



## ***Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association***

Registered Charity No. 277744

### **NEWSLETTER - September 2005**

*The thunderstorm the other evening marked the end of a sunny, warm August and heralds the transition to Autumn. I am pleased to report that over the Summer period the Association, in addition to carrying out its planned activities, has been advising the Environment Agency of our studies and experiences of the flooding of lower Ems and the impact of tides.*

*Nick Madina, Chairman*

#### **Wildlife Report**

This summer has seen rather lower than usual numbers of coots and ducks raised. It would be interesting to know why. Any ideas?

The swans on Peter Pond have raised five cygnets, four of which are alive and well, but the pale one was rescued with the help of our ex-Chairman, Arthur Townsend, with fish hook and line well embedded in its throat. After being taken to the Downland Surgery where the hooks were taken out it was sent to a sanctuary and we understand that it will not be returned to the pond as its family will not accept it after such a long absence.

Most of the fishermen I've met and talked to this year seem concerned about wildlife, but the rescue pinpoints the issue of "responsible" fishing. The fish (virtually all grey



mullet and eels with just the occasional sea trout and bass) seem to be thriving, judging by the huge numbers of small fry.

With, perhaps, more enthusiasm than expertise, we are building up our observations of wildlife seen in and around the pond to maintain a record which will help us monitor the biodiversity, and therefore, the health, of the pond in future. We will be sharing the observations with you quite shortly in our proposed web site.



#### **West Bank**

##### **Inside face strengthening**

The repairs to the wall carried out at the beginning of the year are standing up well, and we are grateful to both the Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council for grants covering the entire cost of the materials.

To address the problems of erosion in the gaps between the sandbags, volunteers have been experimenting with planting section of reeds at its toe, hoping to generate a natural wave break. Unfortunately the trials have not been very successful and we are intending to try out further solutions before embarking on any major works.

#### **Outside Face**

We are worried about the medium to long term stability of the bank. We are looking into engaging a geotechnical expert to consider our concerns, and to put forward practical solutions. If the solutions involve major work, such a report should provide a basis for any design and construction work and more particularly a firm foundation for making Grant applications.



## Footpath

Whilst the SMPPA is charged with looking after the bank the footpath (and its surface) is the responsibility of West Sussex County Council. We have had discussions with the WSCC Local Access Forum and expressed our (and your) concerns about the state of the surface but any proposals about resurfacing are being held pending the resolution of the bank integrity problems.

## Hermitage Development



As you will already know the developers are intent on increasing the number of units they are building on the site, and on behalf of the Association the following objection was lodged:

*“It is with annoyance and resignation I have to object to planning applications for this site yet again.*

*The current application now brings the total number of **EXTRA units to nearly 25% of the original application:***

*My source is the Chichester District Council Planning Section "Site History Report":*

- Original application 98/03023/OUT - 8.5.2003 - 64 houses*

- Revised 05/01098/FUL - 23.3.2005 - 2 additional houses*
- Revised 05/01099/FUL - 24.3.2005 - 5 additional houses*
- Revised 05/02791/FUL - 22.6.2005 - 3 additional houses*
- Revised 05/02791/FUL - 29.7.2005 - 3 additional houses, 2 additional flats!!!!!!!*

## SUDS

*As you already know I am very concerned about the viability of the Sustainable Urban Drainage System.*

*The creeping increase in the number of units can only be eroding any reserve capacity in its design. You must agree that any developer would not over-design his SUDS installation as it would not be cost effective!!!*

*The application and its documentation makes no reference to the SUDS system.*

- Has it sufficient capacity?*
- Has an evaluation been done?*
- How will it affect its maintenance?*
- Will it shorten its design life?*
- Are maintenance manuals being updated?*

## Other Aspects

*I expect I am not alone in expressing concern about the continuing increase in the population density on this site and its impact on the physical and social infrastructure. To pick up on an issue rather than exploring health and traffic provisions etc., does the nearest children's playground meet accepted standards for access and provision? Does the nearest school have places?  
Yours sincerely”*

This formal objection has been recorded and is part of the Council's Portfolio on the site.

## **Flooding**

### **Public Meeting - 31st October 2005**



We have teamed up with the Emsworth Resident's Association and invited the Environment Agency to give a progress report at the ERA Quarterly Meeting on 31st. October. Four speakers are coming and we will be covering:

- a.. flood risk management and catchment overview
- b.. EA regulatory powers
- c.. water quality and pollution issues
- d.. flood incident management

## **Background**

The Association has been concerned about tidal flooding upstream for a long time. It is very timely to have a public meeting as we are working closely with the Environment Agency addressing current flooding and river management issues .

### **1. Constant Springs Sluice**

This sluice at the head of Lumley Road controls the flows of the Ems either through Peter and Slipper Ponds or along Brook Meadow. The paddles and structure are in need of repair and at a meeting on site with all interested parties it became unclear who is responsible.

### **2. Environment Agency Studies**

The Environment Agency is currently engaged on two studies on flooding caused by the River Ems and so will hopefully come armed with the latest information.

### **a. River Ems and West Sussex Rifes Catchment Flood Management Plan**

(“Rithe” = A small stream; a brooklet. *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary - 5th Edition Vol. 2*)

The Plan is to set flood risk management policy at a catchment scale. In order to do this the Environment Agency need an understanding of catchment wide processes and the potential for change in the future, for example, in view of climate change and rising sea levels. As part of the Public Consultation process the SMPPA is now a member of the “Stake Holder” Group and has been providing detailed information about the Lower Ems and the impact of tides. The Scoping Report will be available for a 3 month period of public consultation commencing during September 2005.

### **b. Hydraulic Modelling**

In parallel with the CFMP exercise the West Sussex Section of the Environment Agency is carrying out a detailed study of the River Ems and its flooding. Surveyors have been busy around the pond for the last week gathering level data to help in this process, and again the Association has helped with their knowledge of how the system works.

### **Proposed Web site**

As we mentioned in the Spring Newsletter and referred to in the Wildlife Report we have been working on the Web Site, and we plan to present it at the AGM in October.

### **Slipper Caravan Park**

We have had a very fruitful discussion with the owners of the Park as the finalisation of the ownership issues is enabling a fresh management approach to be adopted. They explained their comprehensive plan to upgrade the park on an 18 month rolling programme, resolving any remaining parking issues, and seeking Planning approval for two more homes within the site.

We have been given advance notice that traffic on Slipper Road will be affected as some homes are about to be upgraded - old to be taken away and new brought in. The Park will be warning affected residents as the programme becomes available.

Further information is available from Fred Helmore (Tel: 01243 376847).

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#### **w Contacts:**

w General:

Nick Madina (tel: 01243 377749)

Email: [nandcmadina@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:nandcmadina@dsl.pipex.com)

w Wildlife:

Gavin Millar (tel: 01243 377071)

Please let him know if you see any wildlife activity out of the ordinary.

Should you need to rescue an animal or bird in distress the first point of help is the RSPCA (01329 667 541). The Downland Surgery (01243 377 141) offers a support service in the event of real need.

