



SANDWICH BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY TRUST



Restharrow Scrape Development Project

Outcomes Report for HLF Project

December 2021

1. Engagement with young people

1.1 Primary Schools

Organisation	Event	Number of participants	Volunteered Hours	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
Ash Cartwright and Kelsey	9 th November 2021 Morning school visit – migration and bird watching (8 hours)	19	8	6-7	Bird ID Use of binoculars Understand bird migration
Eastry	19 th October 2020 – Big Bay Bird Watch Presentation to Year 6	30		10-11	Understanding the evolution of birds Bird ID How to go birdwatching
Minster	October 2020 – Big Bay Bird Watch assembly	240		7-11	Understanding the difference between birds species Bird ID How to go birdwatching
Minster	25 th May 2021 – Visit Year 3 on Birds, beaks and food chains (3 hours)	25	3	7-8	Use of binoculars Bird ID Understanding food chains Understanding bird beaks and how they are adapted to eat different food
Minster	27 th May 2021 – Visit Year 3 on Birds, beaks and food chains (3 hours)	24	3	7-8	Use of binoculars Bird ID Understanding food chains Understanding bird beaks and how they are adapted to eat different food

Minster	16 th June 2021 – Visit Year 5 on Allotment ecology (3 hours)	27	3	9-10	Use of binoculars Bird ID Understanding an ecosystem and how everything is linked to one another Understanding the ecology of Robins
Minster	17 th June 2021 – Visit Year 5 on Allotment ecology (3 hours)	27	3	9-10	Use of binoculars Bird ID Understanding an ecosystem and how everything is linked to one another Understanding the ecology of Robins
Sandown	13 th October 2020 – Big Bay Bird Watch Presentation to Year 4	60		8-9	Understanding the difference between bird species Bird ID How to go birdwatching
Sandwich Junior	Big Bay Bird Watch	240		7-11	Understanding the evolution of birds Bird ID How to birdwatch
Sandwich Junior	28 th September 2021 – Visited Year 6 on Woodlands and Trees	45		10-11	Understanding the importance of trees Understanding the structure of trees Understanding
Sandwich Junior	30 th November – CPD session for all teachers (10 hours)	9	10	Adults	Us: Developing and delivering CPD sessions Teachers: Knowledge and understanding of pollination and formal classification Developing skills in leading more engaging outdoor lessons
Sholden	19 th October 2020 – Visit Year 3,4,5 and 6 (very small school) on Big Bay Bird Watch	60		7-11	Understanding the difference between bird species Bird ID How to go birdwatching

St Peter's in Thanet	Initial meeting 5 th March 2020 with Nathan	2		24-retired	Development plans for collaboration and school engagement
St Peter's in Thanet	13 th March 2020 – Visit year 3 on bird beaks and wetlands	30		7-8	Understanding bird beaks are different for different food and habitats (adapted) Understand the importance of wetlands Me: develop skills in delivering school workshops
St Peter's in Thanet	13 th March 2020 - Lunch with a scientist	20		7-11	Understand the various ways you can work within science Use of binoculars
St Peter's in Thanet	12 th October 2020 Visit Year 5 on Lifecycles (all three classes)	90		9-10	Understanding the different in life cycles in birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians
St Peter's in Thanet	12 th October 2020 - Big Bay Birdwatch presentation to the whole school	390		7-11	Understanding the differences in bird species Bird ID How to bird watch
St Peter's in Thanet	24 th May 2021 – Bird Beaks and Adaptations Year 6 (x4)	120		10-11	Understanding how different birds are adapted to different environments and food sources, and their beak has adapted to that Creativity in designing your own bird
St Peter's in Thanet	24 th May 2021 – Certificate of BBBW and session on nest boxes	390		7-11	Understanding differences in bird nesting techniques and the importance of nest boxes due to habitat destruction
St Peter's in Thanet	24 th May 2021 – Bird watching and bug hunting at lunch (x2)	30		7-11	Use of binoculars Bird ID Invertebrate ID Understanding Micro habitats

