR DOCTOR

## ON HOME-MADE TAP WATER POLLUTION

We can live without food for several days but not without water. Our bodies are composed of 70% water and yet I wonder how many of us get our daily requirement direct from the tap without any additions? I suspect not many. Instead we flavour it with sugar (squash), caffeine (tea, coffee, coke), hops (beer) alcohol, or spend vast sums on "Designer" water which is more expensive per litre than crude oil. Why do we do this? Is it because it is more interesting or have we been conned into believing it is better/safer/more chic?

Take sugar first. Squashes including Ribena are basically sugar, and sugar rots teeth. Baby Ribena is not much better and those special baby fennel and camomile drinks provide sugar with your water and virtually no nutritional benefit whatsoever. We get our babies hooked onto this white powder before they are one then wonder why they do not like savouries once they are two.

Lemonade and Coke follow when

they are older. More sugar, and Coke also contains caffeine which makes you pee more to make you drink more. Tea and coffee also flavour our water and many of us are caffeine

addicts, but does it do any good? Well it may wake us up but it also causes palpitations, tremors, and is thought also to worsen P.M.S. (pre menstrual syndrome) and osteoporosis (thinning of bones).

As for bottled "Designer" waters, are they really any

better or safer for us? Not necessarily. "Which" found all the still waters that they tested (except Spa) contained larger numbers of bacteria than you would find in tap water, certainly making it important to boil it before giving it to babies. They may also contain larger amounts of Nitrates (and there is no upper limit for these bottled waters as there is for tap water). Everyone knows about the Benzene in Perrier. But what about the amount of plastic used in making these bottles? What happens to them all when we have drunk the water? Is this an environmentally sound way of us getting our water or an Ad. man's con?

We may want just to drink a glass of water from the tap without adulterating it in any way, or buying the stuff from a Supermarket, but when it looks brown and tastes of ? chlorine? borax? and we hear of the problems they

had in North London, no wonder we hesitate. The next thing we can do then is filter the stuff. Here was another marvellous market opportunity for those far sighted entrepreneurs. You can now buy jug filters, a distiller, a reverse osmosis under sink filter, and activated carbon..... I won't go on. Did you know anyone who had one of these 5 years ago? Should we really have to do all this?

I think that it is worth fighting for, a safe palatable water supply that I don't need to filter, flavour, or fabricate. I know it would be better for me than any squash, beer or coffee, I would drink more of it and would be a lot healthier.

N.B. Your local water supplier (see under Water in the Telephone Directory) will supply a read out of the constituents of your water with maximum acceptable levels. Your Local Environmental Health Officer can deal with any queries about your health and the water you drink.

Janet Dinwiddie.

Dr. Dinwiddie is a family doctor with a concern for environmental and preventative medicine.

## HOW WE CAN SAVE WATER...

- Shower rather than bath, but if you bath, run no more water than you need.
- Don't wash, shave, or clean your teeth under a running tap. Always collect the water you need in a cup, bowl, or basin.
- Put a brick in the loo cistern, or lower the level of water by adjusting the ball valve.
- Boil water in a kettle jug. It will save energy and allow easy measurement of the exact amount needed.
- Wash the car using a bucket, not a hose.
- If you are watering the garden, put the water round the plants that need it, not on the area between that does not. This will also inhibit weed growth. An old plastic hose with a cork in the end and holes drilled at intervals along it is very efficient when watering rows of vegetables.
- Collect as much rainwater as possible for the garden. Hoe regularly and apply heavy mulches of organic matter. Collect the water from your washing machine and dishwasher by using separate waste pipes delivering to water butts.



# WHO'S DOING WHAT?

## BRITISH TRUST FOR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

BTCV is the country's leading practical conservation organisation. It acts as an umbrella body for over 700 local conservation groups, organises working holidays, training courses, week-end events and work with schools. We are especially active in Hastings and the surrounding area, providing opportunities for people of all ages and from all walks of life to 'do their bit' for the environment. For the past two years we have run the Hastings Community Woodland Project, which aims to involve local people in the protection of Hastings' marvellous woodland heritage. So if you like fresh air, meeting people and doing something of real benefit for your environment give us a call.

Dean Morrison BTCV, Ore Centre, Old London Rd., Hastings, TN35 5BH Tel 0424 446395  
See 'I Wonder' column for further information.

