



Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association

Registered Charity: 277744

www.smppa.org.uk



16th April 2013

Photo: Nick Madinaveitia

Spring at last!

Newsletter — May 2013

Contents

Introduction.....	2	Photographic Competition.....	4
Wildlife Report.....	2	Email Addresses:.....	8
Flooding and the River Ems.....	2	Dates for your Diary.....	8
East Bank Planting.....	3	Contacts.....	8
Spring Talk.....	4		

Introduction

Spring is suddenly upon us with the reports of the first cuckoos in Sussex. Rob Turner and his team of volunteers have been preparing the planting on East Bank and look forward to seeing the results of their work.

In the next weeks the Association is holding two major events – the Spring Talk and Exhibition of the winning and commended photos of the Maurice Broomfield Photographic Competition - I do hope you will come to both events.

A big thank-you to Betty Smith for organising the Spring Talk and Sarah Titley and her team, Lizzie Dymock, Jeff & Jill Thatcher, Gavin and Jill Millar and Betty Smith for all the work in organising, judging and then mounting and exhibiting the photos.

Nick Madinaveitia - Chairman

Wildlife Report

The Winter period has been long and drawn-out and now, in the middle of April, Spring is about to burst upon us – complete with the traditional showers.

In the past months there have been a number of feathered visitors including Tufted duck and Crested grebe.

A youngster was fishing and caught a brown trout which he was about to return to the pond – about 500gms. and about 25cm long. With the amount of fresh water flowing down the Ems and the dismantled sluice at Constant Springs it is likely the trout came from upstream.

The plants and flowers on the Eastern Bank are finally coming to life and, thanks to Gavin's sterling work, the replanted daffodils are making a splendid show.



Photos: Nick Madinaveitia

Flooding and the River Ems

In the January Newsletter there was a detailed account of the flooding position.

Matters have moved forward. The Environment Agency (EA) has been working to resolve the problems in Upper Lumley. They have helped the owners of Constant Springs House to open and manage the water features

in their garden allowing much more water to flow down the Main River Ems significantly relieving the Lumley Stream. They have also replaced the sluice at Constant Springs with a new spectacular state-of-the-art one and they plan to balance the flows between the two branches.



Photos: Nick Madinaveitia

We are chasing West Sussex County Council to complete their 'peer review' of the SMPPA's Burgess Report together with additional information examining flooding of the Lower Ems

At the same time we are in contact with both WSCC and the EA to confirm approach and to work with them to ensure our neighbours in Lumley understand how the pond functions.

East Bank Planting

Rob Turner reports:

Despite the terrible weather conditions we have been experiencing, planned planting and maintenance for the East Bank has taken place. Additional hedging whips have been planted at various points along the bank to enhance wild areas.

*A Spindle Tree (*Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade') and the much discussed Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*) are now in place at the North End where the Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster frigidus* 'Cornubia') is responding well to renovation pruning carried out last year and the hedging whips planted are also thriving. Our first maintenance session of 2013 has seen *Buddleia* pruned, some shrubs trimmed and specific areas weeded. A big thank-you to all those involved. We are trying to have more regular maintenance sessions in 2013 so that we can keep on top of things through the year.*

If anyone is interested in joining in please let me know on 01243 376508.

Spring Talk

The talk will be held in the Pastoral Centre, the Square on Friday 26th April, 7.30 for an 8.00 start.

Maggie Haynes will be talking about Tuppenny Barn.

Her aims are:

- Growing high quality, affordable produce on her 2.4 acre organically certified smallholding at Southbourne
- Investing in the community by providing organic vegetables, fruit, herbs, flowers and plants for local people
- Promoting sustainable working practices to encourage others to work with nature
- Teaching young people how organic food production works in harmony with all aspects of nature

Photographic Competition

Sarah Titley reports:

The Maurice Broomfield Photographic Competition is in its second year and has expanded to include five local primary schools. Emsworth Primary, St James Primary, Southbourne Juniors, Thorney Island Primary and Funtington Primary all took part in the competition which was open to children in school years 4-6. The theme 'Water and Wildlife' was introduced this year and the judges, Jeff Thatcher, Gill Thatcher and Lizzie Dymock were very pleased with the quality of the entries.

Congratulations to Ebony Marsh from Emsworth Primary School for her winning photograph 'Make Wave for Duck' and to the runners up Alina McManus from Thorney Island Primary school for 'Flight of the Black Headed Gull' and Amelia Busittil-Reynaud from St James Primary School for 'Redshank'. The prize giving ceremony will take place on Friday May 3rd at 4.00 pm at the Emsworth Community Centre. Certificates will also be presented to the children whose photos were highly commended by the judges. You are very welcome to this event where you will be able to see prints of all the entries in this year's competition. The photos from the competition will continue to be displayed as part of the Emsworth Art Trail until Sunday 5th May 2013.



Make Wave for Duck
Winner



Redshank
Runner Up



Flight of the Black headed Gull
Runner Up



Winter pond



Duck and Pipe



Synchronised Feeding



Double Up



Spotted Redshank at Norbarn



Two Ducks Chatting



Seagulls



Swan in Reeds & Sign



Bottom Up



Seagulls & Swan



Two Dogs in the Sea



Two Tall Swans

Email Addresses:

If you have not already done so please either send your E-mail address to Betty Smith or send an E-mail to membership@smppa.org.uk so we can keep you informed of events, workdays etc. We will only use it for SMPPA business and not pass it on to any other parties.

Please note that our Newsletters, including this one, are also available on our web site: www.smppa.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Date	Subject
26 th April	Spring Talk
4 th -7 th May	Maurice Broomfield Photo competition and Emsworth Arts Trail
?? - August	Summer Party
1 st November	Annual General Meeting
22 nd - November	Annual Dinner

Contacts

General:	Nick Madinaveitia	01243 377749
Treasurer:	Mark Phillips	01243 376756
Social Events	Betty Smith	01243 371576
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