



Newsletter — September 2014



Maurice Broomfield Photo Competition

Nick Broomfield and the prizewinners

Contents

Introduction.....	2	4. Lumley Cottages.....	6
Wildlife report.....	2	5. Gooseberry Cottage.....	7
General.....	2	6. Lumley Road Bank.....	8
Greater Black Backed Gull	3	7. Dolphin Quay.....	8
Work Parties.....	3	8. Slipper Pond Weir.....	8
Slipper Road.....	4	Annual Dinner.....	8
Infrastructure.....	4	Dolphin Quay Planning.....	9
General.....	4	Photographic Competition.....	9
Telephone Duct.....	4	Spring Talk.....	11
River Ems.....	5	Summer Party.....	11
1. Upstream Balancing Pond.....	6	Dates for your Diary	12
2. Constant Spring.....	6	Contacts:.....	12
3. River Bend.....	6	Publications.....	12

Introduction

Summer has flown by – long warm memorable days – encapsulated by the successful Summer Party. Autumn is now suddenly upon us with the first of the trees turning brown and starting to drop their leaves.

The Association is preparing for the long dark evenings – the Annual General Meeting and the Dinner will help to bring relief. Tidy-up work parties in anticipation for next Spring have already been organised. (For details – see below.)

I draw your attention to the accompanying Agenda in which we invite nominations for members to join the Committee. Please do not feel reticent – we need all sorts of expertise and fresh ideas are very welcome.

Even if you do not feel up to the challenge please do come along to the AGM and join in the discussions.

Nick Madinaveitia – Chairman

Wildlife report

General

The East bank in particular has been a delight this year – the many varied wild flowers in May and June have been much admired and the display continued throughout the summer. Now the bank has that rufty-tufty look we all like as drying seed heads take over from the blossoms. Sadly we have to look forward to the future and cut back the vigorous growth in preparation for the Spring.

Last September's spraying of the Common Reeds has been successful and very few errant blades are showing. The wild life has not been seriously affected – a pair of swans nested in the deep reeds at the North end of the bank raising two cygnets. Coots nested in them – one family being raised close to the swans' nest and a second family successfully raised four cootlets close to the Orange Ball tree.

Fish life thrives even after the substantial river flows early in the spring and today you can see the occasional trout jumping for flies and shoals of juvenile mullet. There are cormorants and herons perched on the main raft.

Nights can be noisy at the moment because the Peter Pond ducks have taken to roosting on the South raft and squabble much of the time.

The Greater Black Backed Gulls did not respond to the message that they were not welcome and crept in under the defences of the main raft and raised one chick.

Autumn is now here and the swallows have passed through on their migration South competing with the trout and bats for the juiciest flies. Flocks of starling at the bottom of the lane exploring the neighbouring bramble patches are leaving their marks everywhere.

Greater Black Backed Gull

(Larus Marinus) GBBG to you and me!

Following the agreement at last year's Annual General Meeting a frame and wires were installed on all three bird rafts, and for most of the Spring the GBBG tried but were unable to nest. Finally they crept in at the end of the main raft and established a nest where the wires had been tapered to achieve a fixing – and successfully raised a chick. At the same time a coot had laid eggs in the nesting box at the other end of the same raft.

We need to review our strategy and make any changes in the Autumn so as not to interfere with next year's breeding season. Possibilities we might consider include:

- Do nothing – assuming the solution as it stands is sufficient
- Repair and strengthen the existing framework
- Install a more substantial solution

We do need your opinion. Come along to the AGM and join in the debate.

Work Parties

We must thank Rob Turner and his team for the work they did in the Spring and Summer. They have been duly rewarded by how 'comfortable' the banks have turned out – all natural looking with litter cleared.

Autumn Saturday work parties have been planned for:

27 th . September	North End of the bank to the holly bush plus any preparation work needed for the Slipper Road repairs.
11 th . October	Southwards to the orange ball bush outside the caravan park.
25 th . October	Remaining items

Start time on all 3 days is 9.30 am outside 25 Slipper Road.

If you have your own rakes and/or brooms, please bring them along. Gloves and stout footwear are essential.

