



Isle of Wight Volunteer's Newsletter

Issue 2

05/03/05

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NT Annual Church Service

Sunday 13th March
Mottistone Church
3.30pm
Everyone welcome

Beach Clean

Sat 19th March
Meet at Brook Beach
at 9.30am (for approx
2 hrs) Gloves and bin
bags will be provided

Children's Easter Egg Trail

Mottistone Manor
Garden, Easter
Sunday 11am—1pm
Entrance normal
admission. Follow the
clues to find an Easter
egg. Plus free face
painting and egg &
spoon races.

Raising the profile of the National Trust

On Friday 18th March
a colour supplement
about the National
Trust on the Isle of
Wight is being
distributed with the
County Press.
Prepared by Zoë and
the Isle of Wight staff
it is packed with
information and photos
— do make sure you
see a copy

Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of the volunteers' newsletter. Heather Bradshaw has taken on the role of co-ordinating volunteers and as we become more organised, we thought that you would like the opportunity to know what is going on within the Trust on the Island.

As Easter is in mid March this year we will be making an early start. We hope that the weather will be kind to make it a flying one.

The sea will be very much on our minds this year. 2005 is the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Enterprise Neptune. It is Neptune that has enabled us to acquire such special parts of the Island coast such as the Needles Headland, West High Down and Headon Warren, Shalfleet and Culver Down.

SeaBritain will also be an important focus for us this year and we have a number of exciting events planned. I hope you will be able to come to some of them.

Thank you for all your hard work during the last year. We have managed to achieve many crucial tasks and without your help our properties would not be so well managed and we would not be able to provide visitors with an enjoyable visit.

Best wishes for the coming season.

*Tony Tutton
Property Manager*

Staff Update

We would like to welcome the following new members of staff:

David Metcalfe has been appointed as Fort Manager at the Needles Battery.

Andrew Wenden is a Seasonal Membership Recruiter at the Battery and **Mark Stringer**, who worked there towards the end of last season is returning to help with the catering.

At Mottistone Manor **Simon Blackmore** and **Abigail Wilkinson** are sharing the role of Seasonal Visitor Reception Manager.

Pauline Fallon and **Don Webber** are the new "Roving Recruiters" who will be recruiting members at outside events throughout the summer.

Volunteers for Mottistone Jazz 29th & 30th July

Extra helpers are needed for the two jazz evenings. In particular we need people to sell raffle tickets. This is not as daunting as it sounds and only takes about an hour after which you are free to enjoy the jazz. We also need helpers to sell glasses of wine and cans of beer from the "control tent". We have not tried this before so have no idea how popular it will be, but you will get a good view of the jazz and should have a sociable time as at least one raffle ticket seller and

and someone selling items from the shop will also be based in the tent. Length of shifts will depend on the number of helpers - and we will of course get a licence!

Jazz Tickets....

go on sale on Monday 4th April from the National Trust Shop, Brighstone. Tickets cost £15 each and can be purchased by phone using a credit card, by post using a cheque or in person. Phone Sheila on

740689 for details.

On Friday 29th July **Pete Allen and his Jazzin Around Big Ten** will play in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Saturday 30th **Pete Allen's Dixieland Jazz Band** will play traditional jazz. Featured also on both nights are the ever popular **Goose Island Syncopators** and another local group, the **John Davidson Quartet** (with a female jazz vocalist).

PR / Admin Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for someone to help us with publicity and basic administration during the summer for a few hours each week, preferably on a Wednesday or Thursday. Based in the Longstone Office, tasks will include:

- preparing & distributing posters for events
- photocopying property guides and handouts
- laminating
- cataloguing press cuttings
- recording survey results.

Basic IT skills (WORD) would be useful. If you are interested, please call Heather or Zoë for an informal talk.

WANTED

Books, books and more books to sell at Mottistone Manor Garden. Any subject, fact or fiction, as long as they are in a good, clean condition. Please bring any unwanted books to the Longstone Office, or phone 741020.

Disability Matters

Hearing Loops have been installed at all the pay to enter properties this winter. For those of you who have not come across these before, a small microphone is attached to the shop or reception counter. This amplifies the sound within a 6' radius for anyone wearing a hearing aid. Portable hearing loops for use on guided walks and garden tours are also available at Newtown and Mottistone Manor. This is part of the Trust's ongoing commitment to improving

visitor access and other improvements include photo albums for those unable to visit all parts of a property and large print menus and guides. It will take time to do everything we would like and although improvements are required by the Disability Discrimination Act it is also part of the Trust's core purpose of preserving the countryside and buildings for ever *for everyone*. If you have any suggestions or questions relating to disability matters, please contact Heather.

News from the properties

The 4 months since the properties closed to the public have been a busy time, with the most noticeable alterations being made at Mottistone Manor. The entrance barn has been “gutted” and totally rearranged to give a spacious visitor centre with a shop and new exhibitions for SeaBritain, including one on Brooke Lifeboat. Major changes have also been made in the rose garden and the large hornbeam hedge, a prominent feature for the last 30 years adjoining the double herbaceous border has been removed giving the garden a fresh, new appearance. In the absence of a Fort Manager at the Needles, Hannah has been working alone for much of the winter. She has been helped, when possible, by volunteers to carry out essential maintenance



Staff & Volunteers – Needles Battery Painting Day L to R: Volunteer Robin Day, Property Manager Tony Tutton, Volunteer Geoff Harris, West Wight Wardens Paul Davies & Sean Adams, Head Warden Robin Lang, Assistant Property Manager Zoe Colbeck, Custodian Hannah Griffiths.