The Downs	23 rd June 2021 – Visit Year 2 Nests, Birds and Food Chains (4 hours)	25	8	7-8	Use of binoculars Bird ID/ecology Observation skills Food chains Crafts/motor skills
The Downs	24 th June 2021 – Visit Year 2 Nests, Birds and Food Chains (4 hours)	25	8	7-8	Use of binoculars Bird ID/ecology Observation skills Food chains Crafts/motor skills
The Downs	24 th June 2021 – Music session with Year 2 (12 hours)	60	12	7-8 Adults	Singing, musical rhythms
The Downs	23 rd September 2021 – Visit year 6 on Bird Beaks and Adaptations	56		10-11	Use of binoculars Bird ID/ecology Understanding adaptations in birds, specifically their beaks
The Downs	12 th November – All of Year 2 visit to Observatory on Trees and Woodlands	40		7-8	Understanding the importance of trees and what trees need to survive Wildlife observations and ID in woodlands Creativity in using nature for art
Warden House	16 th June – Visit to Warden House to look at their outdoor space	2		Adults	Assessing outdoor space for better use in education
Warden House	25 th November – Visit Year 1 on Animal Classification	25		5-6	Understanding the main 5 animal classification groups and how to ID them Bird ID Use of binoculars Understand the difference between insects and spiders How to carefully look at and ID invertebrates

Warden House	2 nd December – Visit Year 1 on Animal Classification	25		5-6	Understanding the main 5 animal classification groups and how to ID them Bird ID Use of binoculars Understand the difference between insects and spiders How to carefully look at and ID invertebrates
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Total Events: 29

Total people involved: 2,136

Total number of hours volunteered: 58 (not including Sharon's or Carla's')

We've had some further primary school connections to Worth, Deal Parochial, St Margaret's, Hornbeam, Kingsdown and Ringwold CE, however have not yet managed to get into the schools, but will work on these in future!

Feedback includes:

"The migration game was fantastic, and all the children could recall things they had learned. They loved the walk we went on, and enjoyed using the binoculars."

"The food chains worked well as it really linked to the children's learning."

"The children loved having 'hands on' experience."

"In all 3 workshops the children were engaged as they were pitched at exactly the right level and conducted in a very professional, entertaining manner"

"The workshops were accessible to all children and gave them all the opportunity to appreciate nature."

"The children loved that there were elements of self-choice within different activities"

"It gave them new information and built on things we had already covered in class."

"They were very well suited to our topic of allotments and it was clear that the ladies had put a lot of effort into tailoring the day specifically to our needs."

"We even have children on altered curriculums and the content was easily accessible to all"

When asked would you recommend this workshop to other teachers:

"Definitely, I've sung your praises to everyone in school, so hopefully you'll have some more visits throughout the year".

"Yes the children really enjoyed the morning and they enjoyed being able to learn new information but also share what they already knew about food chains and birds"

"We've already mentioned that we would like to re-book for next term with our new classes"

"We already have recommended you to all other teachers in the school"

"I would recommend it. I have spoken positively about it to others already"

"YES!"

We asked if the workshop content followed their National Curriculum on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being high). Most teachers put 5, with the occasional teacher giving a 4.

We have 10 bookings to deliver more free nature engaging workshops in schools and at the Observatory already for 2022.

1.2 Big Bay Bird Watch

This was a sponsored bird watch that children did at home with their family. This was a great way to make contact with schools, encourage people to get out birdwatching with their families, and raise money for future engagement!

From this, we had about 45 people take part and we raised about £1,100!