Please telephone or email Rob Turner if you are able to help in any or all work parties so that we have an idea of numbers. Rob's telephone number is 01243 376508 and his email is jirlturner@btinternet.com

Slipper Road

As users of the road already know its surface has deteriorated to the point that repairs are essential before Winter sets in and more damage takes place. Residents of Slipper Road have had a collection to which the Association, as road users, have contributed and Kattenhorn of Havant, a professional highways contractor, is due to start at the beginning of October. The works should only take a day.

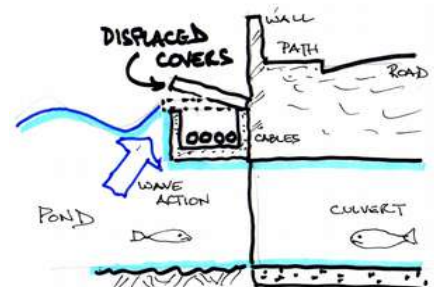
Infrastructure

General

There have been no problems with our pond and its banks. Repairs to the Sluice and its apron have been put on "hold" pending resolution of the upstream problems and potential external funding – See "Slipper Pond Weir" below.

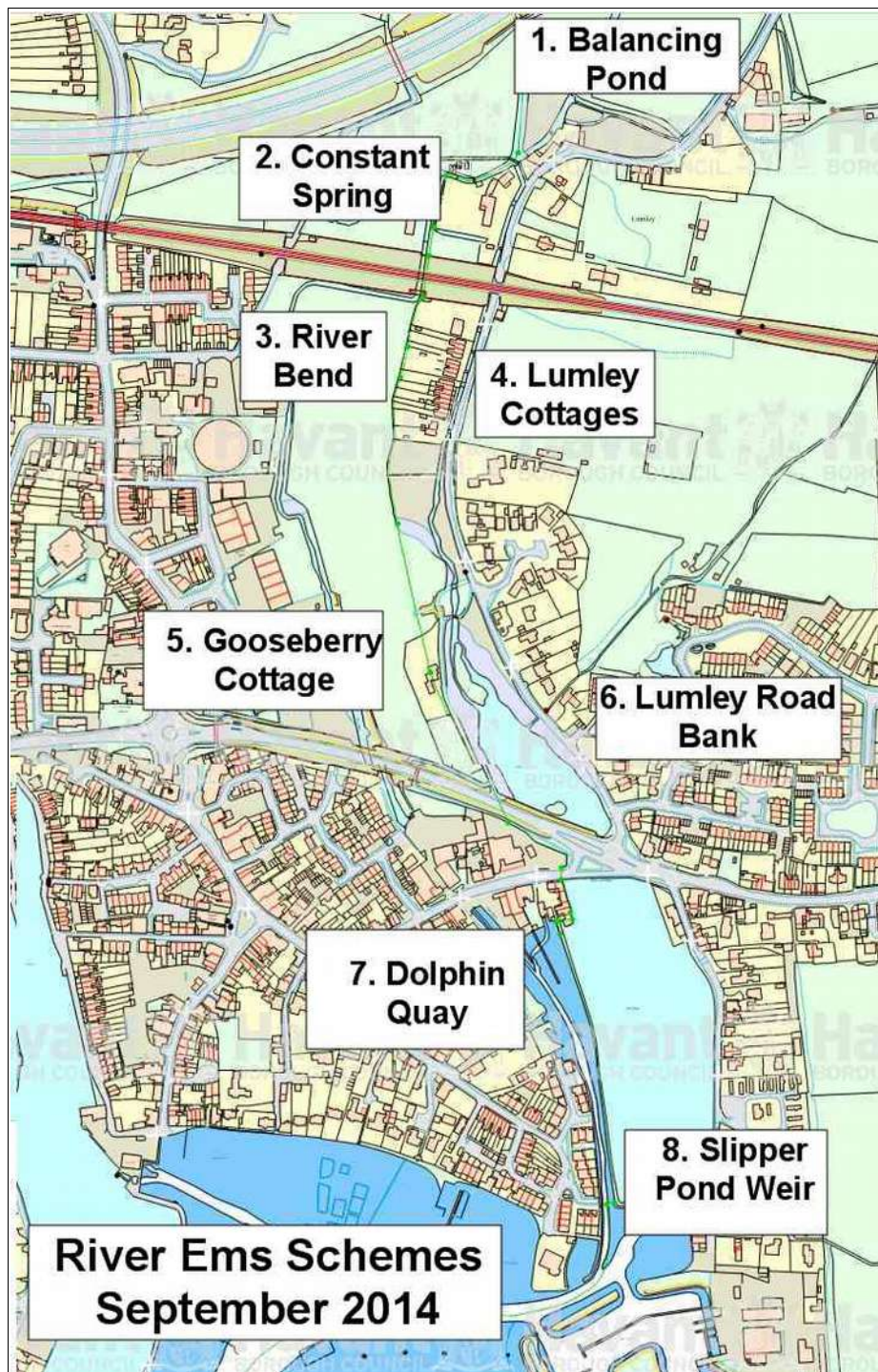
Telephone Duct

Wave action in the Winter storms has lifted the individual covers exposing vital cables. We have chased BT and they will be repairing it in the Autumn when the pond has been drained for the Lumley Road bank works – see below.



River Ems

The SMPPA Report that was accepted in February has led to the formation of a neighbourhood group chaired by Councillor Sandra James of West Sussex County Council which includes the Environment Agency and Havant Council. The group has identified eight interlinked issues which are currently being actively developed.



1. Upstream Balancing Pond

The EA have discovered an abandoned balancing pond close to the A27 and are looking into bringing it under control and into use to help attenuate flows downstream in extreme conditions.

2. Constant Spring

Modifications to the bank on the East side of the river to cater for extreme flows are being discussed. Solutions are being explored to relieve the impact of flooding on the footpath to the North.

3. River Bend



Pallisade Section



Wall to be raised by 50cm.

The EA intend starting on 15th

September raising the brick parapet immediately to the South of the railway culvert by 50cm, and will install substantial timber defence works along its bank. In the long term it is planned to deflect significant flows to over-top the bank using a specially lowered section, cross Brook Meadow, flow into Peter and Slipper Ponds and out to sea.

4. Lumley Cottages

