Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

WHAT’S ON

2019

Sussex Wildlife Trust
Welcome to the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve What’s On 2019 brochure. Here you will find details of over 80 events, walks and talks that will help you discover this unique landscape, rich in wildlife at all times of year.

About
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a large coastal reserve managed by Sussex Wildlife Trust. It lies two miles southeast of the town of Rye in East Sussex. Made up of shingle beach, saline lagoons, freshwater scrapes and pools, saltmarsh and reedbeds, it is an important site for birds, plants and invertebrates.

The reserve has a network of 15km of footpaths, many of which are accessible to wheelchairs, and each of our five birdwatching hides has some wheelchair access.

There is a large car park and public toilets opposite the reserve entrance, in the village of Rye Harbour. The nearest postcode is TN31 7TX.

There is a regular bus service to Rye Harbour village from Rye train station. Visit traveline.info for more information.

Booking and payments
Many events have a maximum number of participants, therefore booking is essential. Please book early as places are limited.

Online booking: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

For some events it is not necessary to book. Please ensure you are at the meeting point at the start time indicated.

Some events have a small charge payable upon booking, for others, donations are requested. The average donation is £5 per person.
**Children**
Events aimed at children are indicated by this symbol.
All children aged under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, unless otherwise stated.

**Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**
Events indicated by this symbol are for members of the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve only.

**Sussex Wildlife Trust**
Events indicated by this symbol are for members of Sussex Wildlife Trust only.

**Contact**
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
2 Watch Cottages
Front Ridge
Winchelsea Beach
TN36 4LU

07884 494982
RHNROffice@sussexwt.org.uk
sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/ryeharbour

The production of this leaflet was supported by grant funding from Rother District Council.
January

Tuesday 1 January 10am to 12.30pm

**New Year’s Day Walk with a Warden**

Burn off some of those festive calories with a birdwatching walk around our shortest circular route – taking in three bird watching hides, saltmarsh and the beach.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Sunday 6 January 10am to 1pm

For Friends members only

**Friends’ Coastal Walk**

Come and take a closer look at the waders and waterfowl which make the reserve their home during the winter months.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.*

**FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS.**
Sunday 27 January 10.30am to 2pm

**A Winter Ramble around Pett Level**

With reedbeds, grassland and wetlands to explore, Pett Pools and Pett Level are a perfect location for birdwatching. Join our warden Chris, along with local bird watcher Phil Jones, to explore this rich area looking for wildfowl, waders and birds of prey. Bring a packed lunch and binoculars if you have them.

*Meet at the roadside pool at Pett Level – TQ899142*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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**February**

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Saturday 2 February 1pm to 4pm

**World Wetlands Day Walk**

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve is a Ramsar wetland site and today is World Wetlands Day. This circular walk will visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water where we should see waders, egrets, ducks, marsh harrier and, if we are very lucky, a bittern. We will also have a quick look inside Camber Castle. Meet at Brede Lock (near TN31 7TD), a five minute walk from Rye station, car parking nearby in Rye.

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Sunday 10 February 3pm to dusk

For Friends members only

**Friends’ Winter Birds**

Join one of our wardens for a walk around the pits and reedbeds at Castle Water to learn about some of the reserve’s winter birdlife, with a good chance of seeing species such as bittern and bearded tit.

*Meet on the road by Rye Harbour church (look for the RHNR Land Rover).*

**FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS.**

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Saturday 16 February 2.30pm

**Birds of Kent and Sussex**

Part of the Friends Winter Programme. Brian Nobbs is a member of the Friends and, as well as organising activities for his local RSPB group in Sevenoaks, he also travels widely, having undertaken many trips to various parts of the world. The talk is illustrated by Brian’s own excellent photography.

*Meet at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall TN36 4NA*

*Organised by the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve but open to all.*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**
Sunday 17 February 1pm to 4pm

**Castle Water Wildlife Walk**

A walk to Camber Castle with an opportunity to look inside and visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water where there should be many waders and ducks to see and possibly bittern and marsh harrier.

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye*  
*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Tuesday 19 February session 1 - 10 to 11am,  
session 2 - 11am to 12 noon, session 3 - 12noon to 1pm

**Build a Birdbox**

It’s National Nestbox week, time to build a home for your garden birds before the nesting season starts. Join the Rye Harbour wardens to make a birdbox to take home. Each session lasts one hour and all tools, materials and instructions provided.

*Meet at the kiosk in Rye Harbour car park.*  
*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST:** MEMBERS £6.50 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £9 PER CHILD  
*3 slots available: 10 to 11am, 11am to 12 noon, 12 noon to 1pm*
March

March to May

**Nature Tots**

Bring your little ones for mornings of fun on the beach and help them explore the natural world with stories, games and hands-on outdoor activities such as rockpooling and beachcombing.