## DUNGENESS ACTION SOCIETY OF HASTINGS AND DISTRICT

Aims to oppose and prevent the extension of activities at Dungeness Nuclear Power Station and to campaign for its eventual safe closure. Membership is now over 300, and includes strong support from Hastings Borough Council. Meetings monthly, on the first Tuesday of every month at 201 Priory Road, Hastings. For more information contact Ann Kramer, (0424) 429795.

## FAIRLIGHT DOWN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

This society was formed in December 1985 to conserve Fairlight Down and its surroundings.

Much of the society's work is concerned with monitoring planning applications and raising awareness about environmental issues.

The society is currently preparing a formal proposal to Hastings Borough Council for a joint project to restore North Seat.

The society produces quarterly newsletters and regularly organises walks, talks, and excursions.

Membership is by subscription which is set at £2 per person, or £5 for a family for 1991/2.

Please contact Carol May on (0424) 713834 FDCS is associated with several other groups. These are Hastings Environment Forum, the East Sussex Environmental Forum, Hastings Urban Wildlife Group, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Federation of Sussex Amenities Societies, and the Wishing Tree Residents Association

## FRIENDS OF RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

This group was founded in 1973 to raise money and to improve and enlarge the Reserve and to do so by encouraging interest in the conservation of wildlife and scenic beauty within the area known as the Rye Harbour Site of Special Scientific Interest. Membership is now over 1100 and new members are very welcome. For more information please contact Dr. Barry Yates, (0797) 223862.

See 'A Season at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve' in this issue.

## RYE SUPPORTERS OF GREENPEACE

Rye Supporters meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Ypres Inn, Rye, 8.00pm. New members welcome.

Sat Nov 2nd... THE Jumble Sale, at Rye Community Centre, 2pm to 5pm. Deliver Jumble to hall on the morning of event any time after 11am or phone 0424-814255 for collection. Doors open 2pm.

For further information about Greenpeace and our activities please Contact Charles Sandeman-Allen, (0424) 814255.

## HASTINGS BEAVERS

Hastings Beavers are a local group of volunteers sponsored by BTCV who are active every Wednesday protecting the local countryside. Activities include tree planting, pond work, and building gates and stiles. We are open to people of all ages looking for something positive and different to do during the week (young children should be supervised by parents). Lifts are usually arranged from Hastings Railway Station or the Ore Centre on Wednesday mornings. Contact Tom Delafons for a programme, at BTCV.

## HASTINGS HEALTH PROMOTION UNIT

The Resources Centre of the HPU is now open Monday to Thursday 9.30am -

5.00pm, and Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm. Pop in and familiarise yourself with the wide range of health topics available. A warm welcome awaits you, and remember, our team are always willing to give help and advice.

## HASTINGS URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

Who cares about nature conservation in Hastings? We do. Our overall aim is to conserve and enhance the natural environment in Hastings for the benefit of wildlife and public enjoyment. Among our successes we count getting policies to protect wildlife written into the Borough Plan, our garden survey, and the walks and talks on Hastings' hidden wildlife habitats that members enjoy. Join us, enjoy yourself, and support wildlife in Hastings. Otherwise it won't be here and now, it will be there and gone! For further information contact: Judy Clark (0424) 720369.

## HASTINGS AND ROTHER FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

We aim to alert people to global environmental problems and to encourage them to change to a simpler lifestyle, less destructive of our planet. We campaign locally and seek to involve people in activities to protect and improve the local environment. Our activities have covered such matters as recycling, litter, beach pollution, waste disposal, transport problems, and allotments. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Friends Meeting House, South Terrace, Hastings at 8pm., and we can be contacted at the Green Office, Archway Books, 43a George Street, Old Town, Hastings, Telephone 425918.

## HASTINGS TRUST

An initiative to improve the repair, appearance and preservation of buildings and their surroundings funded jointly by Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex County Council, and English Heritage. The HUCP runs grant programmes for building repairs and enhancements, supports and assists voluntary organisations, co-ordinates environmental improvement projects, runs the Conservation Shop at 58a High Street, Hastings, and runs a desktop publishing service. Contact the group on (0424) 718636.