Event	Number of participants	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
Oliver's guided walk with Steffan at Sandwich Bay	2	11+retired	Bird ID Use of binoculars Monitoring of birds
Max's guided walk with Steffan at Sandwich Bay	2	7+retired	Bird ID Use of binoculars Monitoring of birds

Total Events: 2

Total number of participants: 4

1.2 Secondary Schools

Secondary school have been difficult to get in contact with due to the impact Covid-19 has had on them. We have made progress with Sandwich Technology School, Manwoods, Brewood and Wellessy House. I've had meetings with Sandwich Tech and Brewood, and have a meeting planned with Manwoods.

I was able to deliver a CPD (continuing professional development) session for Woodpecker Court in Eythron. Woodpecker Court is a specialist school

Event	Number of participants	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
CPD at Woodpecker Court – how best to use their outdoor space for learning	8	20-50	Understanding ways to use outdoor space for learning Adapting outdoor learning to fit the curriculum.

Total Events: 1

Total number of participants: 8

1.3 Youth Groups

Organisation	Event	Number of participants	Volunteered Hours	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
Guides North Kent - Rainbows	19 th March 2021 Zoom session on Bird ID	10 Rainbows 3 adults		5-7	Bird ID using sight, sound and behaviour
Scouts – 6 th Ramsgate Seascouts	12 th March Online workshops on	8 Scouts 3 leaders		10-14 Adults	Understanding bird migration Understanding butterflies and moths and their differences and similarities (i.e. that they are the same).

Holy Trinity Cubs	1 st February Online workshop on Bird ID	15 cubs 1 young leader 4 adults	2	8-10 15-17 ? 23	Identifying birds by sight, sound and behaviour. Volunteer; how to run an engaging session online with young children
Sandwich Cubs	23 rd June Moth evening 6.30-8pm	21 cubs 3 young leaders 4 adults	3	8-10.5 15-17 ?	Identifying and surveying moths Understanding camouflage and its role in animals
St Peter's in Thanet Cubs	5 th October 2020 Workshop at their club on the Importance of Wasps	30 cubs		8-10.5	Understanding wasp ecology and appreciating them more!
St Peter's in Thanet Cubs	18 th October 2021 Full day of activities at the Observatory (9-4pm)	15 cubs 3 young leaders 5 adults	16	8-10.5 15 23-40	Bird ringing Understanding migration and monitoring Understanding different habitats Pond-dipping and ID of pond species
Triangle Adventure Playground	25 th January 2021 Online workshop on Bird ID	8		6-7; 30-36	Participants; Bird ID (pictures and sounds). Me; delivering workshops to a people from a range of backgrounds and from urban areas).
Pie Factory Music	Summer nature holiday club	30		7-11	Using recording and sound altering technology Using nature sounds to make music Listening more intently to nature and the different noises it makes

Over the two years I struggled to identify groups that were specifically for black/people of colour around Kent. Diversity House is based in Sittingbourne, so a little far away, is a co-operative that works to provide and ensure everyone gets opportunities, no matter their race or ethnicity. I noticed they ran a holiday club in the summer for children, and I thought it was possible to link in with that somehow. We have now planned to link in with their holiday club and offer family events at SBBOT in 2022.

Total Events: 8

Total hours volunteered: 21

Total number of participants: 163

Feedback includes:

“Repetition of each bird identified across a range of activities helped everyone to learn and remember their features. This is a key part of the Cubs Naturalist badge too.”

“ A longer term a day visit with the Cubs to see what is available at the reserve would be amazing.”

“The young people enjoyed listening to the sounds of the birds in combination with the pictures. The information on behaviours was also useful to differentiate between the birds.”

1.4 Young Birders

The Young Birders Walks were started as a way to get the keen young birders that we knew about to meet up and connect, and hopefully allow the group to develop into something that doesn't need us but the young people remain in touch themselves, and perhaps meet people they could go out on bird walks with, feeling a bit safer on their own.