Weekly sessions from 10am to 12noon are themed around wildlife and the changing seasons. Suitable for children aged 3-5 years.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Online booking is essential, in blocks of 4-7 sessions in line with the school terms.

*For further information, and cost, please visit sussexwildlifetrust.org/naturetots*

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Saturday 2 March 10am to 12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch**

Monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD*

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Sunday 3 March 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**

Join one of our experienced wardens for a short walk around our coastal reserve, looking to see what birds, insects and plants are around at this time of year.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Saturday 9 March 10am to 1pm

For Sussex Wildlife Trust members only

**Saltmarsh Birds**

A 2 mile circular walk around the saltmarsh re-creation project looking for seals and birds including Mediterranean gulls and avocets at the start of their breeding season. Bring binoculars, but we also have pairs to borrow. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX.

*Members can be collected from Rye station by prior arrangement – please ask when booking.*

*Booking - email membership@sussexwt.org.uk or telephone 01273 497532*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED*
Saturday 16 March 2.30pm

**Oodles of Attercops by Chris Bentley**

Part of the Friends Winter Talk Programme. Reserve Warden, Chris, has a special interest in spiders and will lead us into their mysterious world, sharing his vast knowledge illustrated by close up photography and video clips.

*Meet at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall TN36 4NA. Organised by the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve but open to all. No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Saturday 23 March 10am to 1pm

**Spring Beach Clean**

Look out for the first wheatears and sandwich terns of the year while helping to remove the rubbish blown in by winter storms. Hot soup will be served at the end.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX (with work gloves if you have them) No booking required.*
April

Saturday 6 April 10am to 12.30pm

Wildlife Watch

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD

Sunday 7 April 10am to 3pm

Guide in a Hide

Drop in to the Gooders Hide between the car park and the sea where there will be guides stationed throughout the day to show you the birds. Binoculars and telescopes available for you to use.

No booking required.

Wednesday 10 April 10am to 12 noon

Collect and Create: Beach Pictures

Join us for a walk on the beach, collecting materials for some fabulous artwork to take home.

Suitable for accompanied children of all ages.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

SWT MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2

Thursday 11 April 10am to 11.30am

Rockpool Ramble

Investigate the marvellous marine life in the submerged ancient forest at Pett Level. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 and over.

Meet outside the Lifeboat Station at Pett Level, TN35 4EH
Booking essential via the website.

SWT MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2
Sunday 14 April 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**

Join one of our experienced wardens for a guided circular walk to Ternery Pool to spot gulls, terns and waders. Binoculars available to borrow.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX. No booking required*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

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Tuesday 16 April 2pm to 3.30pm

**Mud and Minibeasts**

Explore the muddy saltmarshes and the grassland looking for crabs and sea slaters, centipedes and spiders. See how the creatures are different in each habitat.

*Suitable for accompanied children aged 4-12.*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**SWT MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1**

**NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

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Wednesday 17 April 2pm to 3.30pm

**The Great Eggcase Hunt**

An Easter ‘egg’ hunt with a difference: we will be looking for mermaids’ purses – the EGG cases of sharks, skates and rays - and will see what other treasures we can find washed up on the beach.

*Suitable for accompanied children of all ages.*

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**
Thursday 18 April 10am to 3pm

**Wild Woodland Holiday Club**
Swallowtail Hill Farm, Beckley nr Rye
An Easter-themed day in the woods, with some eggcellent activities including firelighting, woodcrafts and games.


*Meet at Swallowtail Hill Farm, Hobbs Lane, Beckley TN31 6TT*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST:** MEMBERS £20 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £28 PER CHILD

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Monday 22 April 10am to 1pm

**Our Changing Coastline**
Discover how spring tides and storms have created the land at Rye Harbour and how tides influence our wildlife.

A circular walk around the saltmarsh and along the shore.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**MEMBERS £5 PER PERSON, NON-MEMBERS £7 PER PERSON**

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Saturday 27 April 2pm to 5pm

**Castle Water Wildlife Walk**
A walk to Camber Castle with an opportunity to look inside and visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water where there should be ducks, egrets and possibly a marsh harrier. We will also be listening for warblers and hopefully the first cuckoo.

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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May

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Saturday 4 May 10am to 12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch**
Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST:** MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD
Sunday 5 May 4.30am to 8am

**Wader Watch**
Celebrate International Dawn Chorus Day with an early morning walk to listen to some birdsong and spot a wide range of wading birds.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

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Saturday 11 May 2pm to 5pm

**Castle Water Wildlife Walk**
A walk to Camber Castle with an opportunity to look inside and visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water, looking for ducks, cormorants and egrets, listening for warblers and hopefully a cuckoo.

