



SMPPA Newsletter

August 2026

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SMPPA Membership Survey Results (scores lowest to highest)

I think the planting is good at Dolphin Quay	3.4
I know who the current Trustees are and what they do	3.7
I think the infrastructure at Dolphin Quay is well managed (footpath, banks etc)	3.7
I am familiar with the SMPPA website www.smppa.org.uk	4.0
I think the SMPPA generally takes into consideration any feedback from Members regarding the maintenance of planting	4.2
I think the variety of plants is generally good around the Pond	4.4
I am generally satisfied with the Pond and Dolphin Quay	4.5
I think the infrastructure around the Pond is well managed	4.5
I think that the SMPPA promotes and encourages wildlife as much as it can	4.5
I believe that the planting is well maintained and managed.	4.5
I am generally satisfied with the SMPPA	4.6
I think that the SMPPA and the Slipper Mill Pond are well managed	4.7
Communication (newsletters, email updates etc) are of appropriate frequency, content and timely.	4.7
I read the newsletters	4.8

A big THANK YOU to the 30 members who have completed our Questionnaire (23% of total members). On the whole, the results (see scores above) were very positive and there were lots of useful comments to help the Trustees prioritise areas. It demonstrated that the SMPPA “community” is important to people, as well as the wildlife and landscape, and that our newsletters are much appreciated. There were a wide range of opinions about planting around the Pond and a general consensus that Dolphin Quay could be improved (see page 9). Your feedback is important so we know what YOU think. The form is still available online at <https://forms.gle/mDp3aMhVjcDWZfNP8>.

Since our last newsletter, we have held the following events: AGM (18th March), Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition (March-May) and Summer Garden Party

(28th June). The Annual Dinner date is set for Thursday 26th November so please put it in your diaries!

Work is progressing on the investigations of the south-west bank corner (page 5). In June, antisocial behaviour flared up with deliberate damage done to the footbridge and one of the new fish feeding station “rafts” (see below). Chichester Harbour Friends have very kindly resurfaced the Pond footpaths for the first time in many years (page 6), we have cut the east bank grasses (page 4), installed a new field drain (page 7), and done various jobs at Dolphin Quay (page 11). The transfer of the Pond ownership to the SMPPA is now completed (page 4).

We are as ever very 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.

SMPPA Trustees

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56 King Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AZ

Committee Members/Trustees

Jo Greenfield (KS - Chair), Christine Hows (SR – Membership Secretary), Jim Hailstone (SR – Infrastructure Maintenance & Major Projects), Susan Dibden (SR), Simon Dwyer (SR), Simon Eveleigh (KS) - where SR is Slipper Road, KS is King Street.

2026 Anti-Social Behaviour



A Peaceful View of the south bank footbridge and Slipper Mill – June 2026

For the first time since August 2022 we opened the emergency vertical Sluice Gate on 26th June to reduce the water level of the Pond to make swimming there unappealing and therefore deter crowds of unruly youths from gathering at the footbridge area (they don't tend to read tide tables). Opening the sluice gate (rather than the large tidal gates) means that the water drains slowly as the tide falls, but the Pond does not drain completely.

The Committee decided to do this as these youths had been frightening local residents by trespassing on property, playing on boats and releasing them, harassing passers-by, climbing on, damaging and dragging the rafts, and they also deliberately vandalised the footbridge. The police were called many times in the lead-up to our decision to open the sluice gate and we have been able to pass on much video and photographic evidence (the police hosted a meeting on 14 July where this was discussed at length).

The decision to open the gate was not taken lightly and we appreciate that it affects upstream water levels at Peter Pond, but it was causing huge upset to local residents and walkers as well as serious criminal damage. The footbridge has had a temporary repair and we will be making metal straps to further strengthen the upright posts.

