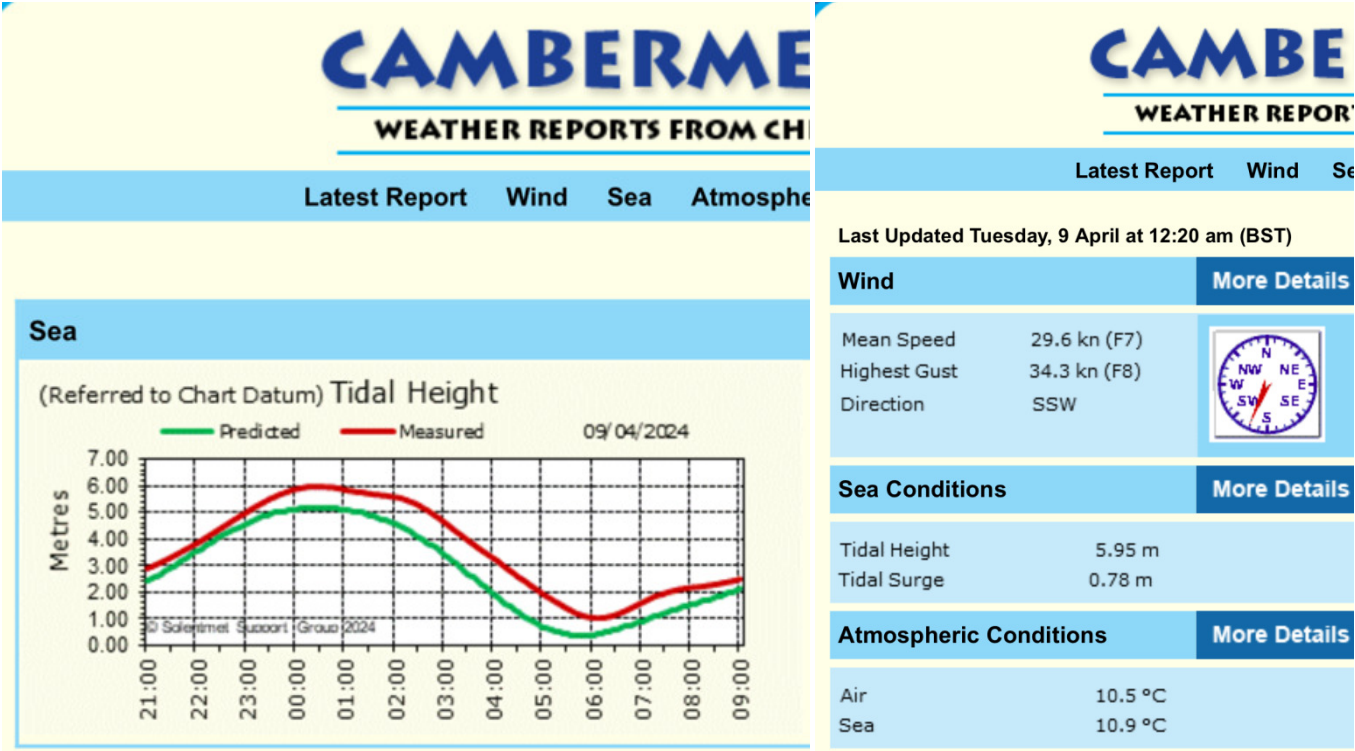


SMPPA Newsletter

July 2024



the above information shows the ACTUAL tidal state on the night of 8th/9th April 2024

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We have had a busy few months with the AGM (p4), Broomfield Schools Photography Competition (p4), work on the reeds/vegetation (p6) and financial planning (p4). But these won't be remembered in the same way as the drama of the historic tidal flooding on the night of 8th/9th April which impacted many local households. In spite of warnings, the extreme water levels took many residents by surprise, with the water being the highest that anyone we've spoken to can remember (more overleaf). At present there is no evidence that this event affected the Pond any more than the usual winter storms.

Please note the next event dates for your diary (see p8):

- **Summer Garden Party on Sunday 28th July at 4.00pm at Slipper House.**
- **Annual Workparty is on Saturday 5th October**
- **Annual Dinner is now on Wednesday 27th November**, due to limited availability at Emsworth Sailing Club.

We do hope you can join us.

We are most grateful for the help of everyone mentioned in this newsletter, and to the support of all our members.

