



Newsletter

The holidays are over - but the rains have not yet come. We are fortunate to live in this area and have had a wonderful summer - but now work is required.

Your Committee do a considerable amount of work, physical work for the pond. and now they need your help

Volunteers needed!

For the weekend - October 3rd, 4th ,& 5 the Committee require **YOUR** assistance for work on the pond. The pond

1. The inner face of the Southern bank, near the South-west corner is eroded. This requires filling and facing with concrete. The pond will be drained and on Thursday October 2nd. the wall will be cleaned and prepared. On Friday 3rd a load of concrete will be delivered, which needs to be barrowed over the footbridge and placed in the eroded areas. A second load will be delivered on Saturday to complete the job.
2. The tall reeds on the East bank are spreading and need to be cut back and some of the roots to be dug out. It is planned to move these roots along the pond banks in order to provide more cover for wildlife and to further protect the banks. At the same time any debris along the shore needs to be removed. This will be done on Sunday 5th October or sooner if there are plenty of volunteers.

Timing:

Work should start at 12.30 and finish at 5.30 and is scheduled to take advantage of low tide. We plan to meet at the South end of Slipper Road by the mill for briefing before work starts.

Clothing:

WELLINGTON OR HEAVY BOOTS WITH WORKING CLOTHES AND GLOVES FOR PROTECTION.

Equipment:

Wheelbarrows and shovels for the concreting and sharp spades for the reeds.

Food

Refreshment at the Chairman's house 4.45 to 5.45.

Please contact Iris Buck, the Secretary, 376976 for further information and tell her when you are coming.

General News

1. The Banks

The reeds are tall and attractive and protect the banks and bind the foreshore saving the edge of the road. However they also spread as can be seen on the Peter Pond, on the other side of the main road bridge, where they are preserved to provide nesting for the mallards.

2. Wild Life

The wild life has prospered this summer. The swan stand above the bridge was built up last winter and they nested and hatched successfully. There are now five cygnets - grey going white and, I think, beginning to fly. Many ducklings have hatched but few survive to adulthood. The coots are more successful and at time appear to control the upper part of the pond.

Cormorants, Egrets, a Kingfisher and a heron are also around, but do not breed on the pond.

Fish have been spawning providing winged and two-legged fishermen with sport.

The pond worm, which we feared had been damaged by frost when the pond was drained in the winter, have survived and are continuing to breed.

The river flow is lessening now, later than usual.

3. Hermitage Development:

The Hermitage site was cleared this summer and development is expected soon. The Environment Agency has taken great pain to ensure that the development does not cause contamination or flash flooding of the ponds. Conditions have been imposed that require the builders to provide ditches around the site during construction to contain any spillage and reduce silting in the streams and the pond.

In the long term your Committee hopes that the Hermitage Site Management will monitor and maintain the Sustainable Urban Drainage System following the long correspondence with Chichester District Council and the Environment Agency.

4. Kissing Gates

The kissing gates, to protect the footpath around the pond, should be installed soon. I hesitate to be more definite as the project becomes more complex every month. We are grateful to those who are arguing this and glad to have the full support of all the authorities and interested parties.

5. A Thank-you

Mrs Penny Montague has earned our grateful thanks for all the work she has done over the years in looking after our social functions. She will be sadly missed at the Committee meetings.

6. Committee Nominations

I would remind you that your Chairman and other members of the Committee are due to retire and nominations are essential to the continuing well-being of the Association.

7. Looking Forward

Up to the present the Committee have dealt with the pond on a "Crisis Basis". We now feel that planning and foresight are needed. The pond walls, the footpath, the verges and ecology of the pond are all important. The sluice, gates and walls are the central features. All these need regular attention and some are likely to need expensive repairs in the future as they approach the end of their useful working life.

6. Dates for your calendar

Annual General Meeting 31st October - 8.00pm, Community Centre, South Street

Dinner 28th November - Brookfield Hotel

Thank you for your support and particularly to those who volunteer to help on October 5th.