



Chequer's Quay gate & COVID Signs

Newsletter June 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2	Sluice Gate.....	6
Impact of COVID-19.....	3	Footpath.....	7
Business Affairs.....	4	Flooding Reminder.....	7
C.I.O. Charity no 1180249.....	4	Signage.....	7
Wardle Land.....	4	Social Affairs.....	7
Slipper Pond Ownership.....	4	Applause - NHS & Essential Workers.	
Volunteers.....	4	7
Ecosystem.....	5	VE Day 2020.....	8
Wildlife.....	5	2020 Summer Party.....	9
Reeds.....	5	2020 Annual Dinner.....	9
East Bank Management.....	6	2019 Annual Dinner Poem.....	9
Infrastructure.....	6	Photo Competition.....	10
River Ems Study.....	6	Dates for the Diary.....	11
Pond draining.....	6	Contacts.....	11

Introduction

First of all apologies for the delay in the preparation of Newsletters but many events in addition to the COVID pandemic and the consequence of the sudden death of Mark Phillips, a tremendous supporter and our treasurer for the last 23 years, have had to take priority.

I am pleased to report that the transfer to the SMPPA.CIO is virtually complete with the administrative advantages this brings and that the pond is in a reasonable condition with the leaking sluice structure being replaced in the Autumn and with no major issues other than replacing the undermined sluice apron.

The good news is that we are in the process of receiving two Deeds of Gift – the ownership of the Pond and the public footpath and land to the West of Dolphin Creek. The process has been drawn out as the associated documentation has involved much work behind the scenes.

We have started on a re-appraisal of the planting on the East Bank prompted by the need to keep the very vigorous reeds under control leading to the idea of a flower-meadow interspersed with suitable less intrusive shrubs and trees.

I will be resigning at the next Annual General Meeting as required by the CIO Constitution and taking a long-needed break after being heavily involved for twenty years. Jo Greenfield is acting as Company Secretary and primary link person.

Nick Madinaveitia

June 2020

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID pandemic has hit the Association in various ways. Initially the complete lockdown meant that no-one was stirring, and the roads and paths were deserted in March. The subsequent gradual relaxation of measures means that many are using the pond as a pleasant place to exercise and explore. Maintaining the required 2m separation to avoid potential cross infection has brought its own problems. The public footpath on the West bank is very narrow so a signed one-way system has been put in place, We and others have installed signs to remind users of the requirements but from time to time they have been ignored causing significant annoyance.

In particular, the presence of large groups of youths on the footbridge has caused much anxiety due to the lack of social distancing being exercised by them and the consequent obstruction caused to the public. This and trespassing onto private property adjacent to the water is nothing new, but safety concerns for the youths jumping from the bridge were additionally raised in a series of emails entitled “Durdle Door” (referring to the “tombstoning” injuries of 31 May of youths cliff jumping into the sea in Devon). Clear warning signs are in place around the bridge together warning of the potential dangers of the tidal gates.



measure of the frustration with no-compliance

Following consultation with PCSO Baylee-Reed of Sussex Police, he has

asked that we call 101 if large groups gather on the bridge blocking the footpath or causing a disturbance, and if there is any abuse (verbal or physical) to call 999. In this way he can build up a picture of the problem and get regular patrols to visit the area instead of just driving past Slipper Road. This will also apply after COVID-19. If you do ring please quote his name.

Business Affairs

C.I.O. Charity no 1180249

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

As announced at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Slipper Mill Pond Charitable Incorporated Association, or SMPPA.CIO, is now a fully functioning legal entity.

Because of the global interruption caused by the COVID Virus, Barclay's Bank are still unable to complete the establishment of appropriate bank accounts so in the interim our financial affairs rest with the SMPPA. When matters are resolved we will close the SMPPA (Charity No 277744) and in the meantime the membership and committee have the same roles in both legal

Wardle Land



We are concluding the procedure to accept the generous gift of the land from the Wardle family. It includes the public footpath and access lease to the adjacent moorings

The final details of the terms of Gift have now been resolved and the Deeds of transfer have been signed and we are now waiting for the Land Registry documentation to conclude the affair.