**FOR ALL ADDRESSES SEE THE BACK PAGE**

## HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Britain's largest organic gardening organisation, researching sustainable and ecologically sound methods of growing. Encourages gardening without artificial fertilisers and pesticides and supplies a wide range of seeds, fertilisers, garden sundries and books.  
Contact: Jack Mitchell, (0424) 62514. Also see 'Organic Gardening' column by Jack, and see 'The Back Page.'

## THE NORTHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY

This society was formed on 1st December 1987 and has recruited 482 members. We are very keen to improve the environment in which we live and a committee member is currently carrying out a study on this subject including recycling, she can be contacted on Northiam 253267.  
The society welcomes new members, including associate members if you do not live in Northiam. Annual subscription is £1.50p. Members enjoy a number of social activities, and for more information please telephone Northiam 252824 or 253267.  
The society is part of a network of conservation societies in this area; for details of a society in your locality contact: The Federation of Sussex Amenity Societies.  
Mrs Pauline Bullock, Forge House, 1 High St., Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 3HA. (0424) 211711.

## ORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Ore Community Association is an organisation that provides facilities, mainly for the over 18's, which include the following:  
Whist, Darby & Joan Club, Keep Fit, Slimming Club, Yoga, Bingo, Exercise Therapy Group, Ballroom Dancing Tuition, Shooting, Sussex Brass Band and many other band groups. Also at the Centre is an excellent playgroup called The Rainbow Playgroup and a Mothers & toddlers Group. For further information regarding dates and times, please telephone 432719 (A.M. only). Membership is £4 per year and activity fees are £1 per session.  
We also have a Snack Bar open to the public and members, and a licensed bar.  
Confirmed dates for coming events are -  
6th Hastings Brownies Christmas Bazaar Saturday 23rd November 9 am-12 o'clock.  
Sussex Brass Carol Concert Friday 20th December 7.45 p.m.  
Mrs. RA Waddell, Ore Community Association, Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5BH.

## RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

A national organisation concerned with maintaining and extending access to the countryside for walkers. Local groups organise rambles and footpath clearance, and ensure that rights of way are kept open.  
Battle Ramblers, contact:(0424) 62514.  
Hastings Ramblers, contact: (0424) 712435

## ROTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

Rother Environmental Group has been formed to protect and enhance the local environment, and projects are tackled as the membership decides. The members meetings are an update of current group projects and an opportunity for members to raise new issues. The group is at present working on the increase of recycling facilities in the region, better control of industrial nuisance in the Rye area, and the scrutiny of planning applications in the Rother District. Future events are:  
Sat Oct 19th Grand Jumble Sale at Rye Community Centre 2am to 5pm. Deliver jumble to the hall on the morning of the event after 11am or phone 0797 226607 for collection.  
Tue Nov 12th AGM at Rye Community Centre 7.30  
Sat Nov 30th Christmas Bazaar at Rye Community Centre  
All correspondence to PO Box 100, Rye, E.Sussex TN31 7DF  
Or telephone Joe Dearden (0797) 226607.

## ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

The RSPB has 640,000 members whose aim is to encourage conservation of wild birds by developing public interest. Local reserves are at Crowhurst (Fore Wood) and Dungeness.  
The local groups of the RSPB aim to involve members in local activities such as indoor meetings and lectures about places of interest for the naturalist, fund raising for the Society, and providing assistance for local projects connected with wildlife. The meetings are open to all members of the RSPB, an organisation well worth joining.  
RSPB Battle Group: Audry Curry, (0424) 64258. RSPB Hastings Group: Kath Goddard, (0424) 212356.

## RYE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The Society was founded in February 1973 to meet the pressing need for a local body to concentrate on preserving the character and charm of a town as ancient as Rye which would arise from the local government reorganisation due in April 1974.  
The Society's area of public benefit

comprises the Civil Parishes of Rye Town, Playden, Rye Foreign and East Guldeford and also the Rye Harbour area of the Civil Parishes of Icklesham and Camber.  
The aims of the Society are to promote high standards of planning and architecture and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.  
Enquiries to 0797-223185 (Hon Secretary).

## SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Do you love our beautiful Sussex countryside and are you concerned about its protection? Then why not join the Sussex Wildlife Trust? We are one of the network of County Trusts working in partnership with the Royal Society for Nature Conservation to prevent loss and damage of valuable wildlife habitats through inappropriate development. We manage over forty nature reserves in Sussex, run educational programmes and act in an advisory capacity.  
The Regional Groups also organise lectures, walks, fund-raising events, etc. For more information about subscriptions and activities phone local group secretary, June Bailey, on Hastings 813517 or write to our headquarters at Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex.