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye
No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Sunday 12 May 10am to 1pm

For Friends members only

**Friends’ Breeding Seabirds**
Come and watch the sea come in on a spring tide and find out which birds are visiting the new saltmarsh. We should find many different nesting waders, gulls and terns.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.*

**FREE TO MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS.**

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black-headed gull with chick © Lisa Geoghegan
Saturday 18 May 10am to 1pm

**An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**

This is the first in a series of three walks that aim to introduce people to the nature reserve and its wildlife, and perhaps take you to a part of the reserve you have never visited before. This walk will explore the southern part of the reserve, looking at wildlife on the saltmarsh and on Wader, Quarry and Ternery Pools where there will be many seabirds nesting.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Wednesday 22 May 10am to 1pm

**For Sussex Wildlife Trust members only**

**Shingle Birds and Flowers**

We will visit the southern half of the reserve and see the nesting terns, gulls and waders and a display of flowers including a profusion of sea kale. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX.

*Members can be collected from Rye station by prior arrangement – please ask when booking.*

*Booking essential – email membership@sussexwt.org.uk or telephone 01273 497532*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED*

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Saturday 25 May 10am to 1pm

**Coastal Plants**

Find out how the shingle and saltmarsh plants cope with their harsh environment. We will also see some coastal birds.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Tuesday 28 May 2pm to 4pm

**Our Fabulous Feathered Friends**

Come along to see the thousands of nesting birds squabbling and feeding their cute fluffy chicks, and enjoy some birdy crafts too.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

*SWT MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1*

*NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2*
Wednesday 29 May 10am to 1pm

Wildlife Rangers

Our new group for young people who want to learn about and protect local wildlife, and carry out practical conservation tasks to improve habitats.

Suitable for children aged 12-16.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: FREE, thanks to sponsorship from Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Thursday 30 May 10am to 3pm

Wild Woodland Holiday Club

Swallowtail Hill Farm, Beckley nr Rye

Test your survival skills as you practice safe fire lighting, learn some bushcraft skills and find out how our wildlife survives in the woods with some stalking and tracking games.


Meet at Swallowtail Hill Farm, Hobbs Lane, Beckley TN31 6TT
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £20 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £28 PER CHILD
June

June to July

**Nature Tots**

Bring your little ones for mornings of fun on the beach and help them explore the natural world with stories, games and hands-on outdoor activities such as rockpooling and beachcombing.

Weekly sessions from 10am to 12noon are themed around wildlife and the changing seasons. Suitable for children aged 3-5 years.

*All children must be accompanied by an adult. Online booking is essential, in blocks of 4-7 sessions in line with the school terms. For further information, including cost, please visit sussexwildlifetrust.org/naturetots*

**Saturday 1 June 10am to 12.30pm**

**Wildlife Watch**

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD*

**Sunday 2 June 10am to 1pm**

**Photographing Summer Wildlife: Close-ups**

Bring your digital camera along for some tips on photographing tiny wildlife. Suitable for all types of digital camera.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*COST: MEMBERS £12.50 PER PERSON; NON-MEMBERS £17.50 PER PERSON*

**Wednesday 5 June**

10am to 12 noon or 2pm to 4pm

For Friends members only

**Friends Land Rover Safari**

Join the warden Chris for a Land Rover tour of the beach reserve and Harbour Farm when there should be many breeding birds to see.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*COST: £7.50 PER PERSON*
Saturday 8 June 10am to 1pm

**World Oceans Day – Global Travellers**

On a 2 mile circular walk we will look at little, common and Sandwich terns that should be nesting here - if there are enough suitable small fish in Rye Bay. Our nesting terns depend on a healthy ocean here and at their wintering grounds in West Africa.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

*COST: MEMBERS £5 PER PERSON, NON-MEMBERS £7 PER PERSON*

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Sunday 9 June 2pm to 3.30pm

**Spectacular Spiders**

Learn to love our 8-legged friends as our warden Chris shows you some of the spiders found on the nature reserve, and tells you more about their fascinating lives. Suitable for adults and children of all ages.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Saturday 15 June 10am to 1pm

**An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**

In the second of our series of introductory walks we explore the north of the reserve, near to Rye. The walk will take us through Castle Farm, into Camber Castle and then to the birdwatching hide at Castle Water.

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye. No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Sunday 23 June 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**

A guided walk with one of our experienced wardens with many opportunities to see nesting birds and their chicks, and lots of shingle plants in flower.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

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Monday 24 June 10.30am to 12.30pm

**For Friends members only**

**Introduction to Identifying Bumblebees**

A walk with volunteers and Friends, Morgan and Peter Greenhalf. We will be netting and having a closer look at some common bumblebees, and hopefully spotting some rarities.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX. No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*
Saturday 29 June 10am to 1pm

**Beginners Birds – Summer Nesting**

Many gulls, terns and wading birds choose to nest here, but can you tell them apart? This short course for beginners will hopefully help...

