

SMPPA Newsletter

July 2023



Fun in the sun – June 2023



Report antisocial
behaviour
www.sussex.police.
uk

[https://
www.sussex.police.uk/
ro/report/asb/asb-v3/
report-antisocial-
behaviour/](https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/)

14:08

Index:

	Page		Page
Dates for your Diary	8	Dog Walker Birdaware Signs	5
Useful Contacts	8	Water Levels, Salinity & Fish/Fishing	6
Antisocial Behaviour	2	Maintenance Tasks	7
Broomfield Schools Photo Comp	3	Land Ownership Update	7
Annual Dinner	4	WANTED!	7
Planting	4		

It is quite surprising the range of things that we get involved with (after all it's just a Pond!). For example, much time over the last few months has been taken up working on how we can approach and tackle any **anti-social behaviour** in and around the Pond – an update on measures that have been taken can be found on page 2.

The **Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition** (page 3) held in April was once again a great success and very well received by the schools and parents. It is worth all the effort, but takes up a lot of our volunteers' time co-ordinating the entries and presenting and mounting the photos.

Concerns about the **state of wildlife and our water** (page 6) are on everyone's minds and anything we can do to better understand how our small site is faring would be helpful, rather than relying on anecdotal evidence.

On the social events side, after very many years of holding our **Annual Dinner** at the Brookfield Hotel, we now have no choice but to have a **change of venue** this year (details on page 4) – as the space will be more constrained, it is going to be an interesting challenge to accommodate the raffle and any entertainment!

The next event is the **Summer Garden Party on Sunday 23rd July at 4.00pm at Slipper House, 2 Slipper Road**. We do hope you will join us. A list of all forthcoming dates can be found at the back of this newsletter.

We are most grateful for the help of everyone mentioned in this newsletter, and to the support of all our members, and in particular to those (unnamed) who give additional donations and support. Thank you.

With very best wishes to you all.

Jo Greenfield

(and SMPPA Trustees)

chmn@smppa.org.uk - tel 01243 371134

56 King Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AZ



Committee Members/Trustees

Jo Greenfield (KS), Sharon Corbett (SR), Simon Dwyer (SR), Simon Eveleigh (KS), Jim Hailstone (SR), Maire Park (HW)
where SR is Slipper Road, KS is King Street, HW is Harbour Way.

Antisocial Behaviour

After last summer's distressing events, local residents are becoming better prepared for preventing and responding to antisocial behaviour. The police have also been more proactive this year and, although under-resourced, appear keen to identify the perpetrators and to reduce this type of crime.

CCTV and further preventative measures have been installed on Slipper Mill, thanks mainly to Mark & Sally Davis for moving forward with this initiative. The SMPPA contributed 1/7th (£300) of the CCTV cost, along with several other local households.

A whatsapp group has been set up to communicate and co-ordinate information, and to encourage calls to the police if considered necessary. The whatsapp group now has more than 20 members - if you would like to join this group, please let us know by emailing info@smppa.org.uk.

The main issues experienced so far this year have been trespassing onto property and boats. We are working closely with Emsworth Yacht Harbour who have been very helpful and supportive as they also have frequent problems.

In an unrelated incident it appears that an elderly man was recently assaulted by Peter Pond, which serves as a reminder to us all not to confront anyone demonstrating antisocial behaviour.

Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition (by Maire Park)

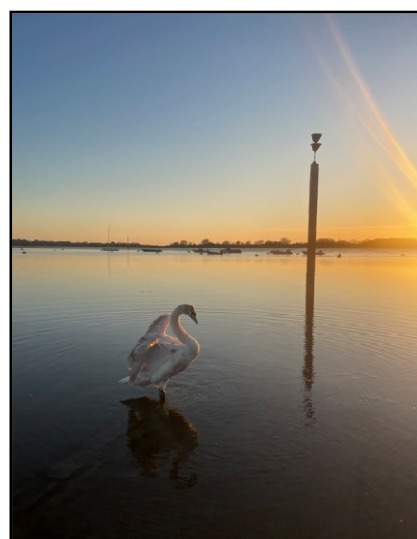
This year's Broomfield Schools Photography Competition held in April was another success. The six local primary schools contributed a total of 73 photographs from 39 pupils. The submission process was streamlined so that photographs could be submitted via an online form and one entry for each category was allowed to manage the significant workload necessary co-ordinate all the entries with the children and schools and to mount and present the photographs.

Importantly, the competition provides an opportunity for primary school children to engage with the world through photography and see their photographs exhibited. This lovely letter we received from one of the parents shows how much the competition is appreciated:

"I just wanted to drop you a line to say thank you very much to you and everyone involved with the photo competition. It's such a lovely idea to reach out to our children and get them involved in the community whilst also inspiring creativity in them - in an arena outside of school, mixing with other children in different schools - and giving them the chance to explore and make it their own."

The photos displayed were really impressive and all the children that took part should be really proud of themselves. My 2 children were over the moon to have been awarded prizes and it was so nice that they were able to have a chat with the prize givers today about their images and glean some technical and creative knowledge at the same time. Such a brilliant initiative and so lovely to be fostering a sense of community in our children."