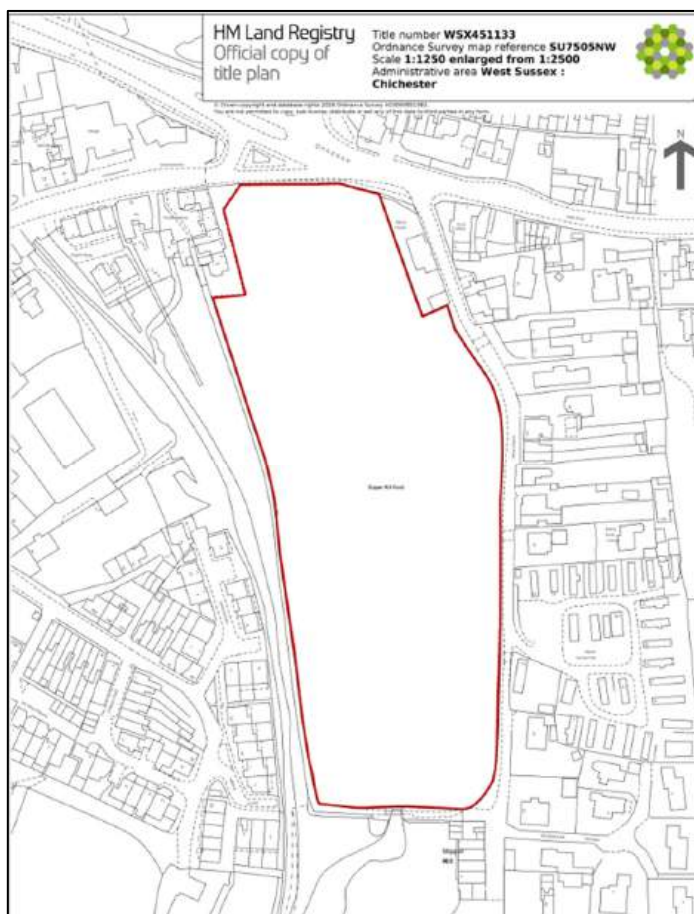
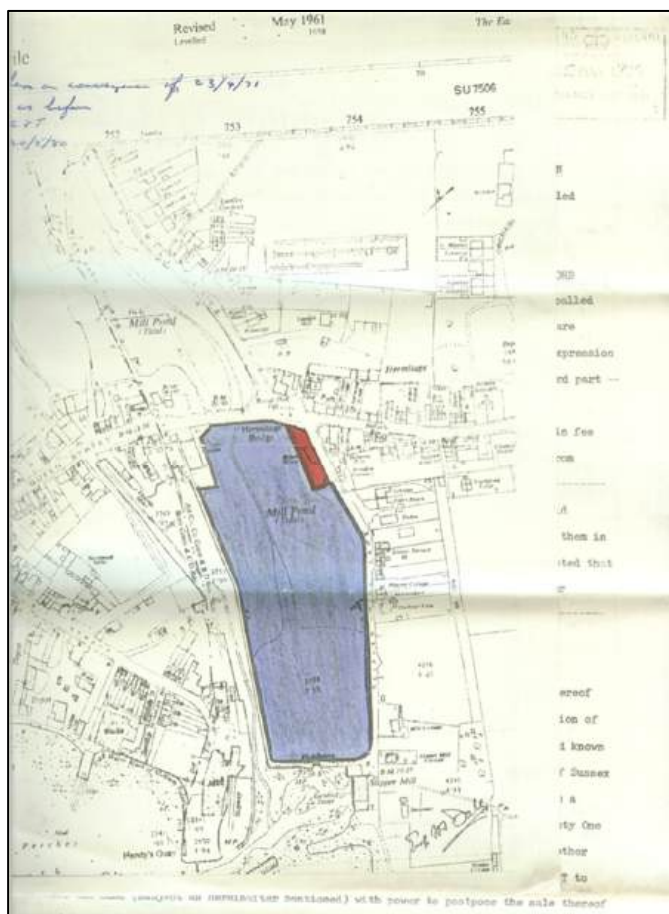
One benefit of opening the sluice gate is that the fish have free access from the sea up the River Ems (which is a priority for the Western Sussex Rivers Trust (www.wsrt.org.uk/our-rivers/the-river-ems)). With the sluice gate open the Pond water is also fully refreshed during neap tides when the tidal gates do not normally open at all.