## WOODLAND TRUST

A national organisation concerned with the purchase, maintenance, creation and protection of native, mainly broad-leaved woodlands. Many woods throughout the country under threat of felling are owned by the Trust. They are active locally and among local sites are Guestling Wood and Wennen Wood, Robertsbridge. These wood are always open to the public. For further information please contact Trevor Croft, (0424) 717275.

## WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### Understanding Environmental Issues

In October the Worker's Educational Association will start an evening course entitled The Great Environmental Debate at the WEA room Priory Road, Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. - Tutor - Jenny Tracey. This is open to all and we will discuss our relationship to the environment and other vital issues. This is one of a series of WEA courses including Local and, Natural History, Archaeology and World Affairs. The WEA is an independent, national, voluntary organisation, controlled by its students to provide courses. Brochures of courses can be obtained from Libraries and further information from Joan Pugh Tel. 444686 or Audrey Guy Tel. 436174.

**FOR ALL ADDRESSES SEE THE BACK PAGE**



# A SEASON AT RYE HARBOUR NATURE RESERVE

## SUMMER

Our local countryside has a great variety of attractive habitats in which many thousands of different species live. An increasing number of people are taking more interest in the wildlife around them, some take an active part in recording the many different plants and animals and a few are able to manage habitats. I am fortunate that I am able to do all of these as warden of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and I hope that I can persuade you to get out and see some wildlife for yourself.

The summer is an exciting time with most species trying to breed and take advantage of long, warm days and a good supply of food, but this year was unusual. Disappointing is one description of the weather that we have endured this spring and early summer, another is wet and cool.

Looking back on the spring at the Nature Reserve, the migration of birds was almost halted in April by a prolonged, cool, northerly airstream which continued for most of May. For some species there were very few records, for instance my count of the number of Sand Martins seen in spring did not reach double figures!

May was the coolest on record (reserve records go back to 1977) with a mean maximum temperature of 14.2°C (1977-1990 average 15.9°C), while June

was the wettest with 128.5 mm (1977-1990 average 54.5 mm) and cool with a mean maximum temperature of 17.0°C (1977-1990 average 18.5°C).

Consequently most birds had poor breeding success, but our most important species, the Little Terns had a good season, despite the very worst weather. The 48-50 pairs (40 last year) nested within our electric fencing which gives some protection from foxes. However, there was an early loss of 10 nests one night to a fox, but thereafter most nests hatched. Bad weather and a Kestrel accounted for some chicks, but about 35 successfully flew – the best year since 1987.

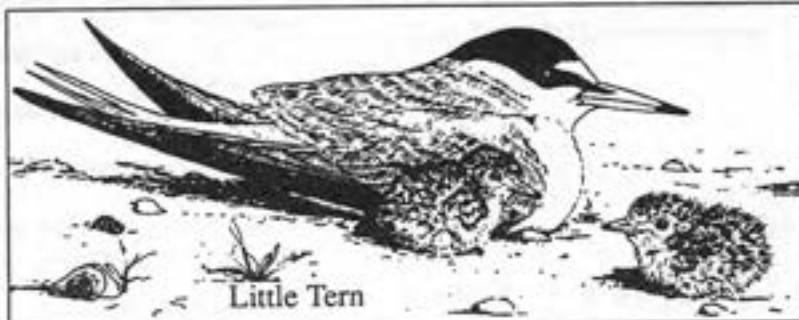
The other nesting Terns did very badly. Common Tern numbers were down to just 45 pairs (90 last year) and these raised less than 5 young because of the wet and windy weather. Sandwich Terns did briefly nest, but the two pairs failed soon after the start of incubation. The breeding Waders of the reserve also had a very poor season with chicks growing slowly and suffering a high mortality because of the wet and windy weather and a poor food supply.

In contrast to these failures the shingle plants had exceptional flowering seasons after a late start and should produce a great quantity of seed for future years. The many specialised plants of the shingle normally endure drought conditions for much of the growing season, but this year, just as the ground was drying up in late April, the rain came and enabled many species to produce a long lasting colourful display. Most

noticeable were the Viper's Bugloss, Yellow-horned Poppy and Sea Kale, but most important was the large number of our nationally rare plant, the Least Lettuce.