Event	Number of participants	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
May 1 st 2021 (8-11am)	(2) Jenny and Leura	15-16	Bird ID, bird monitoring/censusing, different habitats
13 th June (8-11am)	(6) Tommy, Hayden, Jenny, Thomas, Emily, Matthew	10-23	Bird ID, bird monitoring/censusing, different habitats
4 th September (8-11am)	(5) Emily, Jenny, Matthew, Tommy, Juliet	10-23	Bird ID, bird monitoring/censusing, different habitats
11 th December (9-11am)	(6) Emily, Matthew, Trina, Juliet, Carla, Leura	15-45	Bird ID, bird monitoring/censusing, different habitats

Total Events: 4

Total number of participants: 19

The Young Birders walks have developed further to include a Young Birders blog which now features monthly in our Newsletter, as well as our website and social medias.

We are also developing a Youth Council which will be installed in 2022.

1.5 Holiday Clubs

Holiday clubs were run in school holidays where Covid-19 restrictions allowed. We luckily had a few excellent collaborators including Shade or Shelter, Discovery Park, Pie Factory Music and Reconnect.

Event	Number of participants	Ages	Hours Volunteers	Skills and knowledge gained
August 2020 – 12 days of Summer Holiday Club 2020 8.45am-12.30pm	8*3= 24	7-11	1 volunteer on 6 days (5*6=30 hours)	Bird ID Use of binoculars Moth ID Invertebrate ID Plant ID Heritage knowledge of Sandwich Bay A range of survey methods Developing mental arithmetic Scientific vocabular Pond dipping and ID of pond animals Nature based crafts Habitats and the importance of providing homes for wildlife
1-4 th June 2021: June Half-Term Club 9.00am-12.30pm	31	6-11	We had 2 volunteers on each day (2*4*4= 32 hours)	Bird ID Use of binoculars Moth ID Invertebrate ID Bird Ringing Understanding bird migration Owl pellet dissection Understanding animal tracks and signs and different ways to monitor animals Heritage knowledge of Sandwich Bay A range of survey methods Developing mental arithmetic Scientific vocabular Pond dipping and ID of pond animals Nature based crafts Habitats and the importance of providing homes for wildlife

2 nd August – 25 th August on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9am-12.30pm	15 per day 15*3=45	7-11	We had 2 volunteers on each day 2*3*4*4=96 hours	Moth ID Understanding the woodlands habitat Understanding the importance of trees Wood crafts in making bug hotels Bird ID Using binoculars Pond dipping Understanding a range of habitats Mental arithmetic Literacy skills
6 th – 27 th August on Fridays	15	5-7	2 per day 2*4*4=32hours	Moth ID Understanding the woodlands habitat Understanding the importance of trees Wood crafts in making bug hotels Bird ID Using binoculars Pond dipping Understanding a range of habitats Mental arithmetic Literacy skills Music and singing – rhythm
25 th October (9-12.30pm)	14	7-11		Literacy and word games How bats feed and communicate through echolocation How to find and ID bats using a bat detector Bat ecology ID invertebrates Nature crafts
26 th October (9-12.30pm)	9	7-11		Literacy and word games How bats feed and communicate through echolocation How to find and ID bats using a bat detector Bat ecology ID invertebrates Nature crafts

27 th October (9-12.30pm)	7	7-11	4 (4*4=16 hours)	Literacy and word games How bats feed and communicate through echolocation How to find and ID bats using a bat detector Bat ecology ID invertebrates Nature crafts
29 th October (9-12.30pm)	14	5-7	2 (2*4=8 hours)	How bats feed and communicate through echolocation How to find and ID bats using a bat detector Bat ecology ID invertebrates Nature crafts

Total Events: 8

Total hours volunteered: 214

Total number of participants: 159

Feedback:

For the first holiday club; 85% of children gave the Nature Holiday Club a 5/5 for enjoyment, while the other 15% gave it 4/5. 52% of children gave the Nature Holiday Club a 5/5 for how much they learned, 42% a 4/5 and 6% a 3/5. 91% of children said they would come again, with a holiday club or a monthly weekend club being the most popular. The moths were particularly popular amongst the children.