The photographs were of a high standard and challenged the judges to identify winners. The two overall winners are below, with many other photos available to view on our website at www.smppa.org.uk/photographic-competition .



Local Nature: "Swanning around... What a poser!" by Sonny Sivieri, Year 6, St James Primary School

Photos on Display at the Emsworth Community Centre as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail



Any Subject: "Troublesome Tyres" by Grace Etherington Year 4, Emsworth Primary School

Apart from the 8 winning photos (2 from each year group for each category), there were also 13 highly commended photographs. Congratulations to everybody who entered photographs!

The photographs were displayed as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail from April 28th - May 1st and the prizes presented by Dr Gilbert Park, one of the judges, as the display opened.

The Broomfield Photography Competition is run by the SMPPA and the expenses and prizes are covered by bequests from Maurice Broomfield and Suzie Thompson-Coon. It currently costs over £300 a year to fund (which includes £200 in prize money) - most of the funds have now been used over the years of the competition and new funding for the competition is being sought.

We look forward to next year's Competition and hope for more beautiful photographs. Maybe potential photographers can continue to take their photographs year round - the ones submitted to the competition don't have to be of Spring! **Your photos are always welcome too! Please do send in anything of interest for inclusion in our newsletter or website – email info@smppa.org.uk**

Annual Dinner (Brookfield Hotel Sale)



We have been informed that the Brookfield has been sold and will become a "Restaurant with Rooms", meaning that we will no longer be able to hold our annual dinner there.

We are now looking to have the dinner on Thursday 30th November at the Emsworth Sailing Club. This is a smaller venue so we will be more limited on numbers. More details to follow when we have an idea of likely costs.

Planting

We hope that you enjoy the planting around the Pond and the wildlife it supports. It is always a work in progress! Sharon Corbett & Rod Aitken continue to spend much of their time caring for the planting along Slipper Road, to ensure that young plants are nurtured and that growth is cut back in a sensitive manner, whilst aiming to maintain sightlines along Slipper Road. Mark & Sally Davis, Linzi Coull, Rod Aitken and Tim Hollins helped with watering new shrubs and trees during the dry spell - their work is much appreciated - thank you.

The non-invasive sea club rush planted by Chequers Quay last summer appears to be growing well. We have again treated the reeds (*Phragmites Australis*) that are growing up the bank among the grasses and wildflowers, and are looking at further ways to

control or reduce their spread. Cutting back the reeds seems to make them grow even more densely, so treating individual reeds with weedkiller or installing matting appear to be the only viable options. We know that the reeds are a sensitive subject; they are an important wildlife shelter, but can also restrict some views of the Pond; we will continue to assess the alternatives open to us and act accordingly.

It has been a very pleasant surprise to see our bird rafts even more heavily laden with wildflowers this year! The Great Black-Backed Gulls have not nested here this year, but other birds are still able to easily access the rafts to nest, and the swans, coots and ducks have all produced young.



Swan with her cygnets



Floral display on southern bird raft

Birdaware Signs for Dog Walkers

Our new signs installed on the kissing gates and along Slipper Road have received many favourable comments and even got a mention in the Friends of Chichester Harbour Members' May Newsletter!

“Bird Aware Solent” www.birdaware.org is a charity that works to raise awareness of the birds that spend time on our coastline, and encourages everyone to act responsibly with regard to wildlife. They ask owners to keep their dogs “close by” so they do not disturb wildlife, particularly birds. Letting a dog chase birds can have a life-threatening effect on birds, particularly during their migratory rest periods or when they need to feed; repeated disturbance is very distressing and tiring for them.

We are pleased to report that this year we have not heard of any incidents of dogs chasing or attacking birds.



New “Dogs Alongside” signage

Water Levels & Salinity, Fish & Fishing

At present the reported river level on the Westbourne gauge (<https://riverlevels.uk/ems-westbourne>) is much higher than it has been in the month of July for the last few years. Hopefully it will stay that way this summer so that the River Ems and other chalk water streams have a chance of thriving.

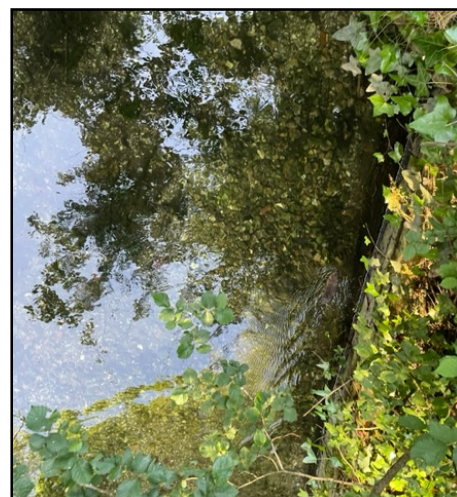
Dave Gattrell from Peter Pond is thrilled to report evidence of water voles (see RHS) there - great to hear!

Earlier this year there was a build-up of weed or algal bloom in the south-west corner of the Pond, most likely due to a prolonged period of the prevailing wind coming from the north-east; a number of members voiced their concerns about this.