Most birds travel great distances in their life looking for a safe place to feed and breed, and it is inevitable that some get lost. At Rye Harbour there were a few rarities, Montagu's Harrier, Iceland Gull, Goshawk, Spoonbill, Little Egret, Temminck's Stint, Savi's Warbler, Osprey, Roseate Tern, Lesser Crested Tern, Bee-Eater, and a Kentish Plover, but it was the Least Tern, an American species that has occurred at Rye Harbour for 9 years and nowhere else in Europe, that attracted more than 500 keen watchers from all over the country.

As we go towards the shorter days of winter it could be easy to sit by the fireside and watch the television, especially if its showing some exotic wildlife, but so much real life wildlife would be missed. Instead why not wrap-up well and endure the weather to watch some of your very own wildlife. If you



Little Tern

don't know where to start join one of the many groups and go out with others who will be able help you, or join me on one of the Guided Walks organised by the Friends of the the Reserve or in the Exploring Sussex booklet produced by East Sussex County Council.

The Nature Reserve at Rye Harbour is an area of national importance for its wildlife and each year we add more information about its huge variety of species. The Reserve is open to visitors at all times, with a complex of footpaths and three bird watching hides, one of which is adapted for wheelchair access. The Information Centre at the free car park in Rye Harbour provides a good point from which to explore the area.

Dr Barry Yates, (Warden of the reserve).

For a free leaflet and map of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve please send an sae to Dr. Yates. See 'The Back Page.'



A Hide



# ORGANIC GARDENING

## PLANS FOR A NEW LOCAL WILDLIFE AREA

A huge expansion of our area given over to wildlife conservation is proposed by the local Organic Gardening Society. Under the slogan 'Every Garden Counts' the Society calculates that if half the gardeners in Hastings and Rother introduced organic methods into their gardens, some 15,000 acres of land could become a haven for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Apart from enhancing the quality of our local environment that such a development would produce, there are all

enjoy a flow of healthy food knowing that their home-grown fruit and vegetables would

*If half the gardeners in Hastings and Rother introduced organic methods into their gardens, some 15,000 acres of land could become a haven for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.*

and other insects.

Benefits would also arise from the

the other benefits that would ensue.

The reduction in the gallons of pesticides, herbicides and fungicides being poured into the soil, would be matched by reductions in pollution at the places where all these products are produced. Unknown health hazards associated with many of the chemicals in common use would be eliminated for organic gardeners and their families. They would be really safe to eat, proved by the fact that a mouthful or so had already been tested by the odd slug or caterpillar that predators had missed. The flower garden too would be enhanced by bees, butterflies

reduction in household organic waste that would find its way to the compost heap instead of the land-fill site. The unpleasantness and hazards of bonfire smoke would also be reduced as composting replaced burning.

If you are interested in helping to realise this wildlife conservation scheme, find out how to change over to an organic garden from your local Organic Gardening Society or from the Henry Doubleday Research association (see 'The Back Page').

Remember, every garden counts, and if you are not fortunate enough to have a garden there are plenty of vacant allotment sites waiting to be developed.

Jack Mitchell



A new wildlife area?

## book reviews

**The Rye Quiz Book** by Peter Ewart. Makes local history come to life.

**Global Warming: The Greenpeace Report** (Oxford Univ. Press 5.95) This collection of papers from world climate specialists contains no rhetoric, but only hard evidence.

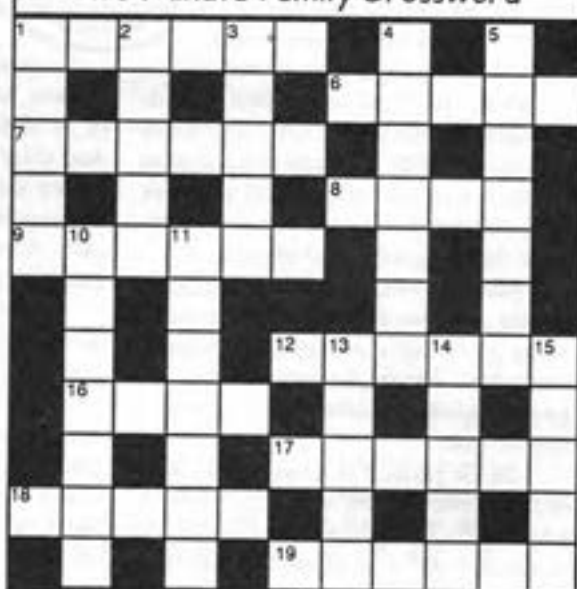
**Young Person's Guide to Saving the Planet** by Debbie Silver (Virago) With its easy style and attractive lay out this makes essential reading for the next generation.