For the second club, feedback from this club was overwhelmingly positive with all children saying they would come back, and all parents saying their children enjoyed the club giving 5/5 for enjoyment, and either a 4/5 or 5/5 for learning!

For the summer holiday club in 2021, parents were asked to rank a series of questions with 1 (a great deal), 2 (somewhat) or 3 (not at all).

When asked if they thought their children had improved their knowledge, the average was 1.21 with 86.2% of parents scoring 1.

When asked if they thought their confidence had improved, the average score was 1.5

When asked did their children enjoy coming the average score was 1.14 with 93% of parents scoring 1

When asked if they thought their children made new friends, the average score was 1.7

When asked if they thought their children will continue learning, the average score was 1, with 93% of parents scoring 1.

1.6 Universities

Organisation	Event	Number of participants	Volunteered Hours	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
Christchurch Canterbury	Work experience student: August-September 2021	1	120	40	Plant ID, Bird ID, bird ringing, Phase 1 habitat survey, understanding different habitats.
Hadlow College	Work party: 26-28 th October 2021	9	20	19-23	Habitat maintenance, conservation
Exeter University	Year long internship: September 2021 to end June 2022	1	1,687.5	22	Bird ID Monitoring and censusing of birds Monitoring of moths, butterflies, dragonflies, plants, reptiles Conservation management skills Safe use of a wide range of tools Bird ringing skills – becoming a trainee Engaging a wide range of people with wildlife Planning and organising workshop sessions for young people on wildlife
University of Kent	Society lecture: 5 th March 2021 Online talk on Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory	6	NA	19-21	Learned about SBBOT, Sandwich Bay and it's biodiversity and heritage

Total Events: 4

Total hours volunteered:1,827.5

Total number of participants: 17

We have also made links with University College London, and their Conservation Society is planning a birdwatching trip to SBBOT in 2022. University of Kent are also carrying out a Field Course at SBBOT in March 2022 which has been planned and booked.

1.8 Developing an outdoor learning area

Since our main aim is to engage people with the outdoor world and connect them directly to nature, we want our work to be done outside as much as possible. Therefore, we realised we needed to develop some outdoor learning spaces. We've created a few new areas and are in the process of developing a new sensory garden at the Observatory and restore a pond.

1.9 Family Events

Event	Number of participants	Ages	Volunteered hours	Skills and knowledge gained
Spring Nature Treasure Trail 17 th and 18 th April 2021 9.30-2pm	147	2-retired	12	Volunteer: Creation of nature trail; engaging with customers/families in a public setting Me: Map making skills; planning events around Covid-19 restrictions
Autumn Nature Treasure Trail 23 rd and 24 th October 9.30-4pm	45	2-retired	23 rd – 5 adults, 2 children (49 hours) 24 th – 2 adults, 2 children (28 hours)	Volunteer: Creation of nature trail; engaging with customers/families in a public setting Me: Map making skills; planning events around Covid-19 restrictions
Moth Night 11 th September 4-6pm	27	5-retired	4	Volunteer: Creation of nature trail; engaging with customers/families in a public setting Me: Map making skills; planning events around Covid-19 restrictions
Bat Walk 11 th September 7.30-9.30pm	25	7-retired	4	Understanding how to ID bats Bat ID using a bat detector Understanding bat ecology within the UK
29 th August 2021 Wildlife in Close-up Day 9.30-4.30pm 7.30-9.30pm Volunteers:	~400	All	5 organising (5*10=50 hours) ~20 on the day (20*9=180 hours)	Bird ID Moth ID Plant ID Understanding

