

Newsletter - Summer 2001

With sincere apologies, I send you this newsletter, which is long overdue!

It has been a busy winter and spring, with some alarms. The pond gates and the sluice were open from November until March. Even now the sluice is partly open to cope with the volume of water from Lumley Stream, and to allow the swans and cygnets to pass from Peter Pond to Slipper Mill Pond.

The birds have nested and hatched successfully - coots on our pond, the swans and ducks on Peter Pond.

The winter floods affected the Lumley Cottages. The flow down the Ems was too great to control and the flow down the Lumley Stream, such as to flood the banks below the railway line. John Burgess, with help from other concerned members, has written a report on the flood, which has been submitted to the Environment Agency. I would not care to comment further on this, but I can obtain copies, if requested, at £10.00 each.

Thank you for your response to my note concerning the bank and road surface of Slipper Road. Plans are progressing to make the junction with concrete, supporting the edge of the road and its junction with the bank. The bank will rise from the concrete and the posts be replaced. Some replanting may be needed to hold the bank. The cost is not agreed yet.

The sluice gate has been in use over the winter, and will need some repairs. These are to be carried out by The Mill Association, not directly concerned with Slipper Mill Pond. These are being planned for the autumn, when the pond can be drained for a day or more.

Also, a "new" raft will be launched on Wednesday 13 June. It is the old "Martlet raft" from the town mill pond.

The proposed development in Lumley Road and Orchard Close has been approved by the planners. It is subject to a legal document committing the purchasers to maintain the sustainable drainage system. This system is recommended, but the owner of Peter Pond has been unable to find any details of sites in England where it is in use. I am writing to Chichester District Council to ask for more information.

Forward Planning, dates for your diary:	A.G.M.	Friday 26 October 2001
	S.M.P.P.A. Dinner	Friday 23 November 2001

Wishing you all a dry, sunny and refreshing summer.

A.C.Townsend
Chairman