**Operation Earth** by Dr. J.K. Leggett (Heinemann). This is a series of six books available in hardback at £8.95 each or £45.95 for all six. The titles are *Air Scare*, *Troubled Waters*, *Waste War*, *Energy Gap*, *People Trap*, and *Dying Forests*. These books are profusely illustrated and well presented and although they are aimed at eleven to thirteen year olds, adults have been seen reading and enjoying them. Schools tackling environmental problems should find them very useful.

**Gaia Atlas of Planet Management** edited by N. Myers (Pan 1986). An absolute must for any school or public reference library. Readable by young and old alike, extensively illustrated, and worth buying for your own bookshelves.

**How to be Green** by John Button (Century Hutchinson 1989). This book thoroughly covers every aspect of green living including food, transport, children, money, packaging and recycling, energy saving, and shopping. Each issue is explained concisely and clearly giving the facts, what needs to change, what you can do, and who benefits. It also contains an extensive bibliography and list of useful names and addresses. The author is backed by Friends of the Earth.

### Five Minute Family Crossword



#### ACROSS

- 1) Turn down rubbish
- 6) Envious environment
- 7) Crushed beneath your feet
- 8) In a babe's cot, north of England
- 9) Straw roof
- 12) Search for ages
- 16) Royal fisher?
- 17) Thinner than rope
- 18) Conscious
- 19) A light wind

#### DOWN

- 1) Not wrong, not write
- 2) Not fauna, not butter
- 3) A loud boom
- 4) A farmer's driver
- 5) Peter's marsh?
- 10) Two birds of prey make one
- 11) A place for leather and brown skin
- 13) A river animal sounds warmer
- 14) Not dead
- 15) Aerie king

# HOMES GET GREENER

It's never been easier than now to turn a house into a "green" house, with manufacturers responding to the growing demands of consumers for environmentally-friendly goods.

Woodware is one of the areas coming under close scrutiny by shoppers – and quite rightly. Friends of the Earth say that 99.8 per cent of tropical hardwood comes from unmanaged forests. So, the best advice to anyone thinking of buying a tropical hardwood product is don't – unless you're absolutely sure it's from a sustainable source.

Products which are suspect include mahogany bathroom fittings, saucepans with teak handles, all-wood items such as bowls, boards, and pepper mills in teak or other rare hardwoods, and of course hardwood furniture, doors and windows.

Alternatives to products in threatened woods are now common, hevea wood being particularly widely used. A hardwood from sustainably managed tropical forests, hevea, or rubberwood, is a substitute for teak.

On the plastic front, one market leader points out that while plastic may have a bad image with some environmentalists, it actually offers a number of benefits: plastic uses little power to make, lasts a long time (not always seen as a benefit), and often uses minimal packaging. Most manufacturers of plastic

household items have also now almost eliminated cadmium from their products – a heavy metal used to produce bright yellows and reds (however there are other nasties still to be eliminated. – Ed).

Household plastics manufacturers are also starting to realize that the apparently mundane subject of rubbish disposal is actually one of national importance, and bringing out products to help householders recycle waste.

Now, you can buy plastic boxes with lids for outside storage of cans, newspapers, bottles, etc, waiting to go to the various recycling centres. And there's a kitchen "twin-bin" on the market too, which has one compartment for recyclable waste and one for disposables. Each can be removed and emptied independently.

There are also special lockable containers for toxic household waste such as batteries and bleach bottles.

Meanwhile, councils too are getting more interested in systems for separating household waste for recycling. Under a new experimental scheme, for example, Sheffield has been designated Recycling City, with up to 10,000 households supplied with special boxes for recyclable waste. If the scheme is



Most companies now offer plastic containers for inside and outside use, designed to help separate waste for recycling



as successful as it is in Canada, it will spread throughout the UK

One product of all the glass that is now being recycled is drinkware for kitchen and dining room. With its distinctive green tinge and rustic look, it's become extremely popular, even with non-environmentalists!