Binoculars and field guides available to use on the day.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST:** MEMBERS £12.50 PER PERSON; NON-MEMBERS £17.50 PER PERSON

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Sunday 30 June 10am to 11am

**Moth Morning**

A huge variety of interesting and very beautiful moths visit the nature reserve. Come and look in our moth trap to find out which moths were flying around last night.

*Meet at Information centre (wheelchair accessible)*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**
Local Facilities

When planning your visit it is good to know and use the local facilities. Please check latest details on our website: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit/rye-harbour/local-facilities

In Rye Harbour  Turn the page to see our map.

William the Conqueror Pub (w) - This pub is popular for its Real Ales and food and has featured in the Good Pub Guide. Open daily from noon.

The Inkerman Arms (i) - This pub serves Real Ales and great fish and chips.

Bosun's Bite Café (b) - The café next to the lifeboat house, serving full English breakfasts and family-friendly food. Open daily 9-3pm.

Avocet Gallery & Tea Room (a) - Just opposite the village shop, this gallery and tea room offers local art and delicious homemade cakes. Open Friday to Sunday 10.30- 4.30pm (closed Christmas to mid-March).

Rye Harbour Shop (s) – Groceries and snacks for your picnic.

Rye Harbour Holiday Park (h) - A small, friendly holiday park with a genuine family feel and clubhouse serving drinks and food.

Car park (c) and toilets (t) - The car park and toilets with disabled access are run by Icklesham Parish Council and a donation in the box helps maintain them.

Nature Reserve Information Centre (n) - Open 10-4pm (5pm in summer) offers information about the reserve, and also sells gifts and other items from the local area.

In Winchelsea Beach

Co-Op - Sea Road - Licensed supermarket, Post Office, groceries, snacks, cash machine.

Winchelsea Beach Café - The beach side cafe is open 10-3pm at the eastern end of Pett Level.

Car park and toilet - A small car park and toilet with disabled access are run by Rother District Council at the west end of the nature reserve.
Countryside around Rye

You can spend a great deal of time discovering the footpaths and wildlife of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, but there are also other countryside sites to explore (distances from Rye Harbour village)

**Pett Pools** (6 miles) - you can birdwatch over wet grassland, water and reeds by the roadside, go up on the sea wall to watch seabirds, search the ancient submerged forest, or look for fossils in the rocks.

**Rye to Camber estuary walk** (3 miles) - discover the ‘other’ side of the Rother estuary and walk back along the cycle path to see the gravel pits, or catch a bus back.

**Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve** (10 miles) - great coastal walks with heathland, woods and sandstone cliffs 
[hasugid-bcngs.gov.uk/countryside_nature](hasugid-bcngs.gov.uk/countryside_nature)

**High Weald AONB** (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) 
[www.highweald.org](www.highweald.org) for details of local sites, including Brede High Woods (10 miles) for those that like woodland walks
[woodlandtrust.org.uk](woodlandtrust.org.uk)

**Dungeness RSPB** (15 miles) and **Dungeness National Nature Reserve** are part of the same designated site as Rye Harbour and share similar shingle and wetland wildlife [www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk](www.dungeness-nnr.co.uk)

**Romney Marsh Visitor Centre** (16 miles) - Kent Wildlife Trust’s centre near New Romney with displays depicting the area’s natural and social history [kentwildlifetrust.org.uk](kentwildlifetrust.org.uk)

**Long Distance Footpaths** - several routes converge on Rye: 1066 Country Walk, High Weald Landscape Trail and Saxon Shoreway. Soon the England Coast Path will continue through the nature reserve.

**The Sustrans National Cycle Network 2** passes through Rye and there is an official loop through the nature reserve [sustrans.org.uk](sustrans.org.uk)
Numbers 1-15 correspond to white numbers on posts, stone blocks or waste bins at those locations.
Rye Harbour Village Facilities Map

Key

- Green squares: Grassland
- Dark grey squares: Shingle
- Light grey squares: Embankment
- Blue stars: Viewpoint
- Blue triangles: Public Footpath
- Blue dashed lines: Permissive path
- Blue dash-dotted lines: Water
- Blue dash-dot-dash lines: Woodland/scrub
- Blue dash-dot lines: Road
- Blue dash lines: Wetland/Saltmarsh
- Light green squares: Bird hide
- Black squares: Buildings
- Black diamonds: Car park
- Black circles: Toilets
- Red circles: Guided trail points
- Black squares with red lines: Information centre
- Black squares with white lines: Station

See previous page for key to Rye Harbour facilities.

