

*A selection of our 30 or so work party helpers – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

<b>Index:</b>	<b>Page</b>		<b>Page</b>
Dates for your Diary	8	Planting & Wildlife	5
Useful Contacts	8	Fishing	4
Sluice Apron Repair	3	Water Quality	5
Summer Garden Party	2	New Gate & New Field Drain	6
October Work Party	4	Signage	5
Spring Talk	7	JustGiving Account	7

# SMPPA Newsletter

## January 2022

Since our last newsletter in July, we have (at last!) been able to hold 3 “in person” events: the **Summer Garden Party**, an **Autumn Work Party** & the **AGM**. These were all well attended and it was great to see so many members at each. In particular the **October work party** was a terrific success, not least because of the fabulous cakes, scones etc provided by some of you – and much was achieved (details on page 4). In view of the continuing uncertainty with COVID we have decided to postpone the **Annual Dinner** yet again to November this year.

We have had some good news regarding the **Sluice Apron**. We have found a company that has quoted to do a basic low cost repair that will improve its appearance and also be capable of withstanding infrequent use of the sluice gate, should the need arise. We are looking to go ahead with this in early February, using SMPPA reserves

again. More details on page 3.

As ever, all the topics in this newsletter are under constant review by our small Volunteer Team which has limited resources and access to expertise. Please rest assured that we try our best, taking into account the feedback that we receive from You Our Members! I am always open to suggestions and ideas, so feel free to email or phone me, or even knock on my door.

With very best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy 2022.

*Jo Greenfield*

(and SMPPA Trustees)

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56 King Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AZ



## Committee Members/Trustees

Jo Greenfield (KS), Sharon Corbett (SR), Simon Dwyer (SR), Simon Eveleigh (KS), Maire Park (HW)

where SR is Slipper Road, KS is King Street, HW is Harbour Way.

**We are looking for an additional Trustee**, ideally from Slipper Road south or Roundhouse Meadow. The Committee meets quarterly, with additional small groups meeting/liasing as necessary. We have a great action-focused team.

**We are looking for people / organisations to do Wildlife Monitoring / Studies.** We are a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) and part of the CDC Strategic Wildlife Corridor - please join us at our **“Spring Talk” on 25<sup>th</sup> March** – see page 7.

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## Summer Garden Party



*Jo Greenfield & Nick Madina*



*Slipper House – August 2021*

The Summer Garden Party took place in August 2021 and was hosted for the first time at Slipper House by Claire & Simon Dwyer, with around 50 people attending in spite of the windy and cool weather. A presentation was made at this event to Nick Madina for his long and dedicated service.



## Sluice Apron / Outfall

We have had a proposal from a local company, ABJ Ltd (John Balmire), who recently renewed the Emsworth Yacht Harbour slipway. Their advice is to carry out a basic low cost repair that will improve its appearance and also be capable of withstanding infrequent use of the sluice gate, should the need arise. A visual inspection by ABJ of the inside of the sluice tunnel and external surface of the south bank around the apron did not indicate the need for any remedial attention.

ABJ have quoted £2,208 incl VAT for the work, with material 'at cost' as a recognition of our charitable status and funding constraints. There is no requirement to contact the EA, CHC or any other body, as no consents are needed for "like-for-like" works replacing the existing failed structure.

The initial clear up will be done by the SMPPA (led by Jim Hailstone) and includes: removal & disposal of approx 15 old cement bags; removal and disposal of the redundant wooden post; and clearing of seaweed using a petrol power washer.



*Damaged Sluice Apron viewed from footbridge*



*Damaged Sluice Apron viewed from the south showing rotten post to be removed*

ABJ will carry out the following: return concrete lumps washed out from earlier sluice flows to roughly the area they were before being displaced; place shuttering around the area to which new concrete will be applied; infill any large gaps with pebbles / ballast (if needed); install wire mesh across the top (if needed); supply and deliver 4m of concrete with special mix (sulphur) suitable for sea water immersion prior to setting (using small Minimix lorry to pass through gate and mix on site); pump concrete to apron using hired Arun pump; float concrete in place to create smooth apron; remove & return shuttering, clear any other arisings.

