



NEWSLETTER - MAY 2004

I apologise for the lateness of this newsletter. As Chairman I find myself trying to alter the working of the Association, "Proaction not Reaction" if I understand the policy. As a result you have a longer newsletter.

1. Subscriptions

At the AGM the need for more money was explained and the Members voted an increase to be fixed by the committee. The figure discussed was £15.00 per annum for Full Members and £8.00 for Associate Members. The Committee confirmed this and the increase will come into effect on 1st. October this year. The Treasurer will contact all those who need to alter their bank instructions – standing orders, etc.

2. Membership

A proposal was made to have a single membership, rather than two levels. This would simplify the finances without affecting the Pond and its preservation. Your Committee have discussed the proposal, but resistance from the grass roots discouraged any action.

At present only Full Members can vote at the AGM Under a single membership scheme every Member would have equal voting rights. This could lead to a takeover of the Committee and decisions being made contrary to the Owners' wishes. The Owners are protected against this risk and can terminate the leasing of the Pond. It was to avoid such drastic changes that the Association has two membership levels.

The matter needs further discussion as the Committee requires more support from the membership – not only for work parties, but also expertise on many matters concerning the administration of the Pond.

We value such help from the Association and look for their fuller involvement in running the Association.

Alternative proposals will be considered by the Committee before the next AGM.

3. Maintenance

The maintenance of the Pond wall, sluice and tide gate is the main function of the Committee.

The banks are our most urgent consideration. The action of water on the banks causal erosion, mostly at the level of the waves. On the outside gabions have been placed round the walls – these will need replacing in about five years time. Inside the bank the wave action is less damaging but is now eroding the sandbags and undercutting the bank. This area needs reinforcing all along the western bank and the gabions need repairing.

Gabions are large bags of steel mesh filled with large stones (like giant sandbags) and can be seen along the outer wall of the Pond.

There are other repairs needed to the bank and "sluice ways" near the sluice and tidegate.

This is not a comprehensive list, but gives us plenty to do. Mr. Phillip Couchman of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy has commended the standard of work done The work party in

September 2003 did excellent work and we hope to organise a similar one this autumn. We have also done some small works over the winter. A void in the west bank was found, explored and refilled with concrete and earth. The cavity was about 6 feet long and 4 feet deep and 3 feet across. The cause – the tide entering the bank and drawing out the core of the bank.

A radar survey – similar to an archaeological radar – has not disclosed any similar voids; but will need to be repeated in about five years.

An erosion on the west bank on the outside has also been refilled – using concrete – over an area of about 30 feet.

The east bank does not suffer from serious erosion but rather the reverse. It must be remembered that the road and bank have encroached on the Pond, and replace a beach which ran up to the houses before 1970.

4. Proposed activities for this year

(a) Prince's Trust – an organisation for helping young people, seeks jobs or tasks that they, the young people, can assess, plan and cost and see it through to completion, thus giving them an understanding of planning and confidence in their abilities. The Trust is planning to take on part of the repairs to Pond, probably the reinforcement of the inner aspect of the west bank when the Pond has been emptied. This is proposed for September.

(b) An Association work party will also be needed about the same time with two possible objectives – (a) repairing the “sluice ways” and (b) completing the repairs needed on the west wall.

5. General news

There were no floods last winter. In spite of the heavy rain the Ems did not flow freely until well into the New Year, and the flow has already slackened.

The Pond is “well”. Swans have hatched five cygnets – nesting in the bank of Peter Pond. A few coots have hatched and a good number of ducks. A pair of Canada geese inspected the “island” at the top of the Pond, but the coots won.

Grey mullet have been sunning themselves by the road bridge and a small shoal of minnows appeared today (25th May).

Mrs. Thompson-Coon has produced a list of flowers and shrubs growing on the east bank. This is attached to the Newsletter and any additions will be gladly received.