With very best wishes to you all for a wonderful summer.

Jo Greenfield

(and SMPPA Trustees)

chmn@smppa.org.uk - tel 01243 371134.

56 King Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AZ



Committee Members/Trustees

Jo Greenfield (KS), Simon Dwyer (SR), Simon Eveleigh (KS), Jim Hailstone (SR), Maire Park (HW). New Membership Secretary: Christine Hows (SR) – *replacing Sharon Corbett who resigned after the AGM.*

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

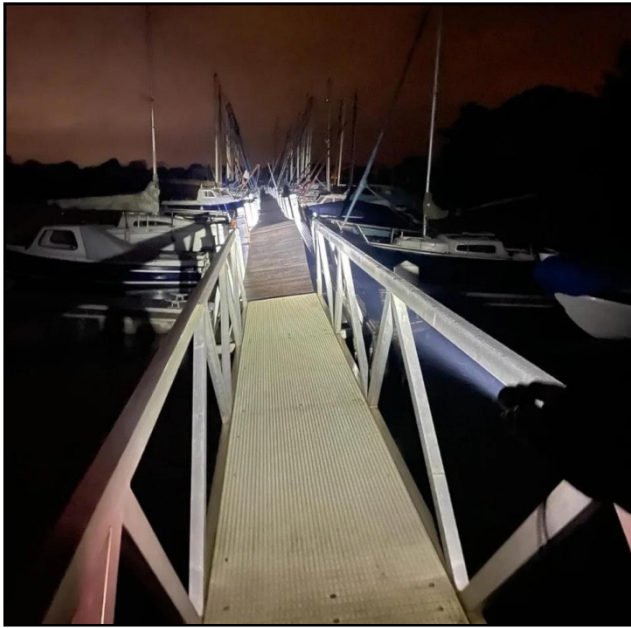
8th / 9th April High Tides

The screenshots on p1 show the tidal surge of nearly 0.8m, taking the tide height to 5.95m at Cambermet (near Thorney Channel). A combination of strong southerly winds and very high spring tides was the cause. Luckily we were able to warn residents in advance so that cars could be moved, and flood barriers fitted, although we must remember in future to also relocate rubbish bins as many of these floated off!

We managed to chain back the tidal gates at around 10.30pm that night, and could see then that the water was rising very quickly. Although having the gates open does not impact the tidal height, this does seem to affect the rate at which the water recedes after high tide, when the level “hangs”, so we did this on specific request from Lumley.

Many properties close to the A259 bridge and at the bottom of Queen Street were badly impacted, including Slipper House. The situation was exacerbated as the roads remained open and passing traffic sprayed the floodwater high against the houses and over barriers. Flooding was bad along Lumley Road to Gooseberry Cottage and some properties were also affected at the bottom of King Street, with many areas becoming “islands” surrounded by water.

A selection of photos can be found overleaf, although it was difficult to take good ones due to the dark!



Damaged pontoon at Emsworth Yacht Harbour caused by the high tide



Lord Raglan Pub Flooding

Boat fenders “popping out”
- in the Creek at the back
of 56 King Street



Bottom of King Street with the seaweed line showing the reach of the water

AGM – 13th March

This was well supported with 36 attendees. Most of the Trustees presented on the areas they are responsible for and feedback about the presentations themselves and the work that we are doing was generally very positive, with some exceptions. There were a number of proposed actions that arose from the meeting relating to planting, Slipper Road views, the reeds, and financial planning. Feedback from the meeting has already been distributed with the minutes, and the Trustees are following up.

Financial Planning for the Future

We are very lucky to have received some extremely generous donations this year, which have now been put into long-term investments in M&G Charifund, a fund particularly recommended for charities. The reserves for the Pond are now at the highest they have been for some time; but we shouldn't be complacent as we are unsure yet as to the likely costs to repair the Pond bank in the south-west corner. This could be expensive, although it does not appear to be urgent at present.

The Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition

The competition is run each year by the Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association (SMPPA), the local charity which owns and maintains the Slipper Mill Pond on the east side of Emsworth. The pond is a wildlife haven and a designated site of nature conservation interest, a beautiful resource for both locals and visitors. Maurice Broomfield, a well known photographer, lived beside the pond and left a legacy to the SMPPA which has been used to set up and support the photography competition in his name; the aim being to encourage schoolchildren to take photographs.