Taking the photo, Administrator Heather Bradshaw

work but it seemed unlikely that painting clothes and joined everything would be finished for Hannah and volunteers the start of the season, so one Robin and Geoff to “blitz” the day in February the office staff painting of the shell store, toilets and wardens donned their and tunnel.

News from the countryside

Following the exciting acquisition of farmland at Shalfleet last year that borders the Western Haven at Newtown National Nature Reserve, Wardens Paul & Sean, and Volunteer Mike have been busy installing much of the fencing and access points ready for livestock grazing and opening to the public later this year. Please note that to prevent disturbance to the sensitive farmland wildlife, this property will be a dog-free zone. Look out for opportunities to visit this site with the wardens and help with the management of the site.

Paul Davies, Warden West Wight

IW Assoc. of National Trust Members

Last year the Association donated the money for three seats, two below the road to the Needles Headland and one between Strawberry Lane and the Longstone. The Association also provides money for tools and other equipment wanted by the volunteers, so please contact us if there is anything you require and we will see what we can do. Fundraising for the National Trust is not, however, the only function of the Association. We also aim to make membership of the Trust more interesting by providing holidays, day trips to the mainland, events on the Island and meetings with speakers during the winter months. Volunteers, along with National Trust staff, are welcome to join the Association without necessarily being members of the Trust. Membership is free for the first subscription year. We have some 560 members at present, although we still have some difficulty, in common with other associations, in finding members prepared to serve on the committee.

Les Auckland, Membership Secretary

Newsletter Online

Robin Day, a volunteer at the Needles Battery, has designed his own webpage for the Needles at:

www.theneedlesbattery.org.uk

This is a very interesting site and well worth looking at. Robin is also in the process of adding our newsletter to the site so that potential volunteers can learn a little more about the Trust on the Island. The Trust is also updating and improving its official website with more control for local pages being given to properties — further details will be available later in the year.

Newtown National Nature Reserve

Some of you will have met Robin Curtis when he was living in the bungalow at Newtown last year. Robin is now spending 3 months as a full-time volunteer based at South Wight and as an “extra” task has kindly agreed to produce the annual Newtown Bird Report again. This is a massive and time-consuming undertaking and we are very grateful to Robin

for agreeing to do this. Copies of the report cost £1 and can be obtained from the Visitor Point in Newtown or from the Longstone Office. Friends of Newtown NNR receive a copy automatically. The annual subscription to the Friends is £7. Please contact the office on 741020 for further details.

STOP PRESS: TO ALL NEWTOWN VOLUNTEERS

This year we will be opening the hide 2 weeks early on Sunday 20th March, the same day as the other properties. If you are able to help from this earlier date, please phone Simon on 531622.

Volunteer Events

After a lot of thought we feel it would be more appropriate to hold the volunteers’ tea party one afternoon at the end of the season, in November to celebrate the season’s successes when they are still fresh in the mind. This would then be followed in early March by a “coffee and cake morning” when everyone can get together to be brought up-to-date about what has happened over the winter and the plans for the coming season. Any important

information that the Trust as a whole wants passed on can also be included. We hope that you will agree that this is a good idea and will be of benefit to volunteers but if you do have any strong feelings about the proposed change, please let us know.

If we go ahead with this change, it will mean that this year there will be two events; the tea party on 8th March and then another in November. Rather than having two tea parties this year, we would like to suggest a quiz afternoon in November, along the lines of a pub quiz with

teams of people and a small prize for the winners. It can be as competitive or non-competitive as you like but, hopefully it will be fun, friendly and informal! Long service awards will be presented and light refreshments served.

2005 IS THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER - do you have any suggestions of how we can mark this occasion?

We would like to thank Robert Moore for allowing us to hold the volunteers’ and staff BBQ again at Mottistone Manor Garden. The date in August is still to be confirmed.

Christmas Eve Walk



30 people joined in the festive lucky with the weather as soon Christmas Eve walk led by Tony after the last person had left, the Tutton. The two hour walk skies opened and there was a started from the car park at torrential downpour. Everyone Mottistone Manor and went up seemed to enjoy the morning to the Longstone before and we are planning to repeat it crossing the common and again this Christmas. returning to the Manor Barn for homemade soup and rolls, followed by mincepies and coffee. We were incredibly

Bembridge Fort Open Days - Help Needed

A third open day was held in of 60 people for future tours. to help with these tours. If you January which again proved Due to Health and Safety are interested please contact very popular. 50 people were requirements we need two Heather or Zoë taken in groups of 10, on guided people to accompany each walks round the fort and we group and we would therefore already have a waiting list like to have a team of volunteers

NEW FOR 2005 Children's activity trail at the Needles Old Battery

The Bournemouth Survey

Properties that have more than about their visit. The 1,000 completed questionnaires 20,000 visitors are required by questionnaire is quite lengthy to enable the Trust to gain a the Trust to take part in the and asks everything from what good view of the level of visitor Bournemouth University Survey. the weather was like to whether satisfaction. Any comments This year both the Needles the visit was considered good specific to the property are then Battery and Mottistone Manor value for money. Visitors can referred back to that property for Garden will be participating therefore take the questionnaire any necessary action or which means that visitors to home and post it back when consideration. these properties will be invited completed. Altogether each to complete a questionnaire property should aim to have

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!

A volunteer (or volunteers) to help in the shop at Mottistone Manor on Sundays and/or Mondays from 11am to 2pm. Contact Robert on 741302 or Heather on 741020 asap.

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