It is very difficult to be certain about water quality and the state of wildlife at the Pond unless there is any form of formal monitoring which is something that we do not have capacity or expertise for in our small team. We have spoken with Emsworth Councillor Richard Kennett who is keen to help if he can, and he has promised to speak with other local groups who might be interested in helping.

A dead dogfish caused a lot of interest to passers by, when it was spotted in the Pond in late April. During neap tides (when the tidal gates do not open), the salinity in the Pond is reduced, particularly if there are good freshwater flows from up river. The resultant lack of salt in the water may cause the fish trapped in the Pond to rise to the surface to “gulp” for air, a phenomenon that can be seen here from time to time (and is similar to what happens to fish in freshwater locations where the water is de-oxygenated). This may have been why the dogfish did not survive in the Pond.

We are pleased that the amount of cast net fishing seems to have reduced this year. Our fishing policy signage is now much clearer, allowing line fishing only from the south bank, and reminding anglers to return all fish to the Pond, regardless of size or species.



Difficult to see, but spot the water vole!



Simon Eveleigh having retrieved the dogfish!



Maintenance Tasks

Jim Hailstone and his team carried out some maintenance jobs during the winter, including repairs to the south-east kissing gate, to the bird rafts and to the gabions along the west and south banks.

We are putting together a list of general maintenance tasks to be completed at the October work party, but nothing major is planned at the moment (fingers crossed!). Fortunately, the footbridge is now much more robust after the work done on it last year.

SMPPA Land Ownership – update from our Solicitor

"In relation to the pond itself, this is still with the Land Registry. At present, applications for First Registration are taking up to two years so there may be a wait until that one is back with us. In relation to the Wardle Land, the application to remove the restriction has not yet completed, but the title shows the SMPPA is registered as the owner."



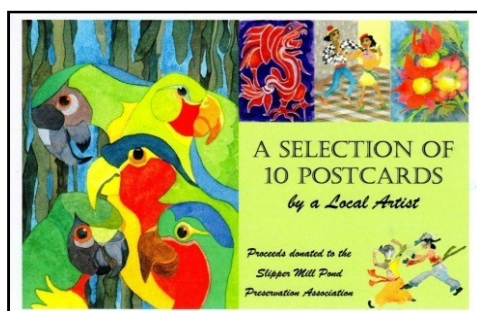
New Members are very welcome. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining us or is new to the area, please let us know, or pass our details on to them.

We are looking for:

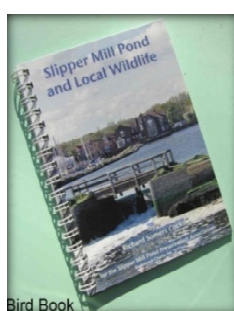
- assistance with running the Broomfield Photographic Competition (good IT skills/ admin required)
- expertise/knowledge of structural engineering (for bank monitoring)
- people or organisations to do Wildlife Monitoring / Studies
- people or organisations to monitor water quality
- any interesting photos or stories for the website and next newsletter

Useful Contacts (also available on our website)			
Enquiries/Chair	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134	chmn@smppa.org.uk
Membership	Sharon Corbett	01243 389994	membership@smppa.org.uk
Social	Maire Park		events@smppa.org.uk
Police	Emergency 999 (incl damage to property, risk of injury) Disturbances 101 (online reporting is at www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report or www.hampshire.police.uk).		
Wildlife	Downland Surgery - 01243 377141 RSPCA - 01239 667541 Our Rural Crime Officer is Colin Booker (PCSO / Wildlife Crime Officer, Chichester and Arun Areas). Call 101.		
Pollution	Call Southern Water on 0330 303 0368 or email pollution@southernwater.co.uk		
Diesel Spillages	Call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard as they have 24 hour coverage for this kind of incident.		
Environment Agency	All incidents 0800 807 060 Flood line 0345 988 1188		
Fishing Policy	Updated information and signage clarifying our Fishing Rules are on the Slipper Mill notice board and around the Pond.		

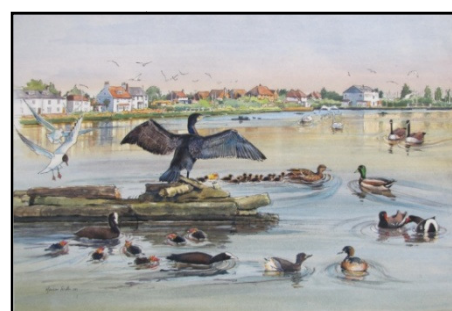
Publications – Available to purchase – please contact Jo Greenfield (see above)



Postcards - £5 for a pack of 10 by a local artist



Bird & Butterfly Book - £5



Notelets - £4 for 6 (incl envelopes) by local artist Marian Forster

Dates for Your Diary	Event
Sunday 23rd July, 4.00pm	Summer Garden Party – Slipper House
Saturday 7th October – from 9.00am	Full Work Party – Slipper Road
Thursday 30th November	Annual Dinner – Emsworth Sailing Club (date and venue tbc)
Spring 2024 (date tbc)	Annual General Meeting