Left to right : Back row:
Jo Greenfield, chair SMPPA, Nick
Broomfield, documentary film maker
Gilbert Park, competition judge

The competition is open to six local primary schools (Emsworth Primary, St James Primary, Westbourne Primary, Southbourne Juniors, Thorney Island Primary and Funtington Primary) and is a very popular extra curricular activity. Children aged 7–11 submit a photograph in each of the two categories, local nature and any subject. This year 61 pupils submitted 115 photographs.

All the photographs are judged in early April and then printed and mounted for presentation. The winners, one in each category for each of school years 3–6, receive prizes as do the schools attended by the overall winners. All the photos are then on display as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail.

The prize giving ceremony for the 2024 Broomfield Photography Competition was held on Friday 3rd May. This year, the well known documentary film director Nick Broomfield (Maurice's son), attended the prize giving. He was delighted to see his father's legacy in action and to be photographed with the winners. The photographs were of a very high standard which made the judges' job difficult.

For more information on the Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association and the Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition, go to SMPPA.org.uk



"Toppled Town" by
Jake Walsh
"Emsworth Falls"
by Freya Chapman



Community

June issue of The Emsworth Magazine (p17)

www.thevillagemagazine.co.uk

(written by Maire Park)

We were delighted that Maurice's son Nick Broomfield could join us for the prize-giving in early May and, once again, were thrilled that the schools participated so enthusiastically; we received 115 photos from a record 61 pupils across the 6 participating schools.

In addition to the 8 overall winners (1 for each subject per year group), the judges awarded 16 "Certificates of Merit". The winning photos can also be found on our website at smppa.org.uk/photographic-competition.

As a charity, we believe it is important to demonstrate that the SMPPA works with and benefits the Community outside the Pond, and not just local residents and visitors.

2024 Prize Winners

In 2024 we received 115 photos from a record 61 pupils across the 6 participating schools. As ever, the standard was excellent, making the judges' job very difficult!

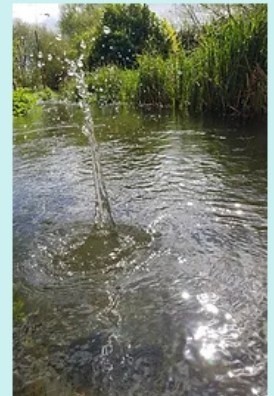
In addition to the 8 overall winners (1 for each subject per year group), the judges awarded 16 "Certificates of Merit".



2024 Overall Winning Photo - Any Subject
"Toppled Town" by Jakey Walsh - Year 5 -
St James Emsworth



2024 Overall Winning Photo - Local Nature
"Emsworth Falls" by Freya Chapman - Year 5 -
Emsworth Primary School



Year Group Winners - "Any Subject"

Year 3: "Rustington rainbow residences" - Finley Bevan - St James

Year 4: "Chi-Cat" - Theadora Tarrant - Funtington

Year 6: "Parallel Universe" - Ambrose Bristowe - Westbourne

Year Group Winners - "Local Nature"

Year 3: "Goosey Gander" - Marlowe Johnson - Funtington

Year 4: "Frosty Feather" - Lucy Birdsall - Westbourne

Year 6: "Splish Splash down the stream" - Holly Birdsall - Westbourne

Bourne Heritage QR Trail – Bringing Local History to Life -

<https://bournetrail.co.uk/>

You may be aware that there is a new Bourne Walking Trail, which includes Slipper Mill Pond <https://bournetrail.co.uk/slipper-mill-pond/>.

There are lots of interesting facts about the locations covered, along with some historical photos. We understand that wooden posts with QR codes for each location will be set up soon.



Reeds (Phragmites Australis) and Vegetation Maintenance



Cutting back the reeds, covering with matting, placing sea club rush instead

A “Reeds Subgroup” made up of members from Slipper Road has now been established, and we are expecting their recommendations soon; there is considerable concern about their spread and height.

In March we “trialled” another section in the north-east corner, by laying rubber matting over the cut reeds and then planting sea club rush (which is non-invasive) on top. At present this appears to be relatively successful at preventing the Phragmites growth. It is likely that we will be continuing with this strategy at the October work party. We have also been treating “stray” reeds that are growing on the banks towards the road (in order to reduce their spread); this is done by dripping glyphosate into individual stems.