The Trustees feel that the relevant experience of ABJ, along with the low cost, make this proposal very attractive. Our intention is to go ahead with the works, with a probable timeframe for the job in the **week commencing 7th February**. There should be sufficient space to walk past the site works, although when the cement mixer lorry is inside the gate the width will be much reduced from normal for around half a day. At this time we will be asking walkers to take extra care when using the west bank footpath & passing the works.

## October Work Party



We had a terrific work party on 9<sup>th</sup> October, with around 30 volunteers joining us on a glorious sunny day. The main jobs completed were the bagging of all arisings from the east bank strim, litter picking, and preservative treatment of the footbridge timber (see photo). Delicious cakes, scones & refreshments were provided by Members.

Jim Hailstone, Rob Turner and Mark Newman had strimmed the grasses over the previous 3 days. The arisings resulted in 5 trips (80 builders' bags) to the refuse tip.

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## Fishing



**Cast Net Fishing:** this happened regularly in 2021 in the Pond and also in the water south of the tidal gates – probably fishing for bait to sell. The Rural Crime Squad and EA want to eradicate this type of fishing and have asked us to report it by **calling 999 quoting crime number 935 and the date, stating that the call is for the Rural Crime Squad**. If you feel able and safe to do so, they have asked us to video the perpetrators while using the cast net. So far, since the police have been involved, this fishing seems to have ceased.

**Line Fishing:** Fishing line is often retrieved from the Pond; on Peter Pond, last year a Coot was killed by fishing line, and a fishing hook was also caught on a Cygnet. Some fishing has been taking place from the narrow pavement on the A259 which is a health & safety concern; signage is being considered. As the Pond is a saline lagoon, fishing rules fall between fresh water and sea water. As it is difficult to enforce “no fishing”, line fishing is therefore “tolerated”.

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***We are very grateful to our regular litter pickers who have picked up the numerous abandoned coffee cups and other items. The dog waste bin has been overflowing at times but WSCC have been quick to empty it when we have reported it.***



## Signage



“No access to Emsworth Yacht Harbour” signs have been placed at the entrance to Slipper Road to discourage cars from trying to take this route – the marina generously contributed £100 towards the cost.



## Planting & Wildlife



*We are looking for someone to monitor and/or report on our Pond wildlife*

In October the following plants were planted: Rowan/Mountain Ash Tree; more sea-buckthorn (as the ones planted earlier in the year have mostly not survived; Teasel plugs; and Yellow Rattle seeds (to keep down grasses).

The yellow flag iris and marsh marigold in the water are struggling to survive due to the range in height of the Pond water. The sea aster planted in the southwest corner of the bank have also sadly not survived, probably due to the poor soil and dry conditions there.

## Water Quality

Several members have queried if the SMPPA is doing anything about reporting or testing for pollution in the Pond. We are investigating if we can “join forces” with other local groups who are monitoring water quality. If you think you see pollution, please email [pollution@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:pollution@southernwater.co.uk), Southern Water will respond by sending out Cappagh to test the water quality. The test is for ammonia, which indicates sewage or fertilisers. Brown or white foam on the Pond surface has been reported but Cappagh have not identified ammonia at all; it is probably spume, a natural phenomenon, occurring particularly when it is windy. Real-time information about releases of stormwater or wastewater at your favourite spot are at:

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/our-bathing-waters/beachbuoy>





There are understood to have been a couple of **diesel spillage** episodes in Dolphin Creek last year, possibly involving a boat on the pontoon at the top of the creek. The coastguard was informed and they dealt with the spillage. Call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard who are contactable 24/7.

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## South East Corner - New Gate & New Field Drain



*New gate at south-east corner*

A new gate has been fitted in the south-east corner as the old one was rotten. 'Prikkastrip' has been installed along the top of the gate, to provide a deterrent to those tempted to sit on it.

The steel lumps remaining at ground level by the pedestrian gate (former bike rack, also rotten) will be removed to reduce any trip hazard.



*Gate partly submerged on high tide of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021*

In November, Jim Hailstone & Rob Turner dug out the filled-in ditch running between the original drainage pipe (leading into the Pond) and the tarmac roadway. A new 3m pipe was connected to the original pipe, and a sump and drain concreted in place.

A wooden marker post was relocated to try & deter vehicles from driving over the drain cover grill. The post was quickly demolished (presumably by a vehicle turning round), and tyre marks from the recycling lorry were noted very close to the new drain, so a more sturdy concrete post was relocated in an attempt to protect the drain sump from being driven over and damaged.