If you would like “live” updates on any antisocial behaviour, please join the “Pond Life” Whatsapp Group which is used for communicating Anti-Social Behaviour in the vicinity of the Pond. Email info@smppa.org.uk if you wish to join this group.



Simon Eveleigh & Nick Yoward discussing how to repair the footbridge after it had been vandalised – thankyou both!

Pond Ownership Transfer Completed



The Land Registry completed the transfer of the Pond to the SMPPA on 17 February 2026, nearly 4 years after the initial legal paperwork was submitted (22 April 2022). The delay was partly as a result of them losing the original application (which was then resubmitted on 27 December 2024), and partly because it was a “first registration”. Although the area does not include all the land and infrastructure that the SMPPA looks after, it was decided (after professional consultation), not to pursue any “adverse possession” claim for various reasons.

Pond East Bank Cutting and Vegetation

There have been a range of regrowth heights of the phragmites reeds since the first treatment last year, with the most growth occurring in the middle section. The 2nd EnviroAqua treatment was completed on 26th May, having had to wait several weeks for ideal weather conditions (ie dry with no wind). We are continuing to monitor growth and advise when repeat treatment is needed. Environment Agency approval is required annually as the recommended treatment changes according to reed height/ repeat treatments etc.

Sharon Corbett, Catherine Jones and Jo Greenfield dug up more hemlock water dropwort in early spring. We will be organising a larger work party to do this again in March 2027.

The east bank grasses were cut back by external contractor Nigel Jordan again in July, saving our volunteers a substantial amount of time and effort.



East Bank Flail Cutting by Nigel Jordan (Agricultural Contractor) – July 2026

Jim Hailstone and helpers, with Sharon Corbett's supervision, trimmed around the trees and shrubs in advance, in order that the flail-cutting could be carried out without damaging them.

Jim was in attendance on the day to direct any traffic on the road, and to ensure that the contractor didn't damage any shrubs or trees.

Thankyou to everyone who helped out beforehand and with the clear-up afterwards.

If you are physically fit and would like to volunteer to join smaller workparties, please email us at info@smppa.org.uk and we will add you to the WhatsApp group.

South-West Corner – Slippage



Exploratory drilling of the SW corner

We have now received an initial report from Structural Engineer David Shields, following the drilling of trial holes (see photos) on 27th March. The report concurred that the ground at the foot of the banks is firm and stable, and that the gabions are slumping partly as a result of the mesh wiring degrading badly.

It is likely that a “repair” would include a concrete footing similar to that currently along the west bank creek, a new wall at the inside corner of the Pond, and renewing the gabions using high quality “marine grade” mesh.



We will be approaching various companies for quotes in due course, after seeking all relevant consents, third party consultations and confirming funding “support”. The works should also include applying more concrete under the sluice apron where there is a void and installing two navigation hazard warning triangles on posts (one at each end of the sluice apron). It is hoped that we can as part of the same project raise the height of the footpath by the Chequers Quay kissing gate where large puddles currently form.

Footpath Resurfacing by CHC

We are extremely grateful to Chichester Harbour Friends for the 2 workparties held on 21st May and 11th June which they spent resurfacing the west and south bank footpaths. Organised by CHC Lead Ranger Rosie Ellis, they laid an amazing 20 tonnes of aggregate using wheelbarrows, flattening the surface using a compactor.



Many of the “Friends” were not familiar with the Slipper Mill Pond and commented what a beautiful location it was and how lovely it was to work there. Our grateful thanks go to them and to Rosie, and also to EYH who gave free parking for the volunteers.