Total Events: 5

Total hours volunteered:327

Total number of participants: 644

2. Collaborations

Organisation	Event	Number of participants	Ages	Skills and knowledge gained
Bruderhof Community	7 th May 2021 - Birdwatching for a Bird Race with Steffan	4	10-12	Bird ID Use of binoculars Better birdwatching techniques
Bruderhof Community	Sea watching	10	7-14	Supported their activity by loaning materials
Chequers Kitchen	16 th April - "Signs of Spring" session at Chequers	7 children 2 adults	7-11 Adults	Understanding signs of spring (birds making nests, certain flowers, bees and butterflies around) Understanding pollination and the importance of pollinator Bird ID Butterfly ID
Home Education Group	23 rd November 2021 Day visit on woodlands and the importance of trees	9 children 5 adults	4-10 adults	Understand the importance of trees Understand woodland habitat Understand what trees need to survive Observation skills
Mencap	Art and Photography Competition	6 (17 entries)	Mencap users	Using nature for photography and art. Using lightboxes and camera settings
Mencap	Bay Chats interview	5	Mencap users	NA
Dover District Council – Holiday Activities Fund	12 th August – Visit Dover	16	4-11	Bird ID Use of binoculars Understanding bird ecology
Dover District Council – Holiday Activities Fund	18 th August – Visit St Mary's, Deal	19	4-11	Invertebrate ID Invertebrate survey methods Understanding what trees need to survive
Dover District Council – Holiday Activities Fund	19 th August – Visit Pat at Aylesham	22	4-11	Bird ID Use of binoculars Understanding bird ecology
Dover District Council – Holiday Activities Fund	26 th August – Visit Woodpecker Court Eythorne	25	4-11	Bird ID Use of binoculars Understanding bird ecology

Total Events: 10

Total number of participants: 130

We've also developed collaborations with Kent Wildlife Trust through their Wilder Kent Awards for schools and are developing our links with two Mencap Groups (Sandwich and Herne Bay). We're working very closely with the RSPB WEX and Phoenix groups and have increased their capacity and outreach through collaborative work.

3. Online Engagement

Over 2020 due to lockdowns, we began a daily puzzle series, showcasing our members wonderful photography, enhancing bird ID skills, and providing an activity that anyone can get involved in. These puzzles attract a lovely little community of people who anticipated their posting every day, and some even went on to make their own!

On average these puzzles attracted **130 people each day**.

Activity	Number of participants	Skills and knowledge gained
Series of 5 stop-motion animation videos aimed at KS1 and KS2 children, produced as a educational material to help families with home education during covid-19 lockdowns. (10 hours volunteers)	8,200	Viewers: Learning about what conservation is. Understanding food chains Learning what a habitat is Learning about the sea and woodland Me (creator): Learning to create stop-animation videos Learning to edit videos Composter: Using briefs to create short, child friendly songs
Moth video going through the trap (1 hour)	8,100	Moth ID Moth monitoring methods Using Facebook as an engagement tool
24 th August 2020 – Moth Night (Livestream + video posted)	1,400	Moth ID Moth monitoring methods Using Facebook as an engagement tool
26 th October 2020 - Facebook livestream for RHS and promoting Big Bay Bird Watch	1,312	
20 th February 2021 – Facebook livestream from RHS and promoting Art and Photography Competition	2,132	
Moth Night (Livestream) – 14 th August	1,361	Moth ID Moth monitoring methods

Total Events: 10

Total Hours Volunteered: 8

Total number of participants: 22,505

4. Covid-19 mitigations

Due to the lockdowns and restrictions imposed by Covid-19, beginning in March 2020, our original action plan was impeded. However, we still managed to engage our local community through outreach in a range of ways. This included creating online digital materials for parents to use to aid home-schooling their children during lockdowns, using fun experiments to explore the natural world, a series of stop-animation videos based on wildlife and conservation. These materials were shared via the schools and social media. We also created a variety of fun wildlife

based puzzles which were shared on social media, and created a small online community. We ran online events on Facebook livestream which attracted hundreds of people, both local and further afield. We also began a series of online lectures and classes via Zoom, which ran twice a week for 6 months from October 2020 to April 2021, and have started again in September 2021 and are on-going. These Zoom events are based on local as well as worldwide wildlife and conservation topics and have attracted a large audience of 60 on average per event.