An overall scheme has been agreed in principle to protect them from tidal and river flooding allowing them to become an “island” under extreme conditions. Details are being developed at present and include

4.1 Cottage front gardens

The residents have joined forces and hope to have their solution of a raised garden wall funded by the Flood Repair grants.

4.2 Rose Cottage Access Bridge

The West abutment of the bridge was undercut by the stream in flood and has failed. Failed and exploratory repair works have started. The whole area is being considered as any more deterioration threatens to further obstruct the stream in front of the cottages potentially causing flooding.



Looking downstream with ruined abutment removed

4.3 Back Gardens

The long-term solution is to construct an earth bank, and a full ecological impact study is being organised to ensure its impact is taken into account. In the short term the EA is providing sand-bags to be installed by volunteers in the near future.

5. Gooseberry Cottage



South Meadow and Gooseberry Cottage from footpath

Solutions to relieve the high water levels in Brook Meadow's South field which overflowed into the cottage garden are being explored including modifying the outfall structure that discharges into Peter Pond.

6. Lumley Road Bank

Final details are being costed at present to modify the road drainage into Peter Pond, raise lower sections of the bank and repair the facing in front of the bench in the South-East corner. We are liaising with the team and will be draining the Slipper Pond and thus Peter Pond to make work easier. Work is programmed to start in October – timed to minimise its environmental impact.



Damage at South-East corner

7. Dolphin Quay

No further developments as an appeal against the rejected Planning Application was lodged in August.

8. Slipper Pond Weir

The weir to deal with extreme river flows is being considered and is not in the first phase of the works. As noted above repairs to the sluice and its apron have been put on “hold” pending a full study of long term flooding. The EA will be responsible for the scheme and so provide funding for it and the sluice apron repairs necessitated when at their insistence we opened it last Winter.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Brookfield Hotel, Havant Road, Emsworth, on Friday 21st. November 2014. Tickets are £22.50 each and will be available from Sarah Titley and Betty Smith. They would be grateful if you would bring any donations you may have for the Raffle at the Dinner to the Annual General Meeting.