Jim Hailstone and his team have recently strimmed the grass and vegetation along part of Slipper Road, where it was getting very tall. The cow parsley in particular has grown strongly this year and it is hard work to cut back the very thick stems with the tools we have available. We have also removed some hemlock in the north-east corner.

Rod Aitken is continuing to care for young plants near the caravan park, and Maire Park has been doing some pruning now that Sharon Corbett is no longer involved. Pruning and thinning out of plants needs to be done sensitively in order to enhance their shape and reduce density, and also needs to be carried out at the right time of year.

If anyone has any expertise in pruning, planting for wildlife etc and would like to be involved in caring for our plants, please get in touch.

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) & Recent Police Meetings

– REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!

We have recently attended 3 local public meetings with the police, who have been surprised by the levels of dissatisfaction with policing in the local area: The first meeting was in March (organised by Emsworth Yacht Harbour), and included representatives from Hampshire Police, West Sussex Police, Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC), Southbourne Parish Council & Havant Borough Council. Another 2 meetings were held in April and July, hosted by Donna Jones, Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner, along with senior representatives from Chichester and East Hampshire police. We have highlighted that there seems to be a lot of confusion about policing responsibilities along the Hampshire/West Sussex county border (which lies in the creek just to the west of the west bank footpath), and this particularly affects the Pond. ***The police stressed that all crime should be reported so that they can allocate resources appropriately using the data available. We MUST continue to report crime, either by calling 999 (for a “crime in action”) or 101 (phone or online).*** We were reassured that 101 response times should be improving.

Local residents have been installing further deterrents to antisocial behaviour, including ladder guards which prevent access from the water, and “mosquito alarms”. Although ASB has (so far) not been as problematic as other years, there have been recent incidents of people stealing from cars, so residents should take extra caution.

There are now more than 50 people in the “Pond Life” whatsapp group, which is used regularly to communicate anything suspicious.

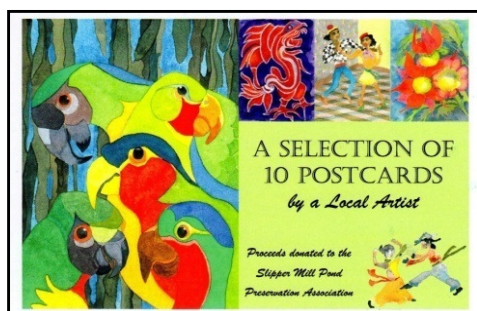
Wildlife

Last but not least, we always enjoy the new arrivals to the Pond - we seem to have had plenty of canada geese, swans and mallards successfully breeding here this year. It is difficult to track their numbers; the cygnets in particular often seem to get split up from their parents but somehow usually manage to magically reunite!

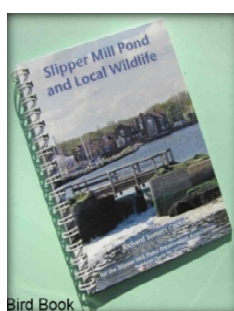


Useful Contacts (also available on our website)			
Enquiries/Chair	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134	chmn@smppa.org.uk
Membership	Christine Hows	membership@smppa.org.uk	
Social	Maire Park	events@smppa.org.uk	
Instagram page	www.instagram.com/slippermillpond/		
Police Emergency 999 Disturbances 101	Call 999 for a “Crime in Action” or 101 to report anything else. The more calls, the more likely the police will respond. Online reporting is at www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ - select “antisocial behaviour”. Hampshire Police have the same online reporting – see 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.		

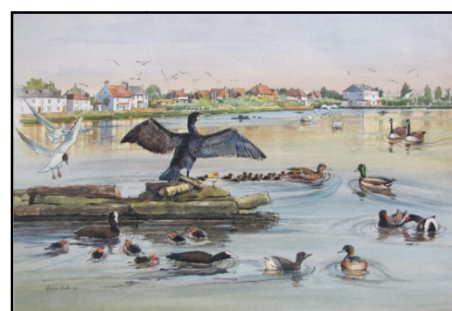
Publications – Available to purchase – please contact Jo Greenfield (see above)



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
Now Until 4th August	Big Butterfly Count https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/
Sunday 28th July at 4.00pm	Summer Garden Party – Slipper House
Saturday 5th October from 9.00am	Full Work Party – Slipper Road
Wednesday 27th November	Annual Dinner – Emsworth Sailing Club