There are choices to be made in the cookware field too. For instance, you can buy three-in-one pans that offer three separate stacking utensils that only require one heat source, thus saving energy. An Energy



This three in one saucepan saves energy, using just one heat source to cook three different parts of the meal

Base pan with a special scrolled base claims to save up to 25 per cent of energy compared with other cookware.

And on the electrical front, jug kettles use less energy than traditional versions, taking far less time to boil up water. A kettle descaler will help it retain its efficiency.

## ADVERTISEMENT

**BOB-A-LONG COACH HIRE,**  
Harbour Road, Rye, East Sussex  
TN31 7TE  
Tel: Rye (0797) 226770  
*No Smoking in the coach*

December 14-15 1991 Belgian and French mini-break Ostend and Bruges

Includes: coach transport from Hastings and Rye, leisurely ferry crossing Ramsgate – Dunkerque with Sally Line, one night at the 'art deco' style Lido Hotel in Ostend sharing twin/double room with w.c. and bath/shower and continental breakfast, a morning in Bruges, and a hypermarket visit.

Adult £50, child u/14 £40 (sharing triple with 2 adults £35)  
Optional travel insurance £5.25  
To book: send names, address and payment to Bob-a-long coach hire.

## Green Charter *Continued from page one*

The authority has sought to acknowledge the significant role in responsibility that it has for encouraging solutions to environmental problems within the Borough. It has done so by producing the following brief Statement of Intent. This is intended as a framework for comment leading to a full Environmental Charter.

The Council will demonstrate its commitment to the environment by:

- Minimising pollution of air, sea, land and food.
- Encouraging any emerging environmental solution such as recycling, energy audits etc.
- Protecting open spaces wherever possible.
- Giving freedom of information on the environment.
- Promoting environmental education and awareness on local, global and personal health issues.
- Ensuring that all Committees and Departments consider

environmental implications within all action and reports.

- Producing an annual "State of the Environment" report for Hastings and examining an Environmental Audit.

- Developing transport and planning policies that attempt to minimise the use of cars and encourage public transport, cycling and walking.

Discussion and consultation has taken place on all these issues and a Draft Charter will be available for further comment at the end of September and, prior to December, a full Environmental Charter will have passed through the Council and will be a document to protect the natural environment for the people of Hastings and mankind generally. The Environmental Charter will be a document for action not just a list of unachievable ideals. It is now up to the people of Hastings to make the most of this important opportunity.

### Black Haven *continued from page one*

enquiries have been promised to Here and Now.

One other thing. At the time of the incident there were three officers available for pollution enquiries.

Two became very heavily involved with the river and the many enquiries it generated. This left ONE officer to deal with the rest of the SE Region. Is this any way to finance an organisation that is supposed to protect us?

This magazine is not political. We do not care how the money is found but found it must be to make environmental protection real.

ADVERTISEMENT

## La Cucina Verde

(The Green Kitchen)

The Old Town new Italian-Vegetarian Restaurant at 50 George Street, Hastings.

Open daily from 10am to 10pm. Every day we serve different dishes from the heart of Italy that will satisfy not only the traditional vegetarian-vegan, but all who would like to eat and enjoy a healthy mind and body through a non-meat diet. We also cater for all your special occasions. Just ring (0424) 426665.

### THE WIND A POEM BY JESSICA LEIGH-DAVIS (8)

Do you want to be published? We welcome contributions to this page either short stories (max 200 words) or poems. Please send an sae if you want your work returned.

The wind wakes up  
Puts on her dress  
She says to her self  
I'll make a mess  
She goes through the town  
making a riot  
but sometimes she  
can be very quiet  
She knocks down trees  
as big as a tower  
but sometimes she  
does not hurt a flower

ADVERTISEMENT

## FF CASSETTES

High quality New Age music by David Roberts featuring Phil Thornton. "Driftin," and "Mystical Day" each at £5.99 or £9.99 for the two. 50p of your payment donated to Green organisations of your choice. Money back guarantee. For further details write to FF Cassettes, 29 Roundwood Road, Hastings, TN37 7LD, or tel. (0424)753792.