1. Rye Harbour Road
2. Church
3. Martello Tower
4. Lime Kiln Cottage
5. Norton's Hut
6. Flat Beach
7. Quarry
8. Beach Reserve
9. Ternery Pool
10. River mouth

Legend:
- White to green blocks or lines: Beach locations
- White to red blocks or lines: Built-up areas
- White to orange blocks or lines: Municipal facilities
- White to pink blocks or lines: Public facilities
- White to blue blocks or lines: Natural features

1km

Rye Harbour Village

Facilities Map
This region extends from Camber to Pevensey and inland beyond Battle. It offers a spectacular combination of unspoilt coast and countryside scattered with historical relics and ruins. Known worldwide for its heritage, 1066 Country offers visitors great historical, countryside and coastal experiences. Find out about events, attractions and accommodation at visit1066country.com.

Other local websites include: theromneymarsh.net and rxwildlife.info

Festivals
Rye has several established festivals throughout the year:
- Crime Writers Festival in February
- Rye Jazz & Blues on August Bank Holiday weekend
- Rye Festival of the Sea in September ryefestivalofthesea.co.uk
- Rye Arts Festival in September
- Wild Boar Week in October
- Rye Fawkes in November
- Christmas in Rye in December

Visit by train
Visiting the nature reserve by train is easy. Marshlink is the rail line that runs from Ashford to Eastbourne, giving easy access to Rye from London (69 mins) and Brighton (104 mins). The northern part of the nature reserve is just a five minute walk from the station and Rye Harbour village can be reached by taxi or bus.
In 2020 we hope to open a brand new Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve to tell the amazing stories of the wildlife and heritage of the nature reserve and surrounding landscape.

But we need your help.

We need to raise £500,000 to build the Centre.

Once open, it will provide:

- Space for people to learn about nature
- Dynamic exhibitions to enjoy
- Spectacular views of the river and saltmarshes from a modern café
- A dog-friendly wildlife garden to relax in
- Toilets and a warm place to shelter from the weather

Why not join our campaign to make Rye Harbour an even better place for visitors, for education, and for wildlife?

Please donate by visiting our website:

ryeharbourdiscoverycentre.org.uk

Together we can make a difference.
July

Saturday 6 July 10am to 12.30pm

Wildlife Watch

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD
Saturday 6 July 9am to 12noon
**Rye Harbour’s Special Flowers**
Take a closer look at the nature reserve’s flowering plants, finding rarities like marsh helleborine, least lettuce, stinking hawksbeard and sea heath, but also looking at the special flowers of the shingle such as sea pea, sea kale and red hempnettles.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*
*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Saturday 13 July 10am to 1pm
**An Introduction to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**
In this third and final walk of the series, Barry Yates, the nature reserve’s manager, will explore the southwest part of the nature reserve with a walk starting and ending at Winchelsea Beach.

*Meet at public car park at Dogs Hill Road, Winchelsea Beach TN36 4LX*
*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Sunday 14 July 2pm to 5pm
**Walk with a Warden**
A guided walk around Castle Water; an area of freshwater with reedbeds and many ditches - perfect for dragonflies, damselflies and marsh frogs!

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye*
*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Sunday 14 July 7pm to 9pm
**For Friends members only**
**Friends’ Evening at the Viewpoint**
Take a walk out to the viewpoint at the southern end of Castle Water to look for reedbed species and birds coming in to roost.

*Meet on the road by Rye Harbour church.*
*No booking required.*

**FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS**

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Sunday 21 July 9pm to 11pm
**Moths by Moonlight**
Find out what arrives at our moth traps after dark! This event is weather dependent, so it is essential to phone on the day to check that it will be going ahead (07835 666687).

*Meet at the Information Centre on the reserve (wheelchair accessible)*
*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**
Wednesday 24 July 10am to 11am
**Marvellous Moths**
Bring the family to learn about the moths that fly around the reserve at night and look at the moths we caught in our moth trap. Meet at the Information Centre on the reserve (wheelchair accessible).
*No booking required.*
**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

Sunday 28 July 10am to 12 noon
**Walk with a Warden**
As the bird breeding season draws to a close and migrants start to pass south, we will be looking out for a variety of coastal birds. Binoculars available to borrow.
*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*
*No booking required.*
**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

Tuesday 30 July 1.30pm to 3.30pm
**Wild Beach**
Celebrate National Marine Week with some fabulous beach activities: shrimping, kite-making and other fun stuff!
*Meet at Rye Harbour Village car park TN31 7TX*
*Booking essential via the website.*
**MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1**
**NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

*Book on sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson*
Wednesday 31 July 2pm to 4pm

**Pond Dipping**

Bring the family to find out about the wonderful world of underwater minibeasts. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5 and over. 1 mile walk across sheep fields to pond dipping site.