The drain does appear to have reduced the depth and area of flooding. To eliminate puddles and allow complete drainage of this area would require additional tarmac to fill the potholes and raise the roadway level to provide a 'fall' to the new drain. This is outside the SMPPA's responsibility, being a matter for the householders who own the road who have a 'joint & several' responsibility to maintain it.



## Spring Talk – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March



**Sarah Hughes, the Chichester Strategic Wildlife Corridors Project Officer** (Chichester District Council) will be coming to talk to us on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm. The talk will provide an overview on the state of nature & the seven proposed corridors with an in-depth look at the Hermitage to Westbourne corridor, which includes the Slipper Mill Pond.

She hopes that the talk/chat, will enable her to have a better understanding of our vitally important site. More info at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=31016>.

The price will be £3 per person (to cover the cost of room hire). We do hope that you can join us.



**JustGiving™**

A JustGiving account has been set up for the SMPPA, along with a linked QR code (see left).

This can be used at any time for donations or fundraising.

Alternatively the link is <https://www.justgiving.com/smppa>. Or go to JustGiving.com and search for "SMPPA".

***Please Do Spread The Word! New Members are very welcome. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining us, please let us know, or pass our details on to them.***

### Data Protection Act 2018

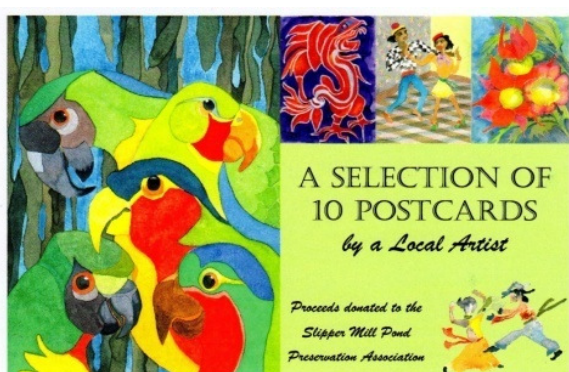
To comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, our Data Protection & Privacy Policy is on the Membership page of our website. If you have any queries, or do not wish to receive email or postal communications from us, please let us know.



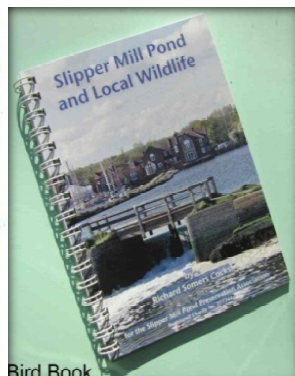
## Useful Contacts

<b>Enquiries/Chair</b>	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134	info@smppa.org.uk
<b>Membership</b>	Sharon Corbett	01243 389994	membership@smppa.org.uk
<b>Wildlife</b>	Downland Surgery - 01243 377141 RSPCA - 01239 667541		
<b>Police</b> Emergency 999	<b>Disturbances 101:</b> <i>Please mention PCSO Baylee Reed of Sussex Police for tracking purposes</i>		
<b>Cast Net Fishing</b>	<b>Call 999 quoting crime number 935 and the date</b> , stating that the call is for the Rural Crime Squad. If you feel able and safe to do so, please video the perpetrators while using the cast net.		
<b>Pollution/Diesel Spillages</b>	Call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard as they have 24 hour coverage.		
<b>Environment Agency</b>	All incidents 0800 807060 Flood line 0345 988 1188		
<b>Fishing Policy - SMPPA</b>	<a href="http://www.smppa.org.uk/fishing">www.smppa.org.uk/fishing</a>		

## 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 - £3 for 6 (incl envelopes) by local artist Marian Forster**

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00pm</b>	<b>Spring Talk</b> – Sarah Hughes – Chichester Strategic Wildlife Corridors Project Officer – Community Centre Mountford Room
<b>April/May TBC</b>	<b>Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition</b> – 30 <sup>th</sup> April tbc (Emsworth Arts Trail)
<b>Summer 2022</b>	<b>Summer Garden Party</b> – usually July or August – Date tbc
<b>October 2022</b>	<b>AGM</b> – Date tbc
<b>November 2022</b>	<b>Annual Dinner</b> – Date tbc