# THE BACK PAGE

## GROUPS

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers  
Contact: Dean, at The Ore Centre, Old London Road, Hastings. Tel: (0424) 446395.

Dungeness Action Society of Hastings and District

Ann Kramer, Tel: (0424) 429795.  
Hastings Urban Conservation Project  
58a High Street, Hastings. Contact the group on (0424) 718636.

Fairlight Down Conservation Society  
Mrs K How, Tel: (0424) 813516.

Hastings and Rother Friends of the Earth  
Green Office, Archway Books, 43a George Street, Old Town, Hastings. Telephone 425918.

Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve  
Dr. Barry Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, Winchelsea, East Sussex, TN36 4LU. Tel: (0797) 223862.

Rye Supporters of Greenpeace  
Charles Sandeman-Allen, Knockbridge House, Icklesham, Rye, East Sussex, TN36 4AN Tel: (0424) 814255.

Hastings Countryside Rangers program of events is obtainable from the Tourist Information Centre, Robertson Terrace, Hastings.

Hastings Urban Wildlife Group  
For further information contact Judy Clark (Chair) on (0424) 720369 or Ron Humphries (Membership Secretary) on (0424) 752744, or write to the membership secretary at 8 Chanctonbury Drive, Hastings TN34 2QN.

Henry Doubleday Research Association,  
Ryton 'on' Dunsmore, Coventry, CV8 3LG, or Tel: Jack Mitchell, (0424) 62514.

The Northiam Conservation Society  
Mrs Pauline Bullock, Forge House, 1 High St., Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 3HA. Tel: (0424) 211711.

Ore Community Association  
Mrs. RA Waddell, Ore Community Association, Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5BH.

## Ramblers Association

Battle Ramblers, contact: (0424) 62514.  
Hastings Ramblers, contact: (0424) 712435.

## Rother Environmental Group

All correspondence to PO Box 100, Rye, E.Sussex TN31 7DF.  
Or contact Joe Dearden: 0797 226607

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
RSPB Battle Group: Audry Curry, Tel: (0424) 64258. RSPB Hastings Group: Kath Goddard, Tel: (0424) 212356.

## Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Local group secretary, June Bailey, on (0424) 813517 or write to our headquarters at Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex.

Woodland Trust. Contact: Trevor Croft, on (0424) 717275.

## Workers Educational Association

Joan Pugh Tel. (0424) 444686 or Audrey Guy Tel. (0424) 436174.

## WATER ADDRESSES

National Rivers Authority, Scots Float Depot, Military Rd., Playden, Rye. Tel: (0797) 223256. (For the rivers Brede and Tillingham (0323) 762691).

Hastings Environmental Health Dept, 44 Wellington Sq., Hastings. Tel: (0424) 722025.

Bexhill Technical and Environmental Services Dept., The Watch Oak, Battle Tel: (0424) 3371.

Southern Water, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex. Tel: (0903) 64444

The name of your Local Councillor can be obtained from the Town Hall, Hastings, (or Bexhill for Rother District).

**Please keep us informed of any changes to group contacts and addresses. If you want your group listed, write to us Here and Now.**

## Letters

**You don't write too well, your spelling is rotten? Don't worry, you have every right to ask. Believe it. Your letter matters. A number of letters**

**on the same topic cause officials and politicians to sit up and take notice, and do let us know the answers you receive, especially in letters.**

Dear Sirs,

We are supporting the idea of a magazine devoted to local environmental topics. We wish you every success and the best of luck. We feel sure it will be well received.  
From,  
Rye Supporters of Greenpeace.

this new venture and wish you every success in your efforts to attract sponsorship and financial support.

Yours sincerely,  
Trinity Wholefoods

Dear Sirs,

We are very pleased to hear that you are launching a new publication concerning the care and protection of the environment. We understand that this will highlight activities, problems and campaigns in this area as well as giving publicity to local groups and organisations.

We are pleased to give our full support to

Dear Sir,

I welcome the publication of Here & Now. A regular local environmental magazine is an excellent follow-on to the Hastings and Rother Green Pages Directory. It deserves a wide circulation and the support of all local people and organisations concerned about the environment.

Good luck,  
Jack Mitchell.  
For Hastings and Rother Green Pages.