*Meet at Brede Lock, parking nearby in Rye*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1**

**NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

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**August**

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Thursday 1 August 10am to 12 noon

**Beach Art & Craft**

We are celebrating National Marine Week and using materials we find on the beach for fun arts and crafts. Suitable for accompanied children of all ages. Come and find us on the beach near the river mouth.

*Booking not required.*

DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

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Saturday 3 August 10am to 12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch**

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. This month we will be celebrating National Marine Week with activities on the beach. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD**

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Sunday 4 August 10am to 11am

**Moth Morning**

Another chance to find out about the huge variety of moths we find on the nature reserve when the warden shows you what has been caught in the moth trap.

*Meet at Lime Klin Cottage TN31 7TX (wheelchair accessible)*

*No booking required.*

DONATIONS APPRECIATED.
Sunday 4 August 10am to 4pm

**Discover the Pillboxes**

There are many WWII pillboxes hidden along the coastline, but the two at the mouth of the River Rother are the most obvious. With Sussex Military Research we will discover more about these and see a Vickers machine gun in place, overlooking Camber Sands.

*Drop-in event - no booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

Tuesday 6 August 10am to 11.30am

**Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud**

Explore the saltmarsh looking for crabs and minibeasts hiding in the mud. Wellies and old clothes advisable! Suitable for accompanied children of all ages.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Book on the website or phone 01273 497561*

**MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

Wednesday 7 August 10am to 11:30am

**Rockpool Ramble**

Pett Level

More National Marine Week fun as we explore the shore at Pett Level with a search in the rockpools for fascinating marine creatures. Please wear wellies or sturdy shoes suitable for paddling in the sea. Suitable for accompanied children aged 5-12.

*Meet alongside the Lifeboat Station on Pett Level Road, TN35 4EH
Booking essential via the website.*

**MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

Sunday 11 August 8.30pm to 10.30pm

**Moths by Moonlight**

Come and see a range of moths as they arrive at our moth traps! This event is weather dependent, so it is essential to phone on the day to check that it will be going ahead (07835 666687).

*Meet at the Information Centre on the reserve (wheelchair accessible)
No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**
Tuesday 13 August 1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Camber Castle for Children**

A guided walk for children and their parents to find out more and look inside Henry VIII’s Camber Castle. Approximately 1 mile walk each way. Suitable for accompanied children aged over 5. Maximum 2 adults per child booking.

*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1**

**NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2**

Thursday 15 August 10am to 3pm

**Wild Woodland Holiday Club**

**Swallowtail Hill Farm, Beckley nr Rye**

Forestry fun lighting a campfire, building dens, playing games and learning woodcrafts.


*Meet at Swallowtail Hill Farm, Hobbs Lane, Beckley TN31 6TT*

*Booking essential via the website.*

**COST: MEMBERS £20; NON-MEMBERS £28**

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*Discover the pillboxes © Barry Yates*
Saturday 17 August 2pm
**Camber Castle Open**
This Henry VIII castle will be open for a guided tour at 2pm.
Meet at the castle entrance, no vehicle access. The castle is a 1 mile walk across sheep fields from Rye.
*No booking required.*
ENTRANCE FEES APPLY.

Sunday 18 August 7pm to 9pm
For Friends members only
**Friends’ Evening at the Viewpoint**
Take a walk out to the viewpoint at the southern end of Castle Water to look for reedbed species and birds coming in to roost.
*Meet on the road by Rye Harbour church.*
*No booking required.*
FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS

Wednesday 21 August 10am to 11am
**Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud**
Explore the saltmarsh looking for crabs and minibeasts hiding in the mud. Wellies and old clothes advisable! Suitable for accompanied children of all ages.
*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*
*Booking essential via the website.*

MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2
Thursday 22 August 10am to 11.30am

**Shrimping**  
Explore the shore at low tide, looking for shrimps, crabs and flatfish. Please wear wellies or shoes suitable for paddling in the sea. Suitable for accompanied children aged 4-12.  
*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX  
Booking essential via the website.*  
MEMBERS £3 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £1  
NON-MEMBERS £4 PER CHILD; ACCOMPANYING ADULTS £2

Sunday 25 August 2pm to 5pm  
*For Friends members only*  

**Friends’ Pond Dipping**  
Why should the young have all the fun? Find out what lurks beneath the surface with a pond dip around the edges of Castle Water, and a look out for birds from the Halpin Hide too.  
*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye  
No booking required.*  
FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS

Tuesday 27, Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 August, 10am to 3pm