6. Summary and Appeal

The Committee needs help from the Members please

1. Volunteers for work parties
2. Volunteers for fund raising, both by their own efforts and
3. 3 - Giving advice for fund raising, publicity, planning and control, surveys, engineering and conservation and ecology in general..

Future dates

AGM - Friday, 22nd October 2004

Annual dinner - Friday, 26th November 2004

From your Chairman

Arthur Townsend

SOME PLANTS, SHRUBS AND TREES ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SLIPPER MILL POND

	PLANT	FAMILY	NOTES
1			
2	Angelica, wild	Angelica Sylvestris	Butterflies love it and need all umbelliferous plants
3	Balm	Melissa Officinalis	Bees love it
4	Bindweed	Convolvulus	Three varieties of bindweed - Field, Great & Sea
5	Borer Salt Marsh Grass		Native perennial, quite rare
6	Brambles		Marvellous for harbouring the Fox Moth (Bombyx Rubi)
7	Buddleia		Two varieties - the orange one is Globosa
8	Buttercup	Ranunculus	
9	Celandine	Chelidonium	Member of the poppy family
10	Celandine lesser	Ranunculus Frecaria	Member of the buttercup family
11	Chicory		Deeprooted, flower in July
12	Comfrey	Symphytum Officinale	
13	Common Reed	Phragmites Australis	Native perennial, spread by rhizomes & stolens
14	Daffodils	Many varieties	Purchased and planted by S M PPA members
15	Dandelion	Taxacum Officinale	Good for bees
16	Dead Nettle	Lamium	
17	Dock	Rumex	Butterflies lay on the underside of the leaves
18	Eleagnus		Strongly scented flowers
19	Euphorbia	Spurge	
20	Field Thistle		Bees love it
21	Fulers' Teazle	Dipsacus Fullonum	Has hooked bristles, different from the wild teazle; seeds excellent for birds
22	Gorse	Ulex	Eight were planted in 1980
23	Hedge Parsley		Umbelliferous
24	Holly	Ilex	
25	Horseshoe	Amaracia Cruterae	
26	Lonicera Pileata		Common hedging plant
27	Mallow Tree	Malvaceae	
28	Mullein	Verbascum	
29	Myrtle		
30	Nettles	Michaelmas Daisy	Spigelia
31	Phomium	New Zealand Flax	Planted in 1982. A welcome tall spire in winter
32	Sea Aster	Michaelmas Daisy	
33	Sea Buckthorn	Hippophae Pseammoides	Six were planted in 1980

SOME PLANTS, SHRUBS AND TREES ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SLIPPER MILL POND

	PLANT	FAMILY	NOTES
34	Stinging nettles	Urtica	Excellent for over 50 kinds of insects and butterflies
35	Strawberry Tree	Arbutus	Lovely cinnamon-red bark; pretty flowers & fruits, often picked by passers-by.
36	Sweet Cicely	Myrris	
37	Thistle	Cnicus	There are more than 12 varieties of thistle; moths favour it for laying
38	Valerian		A recent arrival
39	Viburnum		
40	Vinca	Periwinkle	
41	Weeping willow		Having a hard time!
42	Willow Herb	Epiobium	
43			
44			
45			
SOME PLANTS ON THE WEST BANK			
46	Sea Beet	Beetus Maritimus	
47	Sea Club-rush	Scirpus Maritimus	
48	Sea Couch grass	Agropyron Pungens	
49			
50			
51			
WILDFLOWERS FOR BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS (& therefore birds?)			
52	Bramble	Buddleia	Bugle
53	Campion	Clover	Dandelion
54	Hawkweed	Hemp Agrimony	Garlic Mustard
55	Knapweed	Lucerne	Michaelmas Daisy
56	Moon Daisy	Nettles	Primrose
57	Pussywillow	Scabious	Teazle
58	Thistles	Valerian	Vetches
59			
60			
61			It would be nice if this list could be corrected or added to.