Chichester Harbour Friends hard at work

New Field Drain at SE Corner

The Pond bank was low by the SE corner kissing gate and a large puddle was forming that did not drain. In March, Jim Hailstone & Rob Turner fitted a new drain and built up the bank. Christine Hows sowed some wildflower seeds on the raised bank which looked very attractive (see photo). It is likely that they will be overtaken by the grasses in future, a problem that we experience all along the bank. CHC later added some more aggregate to raise the parking area by the main gate (see previous page).



Before (above) and during/after the work (below)



Summer Garden Party



Following the first June heatwave, around 30 members joined us for a (much cooler) breezy Summer Garden Party on 28th June, hosted by Claire & Simon Dwyer at Slipper House. For the first time we can remember the food had to be served indoors!

It was lovely to welcome some new faces on the day and we are very grateful to Claire and Simon for being such excellent (and relaxed!) hosts.

Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition

The Article below was published in the June 2026 edition of “The Village” Magazine. The photo shows the Prize Winners & Nick Broomfield (Maurice Broomfield’s son), at the prize giving ceremony.

Young photographers shine in The Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition

The Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition returned this year in impressive style, attracting a record 119 entries from 61 pupils across six local primary schools: Emsworth Primary, Funtington Primary, St James Primary, Southbourne Juniors, Thorney Island Primary and Westbourne Primary.

The competition culminated in a wonderful exhibition as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail, where visitors were treated to an inspiring display of young talent. The variety and quality of the stunning photos made the judges' task of selecting eight winners and awarding 19 certificates of merit particularly challenging.

This annual event is held in memory of Maurice Broomfield, a well-known local photographer, who specialised in industrial photography. Some of his work is held in the Emsworth Museum, where it forms part of the area's photographic history.

The event is organised by the Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association (SMPPA), a local charity dedicated to caring for the beautiful eastern Emsworth Mill Pond where Maurice once lived — recognisable for its distinctive bird rafts. The walk around the pond is part of the new 'King Charles III England Coast Path' leading from the town towards Emsworth marina, and it is a haven for wildlife.



Further details about The Slipper Mill pond, the photo competition and also membership of the Association can be found on the website: <https://www.smppa.org.uk>

With next year already on the horizon, pupils who will be in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at the above mentioned participating schools are encouraged to start thinking creatively—cameras at the ready!

Helen Yoward & Freya Geddes, Organisers on behalf of Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association (SMPPA) <https://www.smppa.org.uk>

Our judges, Jonathan Stamper, Claire Dwyer, and Simon Eveleigh had a difficult task selecting eight winners and awarding 19 certificates of merit from the variety and stunning quality of the photos (see winners overleaf — also available on our website at <https://www.smppa.org.uk/photographic-competition>).

Huge thanks to everyone involved, and particularly to Helen Yoward and her daughter Freya who organised the competition for the first time.

2026 Prize Winners

This year we received 119 fabulous photos from 61 pupils across the 6 participating schools. As ever, due to the high standard, it was a difficult job for the judges selecting the prize-winners.

In addition to the 8 overall winners (1 for each subject per year group), the judges awarded 19 "Certificates of Merit".



2026 Overall Winning Photo - Any Subject
"You Spin Me Right Round" by James Chaffer
- Year 5 - St James

2026 Overall Winning Photo - Local Nature
"High fliers" by Phoebe Todd - Year 4 - St James



Year Group Winners - "Any Subject"

Year 3: "The Three Musketeers" - Orla Jones - Southbourne
Year 4: "No way Home" - Agatha Benini Wraight - Southbourne
Year 6: "Still Standing" - Holly Frampton - Southbourne

Year Group Winners - "Local Nature"

Year 3: "Out for a plough" - Harriet Steer - Funtington
Year 5: "I look egg-cellent today" - Pippa Fraher - Westbourne
Year 6: "Storms brewing" - Robert Overton - Emsworth

Dolphin Quay Update



Catherine Jones and Martin Perry digging up old metal fencing at Dolphin Quay



Further to a branch from an ash tree falling across the footpath following high winds, we engaged Michael Reed & Co Tree Surgeons to inspect the trees in the SE corner. Following their recommendations and approval by the Havant Tree Officer, Wade Fazackarley felled one dead Sycamore, pollarded an Elder, removed dead sections of various Ash, removed weak timber on the Sycamore overhanging the footpath and removed a lot of timber and brash from the ground.