**Nature Treasure Trail**  
Follow the trail around the reserve, hunt for the clues and solve the puzzles to find the treasure.  
Drop-in event: collect your map and answer sheet and head out on the trail any time between 10am-3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Suitable for accompanied children aged up to 12 years.  
Pick up your trail sheet from the Information Centre TN31 7TX.  
*No booking required.*  
COST: £2.50 PER TRAIL SHEET

Saturday 31 August 10am to 1pm

**Special Seeds**  
Join us on the short circular walk to look closely at the seeds produced by the special plants that are adapted to cope with the harsh environment on the shingle and saltmarsh.  
*Meet at Rye Harbour car park TN31 7TX  
No booking required.*  
DONATIONS APPRECIATED.
September

September to October

Nature Tots
Bring your little ones for mornings of fun on the beach and help them explore the natural world with stories, games and hands-on outdoor activities such as rockpooling and beachcombing.

Weekly sessions from 10am to 12noon are themed around wildlife and the changing seasons. Suitable for children aged 3-5 years. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Online booking is essential, in blocks of 4-7 sessions in line with the school terms.

For further information, including costs, please visit sussexwildlifetrust.org/naturetots

Sunday 1 September 10am to 1pm
For Friends members only
Friends’ Autumn Walk
Look for departing summer visitors such as warblers and wagtails and winter visitors arriving such as ducks and waders.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.

FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS

Friday 6 September 5pm to dusk
World Shorebirds Day
A Friday evening shorebird watching walk around our short circular route, taking in saltmarshes, shingle shore and saline pools. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX.

No booking required.

DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

Saturday 7 September 10am to 12.30pm
Wildlife Watch
Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD

Book on sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson
Sunday 8 September 10am to 1.30pm

**Castle Water Wildlife Walk**

This circular walk of about 6km (4 miles) will visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water where we should see waders, egrets, ducks, marsh harrier and perhaps the last swallows and martins of the year.

We will also have a quick look inside Camber Castle.

*Meet at Rye Station.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

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Saturday 21 September from 2pm

**Camber Castle Open**

This Henry VIII castle will be open for a guided tour at 2pm. Meet at the castle entrance, no vehicle access. The castle is a 1 mile walk across sheep fields from Rye.

This event is part of the Rye Arts Festival – see ryeartsfestival.org.uk for more events during the festival.

*No booking required.*

**ENTRANCE FEES APPLY.**

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Sunday 22 September 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**

September is a good time to spot lots of birds as our summer visitors are leaving, and winter birds are arriving. We will walk around the saltmarsh and beach to look for seabirds, ducks and waders refuelling on the pools and perhaps some raptors hunting them.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX.*

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**
October

Saturday 5 October 10am to 12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch**

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*Booking essential via the website.*

*COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD*

Sunday 6 October 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**

A guided walk with one of our experienced wardens on a circular route visiting three birdwatching hides, saltmarshes and the beach.

*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*

*No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*

Saturday 12 October 10am to 1.30pm

**For Sussex Wildlife Trust members only**

**Castle Water Wildlife Walk**

This circular walk of about 6km (4 miles) will visit the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water where we should see waders, egrets, ducks, marsh harrier and if we are very lucky, a bittern. We will also have a quick look inside Camber Castle. Meet at Rye station.

*Booking essential – email membership@sussexwt.org.uk or telephone 01273 497532*

Saturday 19 October from 2.30pm

**Alfred Russell Wallace: The Man who Lived in Darwin’s Shadow**

Part of the Friends Winter Talk Programme. Ray Hale is fascinated by the men who have made natural history what it is today and to whom we owe our understanding of the natural world. Alfred Russell Wallace was a humble, now almost forgotten naturalist who arrived at the theory of evolution at the same time as Charles Darwin. Who knows what might have been had Alfred published his own work first? Ray Hale completes the story.

*Meet at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall TN36 4NA*

*Organised by the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve but open to all. No booking required.*

*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*
Saturday 26 October 10am to 3pm

**Guide in a Hide**

Drop in to the Gooders Hide between the car park and the sea where there will be guides stationed throughout the day to show you the birds. Binoculars and telescopes available for you to use.

*No booking required.*

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Sunday 27 October 10am to 1pm

**For Friends members only**

**The Changing Landscape of Winchelsea Beach**

Take a walk with Cliff Dean, Chair of the Friends, to find out more about the western end of the nature reserve and surrounding area. We’ll be looking at growing and shrinking land, sea defences, wartime defences, a huge abandoned harbour, interwar colonisation and plotlands.

*Meet at the car park on Dogs Hill Road, Winchelsea Beach.*

*No booking required.*

**FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS**

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Tuesday 29 October 1:30pm to 3pm

**Strandline Safari**

Take a stroll to the beach for some beachcombing along the strandline. What exciting things will the tide have washed up? Bring a bucket for your finds. Suitable for accompanied children of all ages. Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX.