Dolphin Quay Planning



Developer's Proposal

The Association lodged objections on the following grounds:

- No change of use of the site has been agreed.
- The proposed development would be an alien imposition
- The site has a major impact as part of the 'Gateway to Emsworth'. The pond and its environs are a significant part of the town's charm and suitable sympathetic development could even enhance the area.
- Endorsed the Conservation Officer's assessment of the value of the site and support his recommendation to reject the current proposal.

The Application was turned down and the developer appealed against the decision in August. The normal way these matters are heard by the planning inspector is by considering written submissions but in this case Havant Borough Council are asking for a full public hearing. They are taking this action because of the degree of public opposition and will provide objectors with the opportunity of making a further written submission or appearing in person.

Photographic Competition

Sarah Titley, who runs the Competition on behalf of the Association, reports:

This year's Maurice Broomfield competition title was 'Water and Wildlife' and the judges received entries from six schools local to Slipper Pond.

A private viewing and prize giving ceremony was held at the Emsworth Community Centre at the beginning of May and we were delighted that Nick Broomfield, Maurice's son, was there to give out the prizes. We were very pleased to see so many children and their families there, and the photos stayed up for the Emsworth Arts Trail weekend. The winning pictures were then displayed in the Emsworth Co-op who also provided drinks and nibbles for the event.



Winner with his winning image 'Free Flying Flock'.



*Winners and Runners Up (left to right)
with film maker Nick Broomfield.*

The Association thanked the judges - Geoff and Jill Thatcher, Gavin Millar, Lizzie Dymock and Jenny Tyson – and Suzie Thompson-Coon for her continuing support.

Spring Talk

“Smuggling in Chichester and Langstone Harbours.”

Linda Newell, administrator of the Emsworth Museum gave a most interesting and informative talk on Friday 16th May at the Pastoral Centre. It was much enjoyed – especially her description of the smugglers throwing the contraband overboard at the harbour entrance and collecting it upstream to evade the watchful eyes of the customs officials.

Summer Party

Catherine Madina reports:

It's one of summer's highlights to wander around the Urry's charming garden of a summer evening, drink and finger food in hand, chatting to SMPPA members and neighbours. I always look forward to it enormously, as being a charming, enjoyable, quintessentially English tradition. In fact, I think each Summer Party has been more delightful than the last. This year everything conspired, even the weather, to make the event a brilliant success! Every year, I tell myself I should eat a few nibbles and go home for dinner, but when I get there, I find that people have provided a huge variety of tasty canapés, sandwiches, little soufflés and tempting delicacies. This summer, there were more than ever! I doubt very much indeed if anyone needed anything to eat afterwards. The garden was at its best; bunting fluttered daintily and there were plenty of tables and chairs set out under sunshades to encourage socializing. What an enviable setting for a gentle gathering! It was very well attended by old and new members, and I would like to thank the Urrys not only for their forbearance with us all, but for the inevitable work that had gone into creating the ambience, providing tables, chairs, glasses and plates, plus clearing up and washing up at the end. I would also like to thank Betty for her amazing patience and diligence in bringing the event together year after year, and for her hard work in ensuring it runs so smoothly; and Sarah for her timely troubleshooting and lively support. Long may our annual summer gatherings continue!

Dates for your Diary

27 th September	Saturday	Work Parry
11 th October	Saturday	Work Party
17 th October	Friday	Annual General Meeting
25 th October	Saturday	Work Party
21 st November	Friday	Annual Dinner, Brookfield Hotel.

Contacts:

General:	Nick Madinaveitia	01243 377749
Treasurer:	Mark Phillips	01243 376756
Membership & Social Events	Betty Smith	01243 371576
	Sarah Titley	01243 379947
Wildlife:	The Downland Surgery	01243 377141
	RSPCA	01239 667541
Environment Agency	Pollution	0845 9881188
	Flood line	0800 807060
	Mention the local rangers in any calls – Paul Reynolds & Trevor Page	

Publications

All on sale to support the Association

Please contact Betty Smith if you wish to purchase the Bird Book, Notelets or Cards