We had various work parties at DQ in March/April, clearing rubbish and digging up large amounts of hemlock water dropwort. We are hoping to encourage more planting diversity, although with the very dry summer things are currently looking rather parched.

Thankyou to everyone who helped with the work. If you would like to join the **Dolphin Quay whatsapp group**, please email info@smppa.org.uk.

Dutch Barge arrival – 19th April

A lovely barge is now moored at Dolphin Quay. The land at DQ is owned by the SMPPA and there is a lease with Dolphin Quay Boatyard which allows berth holders access to their boat moorings on the west bank. It is an SMPPA requirement that boat passarelles (or boarding planks) do not erode the banks with the rise and fall of the tide - we work closely with the boatyard owners to monitor this.





The barge arrival caused much interest

How you can Help..... We are looking for.....

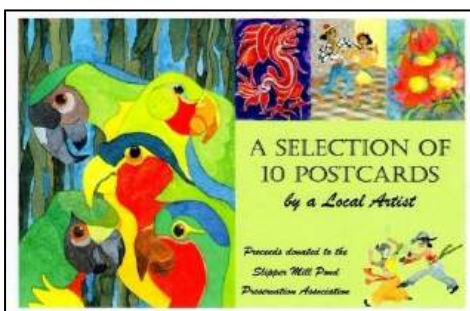
Several of the Trustees are nearing the maximum term (9 years) to serve on the Committee. If you would like to join the Committee or help the SMPPA in any aspect, please do get in touch by emailing info@smppa.org.uk and we would be delighted to explain more.

Spread the word! New Members are always welcome.

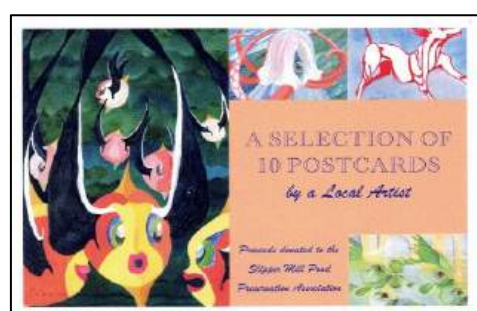
Publications – Available to purchase – please email info@smppa.org.uk



*Notelets - £5 for 6 (incl envelopes)
by local artist Marian Forster*



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



Useful Contacts (also available on our website)			
Enquiries/Chair	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134	info@smppa.org.uk
Membership	Christine Hows	membership@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 is www.hampshire.police.uk . Join the “Pond Life” WhatsApp group for information sharing.		
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.		
“Pond Life” Whatsapp Group	For communicating Anti-Social Behaviour in the vicinity of the Pond. Used for reporting problems as they occur, and any action.		
“Pond Work Party” Whatsapp Group	For anyone who would like to help with maintenance jobs around the Pond. Work normally takes place in small groups at short notice. <i>You need to be physically fit to volunteer for this group and ideally able to operate tools and machinery.</i>		
“Dolphin Quay” Whatsapp Group	For those interested in any activity at Dolphin Quay – eg work on vegetation, general updates etc.		

Event Dates	2026 Dates for Your Diary
Annual Dinner – Emsworth Sailing Club	Thursday 26 th November 2026 - confirmed
Work Parties around the Pond and at Dolphin Quay	Please join the “Pond Work Party” and/or “Dolphin Quay” WhatsApp groups (details above) if you’d like to be kept informed of future workparties and would like to help out. Email info@smppa.org.uk .