*No booking required.*

**DONATIONS APPRECIATED**
Wednesday 30 October 10am to 1pm

**Wildlife Rangers**
Our new group for young people aged 12-16 who want to learn about and protect local wildlife, and carry out practical conservation tasks to improve habitats.
Suitable for children aged 12-16.
*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*
*Booking essential via the website.*
*COST: FREE thanks to sponsorship from Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Thursday 31 October 10am to 3pm

**Wild Woodland Holiday Club**
Swallowtail Hill Farm, Beckley nr Rye
Autumn is here! Explore the colourful woodland as we walk amongst the trees, learning about the animals that call woodlands home.
Spend time at the camp site and practice safe fire lighting to make your own hot drink. Use hand tools to make homes for animals in which to overwinter.
*Meet at Swallowtail Hill Farm, Hobbs Lane, Beckley TN31 6TT*
*Booking essential via the website.*
*COST: MEMBERS £20; NON-MEMBERS £28*

### November

Saturday 2 November 10am to 12.30pm

**Wildlife Watch**
Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
*Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX*
*Booking essential via the website.*
*COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD*

Sunday 3 November 10am to 1pm

**Walk with a Warden**
Join one of our experienced wardens for a walk around Castle Water in a search for late warblers in the bushes, waders on the islands and wagtails overhead.
*Meet at Brede Lock, car parking nearby in Rye. No booking required.*
*DONATIONS APPRECIATED.*
Saturday 16 November from 2.30pm

**Guyana: The Last True Wilderness?**

Part of the Friends Winter Talk Programme. Mike Russell’s interest in natural history was kindled in the 1950s armed only with The Observer’s Book of Birds. From his mid-twenties Mike took on an assortment of countryside-related jobs before spending 32 years at Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill in various roles. Now retired in name only, Mike still leads wildlife tours abroad and also courses for Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Meet at Winchelsea Beach Community Hall TN36 4NA. Organised by the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve but open to all. No booking required

DONATIONS APPRECIATED.

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Sunday 24 November
10am to 12.30pm OR 2pm to 4.30pm

For Friends members only

**Friends Land Rover Safari at Castle Water**

Join the warden, Chris, for a Land Rover tour of the northern end of the nature reserve – Castle Farm – where there should be many winter birds to spot at Castle Water.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential on rhnoffice@sussexwt.org.uk or 07884 494982

COST: £7.50 PER PERSON

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Saturday 30 November 1.30pm to 4.30pm

**Beginners Birds: Winter Waders**

Get to grips with those tricky winter waders with this short course for beginner birdwatchers. Binoculars and field guides available to use on the day.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £12.50, NON-MEMBERS £17.50
December

Saturday 7 December 10am to 12.30pm

Wildlife Watch

Our monthly club for children aged 5-11 offering a chance to find out more about the natural world and the special wildlife we find at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Each session will have a different theme and will include exploring the reserve, playing games, craft activities and learning how to help wildlife thrive. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
Booking essential via the website.

COST: MEMBERS £5 PER CHILD; NON-MEMBERS £7 PER CHILD

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Saturday 7 December 10am to 1pm

Festive Beach Clean

A clean-up of rubbish washed up along the beach by autumn storms, plus the chance to see many wintering birds. Your efforts will be rewarded with hot soup afterwards. Bring work gloves if you have them.

Meet at Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TX
No booking required.
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Join today...

and enjoy discounts on wildlife events and courses plus regular and exclusive members-only events.

Join over 30,000 other people who care deeply about the local environment. Help us protect the natural spaces and local wildlife across our towns, countryside and coast.

Join and enjoy:

- A welcome pack and membership card
- A guidebook on where to see wildlife in Sussex
- Our full colour Wildlife magazine twice a year
- A monthly e-newsletter alerting you to local events and natural wonders
- Free members events with wildlife experts
- Discounts on hundreds of courses and events
- Children get their own Wildlife Watch welcome pack, and four issues of Wildlife Watch magazine and Go Wild in Sussex each year

Join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join
Or telephone our membership team on 01273 497532 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

Registered Charity No. 207005
The Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve was founded in 1973 to raise money to improve and enlarge the nature reserve and encourage interest in the conservation of wildlife and scenic beauty within the area.

A registered charity, the Friends now has over 2,000 members and plays a vital role in the success of one of the most important conservation sites on the Sussex coast.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve has been recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area, a Special Area of Conservation and is a Ramsar site that takes account of its importance as a wetland on an international scale.

To find out more about the Friends, details of their vital contribution to the success of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and how to support their work please visit rhnrfriends.co.uk

Registered Charity Number 269535