5. Media Coverage

Over the two years we had various media coverage of our work and the HLF project.

- Pfizer's Science Jamboree – We took part in the online Science Jamboree 2021 event, teaming up with Countryside Productions to produce a 5-minute introductory video on what the Observatory does
- Section in "Earth Hugge" – A book by Lizzie Smith on ways to appreciate mindfulness in and around Deal. We are included as a place to visit and encourage people to try birdwatching:
- [Lizzie Willis' book Earth Hygge is a 'love letter to Deal' with illustrations by Angela Malone \(kentonline.co.uk\)](https://www.kentonline.co.uk)
- Sky News Golf – filming on 5th July and aired during the Open 2020/1, 15th July on Sky Golf – talking about wildlife on golf courses.
- We've been included in the East Kent Mercury online for the Summer Holiday 2020 club and the Art and Photography competition 2021
- We've been included in the Sandwich Community Magazine in Issue 20, 21, Spring 2021, Autumn 2021 (4 issues) updating the community on what we're doing at SBBOT as part of our HLF Restharrow Scrape Development Project.

6. Materials Produced

We ran an Art and Photography Competition and then held an exhibition of "Wildlife During Lockdown" in our hides. We received ~130 entries, of varying ages. This included a set of about 20 excellent pieces from the Herne Bay Mencap Group. It also included many from Warden House!

We have produced a series of materials for the hides including:

- A timeline of Restharrow Scrape
- A display on the Importance of Wetlands
- A Species Spotlight section
- An Updates section
- An updated board on our work with Young People
- A photography display from Mencap Herne Bay
- Q&A flaps for children
- A picture post that monitors the change of RHS through photos
- We installed an audio soundpost with engaging information and bird sounds that is changed each season

We have plans to install more including:

- A range of bird ID guides
- Bird ID posters
- A Sightings board
- Leaflets
- Maps of the islands
- Maps of migratory birds
- Two art murals using collaborative effort from many of our members.

7. Volunteers

One very successful aspect of the project has been the volunteers we've recruited as part of the Education Team. Sharon Irvine, now a Trustee, has volunteered since the beginning of the project and has dedicated many, many hours over two years to outreach to the local community.

At the end of 2021 we have created an Education Team of 16 people, which includes eight new, dedicated volunteers, two staff members (Warden and Assistant Warden), one full-time volunteer intern and six Trustees. There are also a few people that don't work directly with people at events but have helped with various other things such as designing and producing leaflets and posters and providing bird house and bug house templates for people to make.

This Education Team will continue the work started since January 2020, and there are plans for the team to grow, possibly including a new Education Officer, depending on securing further funding.

8. What we didn't do

There were some things that were planned however did not happen. This was mainly down to Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions, and the changing of priorities during this time. One such plan was the idea of recruiting "Hide Volunteers". These volunteers were to regularly staff our two bird hides and provide information for visitors, which bird species to look out for, about the Restharrow Scrape Development Project and inform them of Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory and what we do. While we did recruit two volunteers, as our bird hides were closed for the majority of 2020, and restrictions of 6 people came in from July 2021, we did not install these volunteers or recruit any more. When SBBOT feels it is safe enough to do so, these restrictions of up to 6 people will be lifted, and we will install the "Hide Volunteers" and begin recruiting more.

In addition, we planned to create links with Age UK. However, in a similar vein, due to Covid-19 restrictions we did not manage to create these links as many of the users of Age UK are extremely vulnerable. More recently, we have been in contact with the Sandwich based Age UK branch and we hope to develop connections with them in 2022.

TOTALS

Events: 81

Hours: 2,365.5 (not including Sharon Irvine's)

Participants: 3,279 in person plus 22,505 online connections