Slipper Pond Ownership

The documentation for the proposed gifting of the pond by the owners is still with our respective solicitors. Various complications have arisen, one of which is that requests for original conveyance documentation from 90 years ago is proving problematic. The target is still to have this signed off by the Committee and the Owner Trustees for presentation at the next

SMPPA AGM.

Volunteers

We are currently looking for additional Committee Members and volunteers for any assistance that can be offered particularly in the following areas:

- design and printing of new information signboards;
- expertise and advice on ecosystem planting strategy/ design;
- offer of use of any land for composting/disposal of East Bank mowings (grass, reeds etc), given the current costs of disposal;
- engineering expertise (Environment Agency liaison, structural engineering knowledge relevant to the land and structures around the Pond such as the gates, sluice, footbridge, gabions etc);
- marketing, fundraising and communications;
- wildlife monitoring;
- assistance with the schools photographic competition;
- First Aiders for work party sessions etc.

Ecosystem

Wildlife

The Greater Black Backed Gulls have dominated bird life again this year, and there are many accounts of young coots and ducks being summarily consumed by these voracious predators. We are arranging that all rafts should be removed in the autumn in order to discourage their nesting again in 2021. This may not be an easy task, particularly for the large central raft which whilst it is in two halves has significant draft and is very heavy.

The inevitable resident rats continue to infest the lower reaches of the West bank and holes are starting to appear needing filling to maintain bank stability as well as keeping the path safe. Perhaps the fox seen in the Mobile home site could help reduce the population.

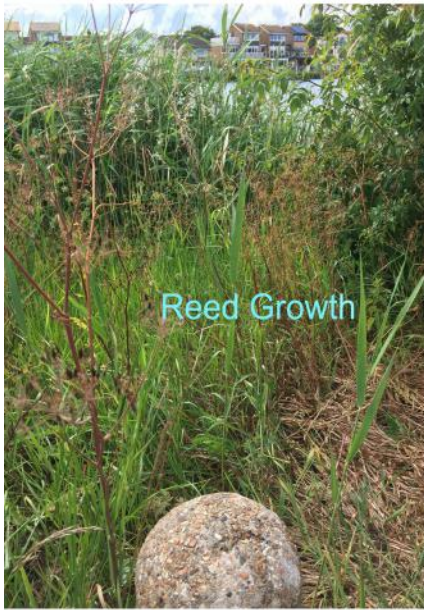
Aerial visitors include the willow warbler and on a still night early in June there were many bats circling whilst mullet and others a swirling around in the pond itself.

Reeds

At the Committee meeting on 8th June 2020 we discussed how to manage the East bank in detail. We considered the



reed trimming operation recommended by EnviroAqua at the end of last season to keep the then sprayed reeds under control, the volunteer input needed to cut and dispose of the arisings and out longer term aims.



We agreed to adopt the Royal Horticultural Society's meadow management practice to encourage wild flower growth (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=446>). We looked at the practicalities of giving the bank a full summer cut using our much-admired volunteer team and local transport but ran into major difficulties when the COVID regulations are taken into account and with the local tips being unavailable to us. We decided to ask a local landscape contractor to cut the grass on the bank and dispose of the arisings with a view to refining the solution as

society emerges from lockdown. We do not know how we will handle the autumn and subsequent cuts at the moment but hopefully life will return more to normal and solutions will emerge.

East Bank Management



In parallel with changing the grass cutting regime to that of a flower meadow we are looking to replace the old and tired shrubs with appropriately positioned native specimens. We will keep you informed as our plans develop.

Infrastructure

River Ems Study

The Environment Agency's study of the length of the River Ems to the head of Slipper Pond and associated work is on 'hold' at the moment because the resources which had been redeployed to look after the serious flooding in the North of England are now affected by the consequences of the COVID pandemic. No timetable for their completion is available.

Pond draining

We plan to open the tidal gates on the September High Tides, which this year start on Thursday 16th. The gates will remain open for a few days for the Sluice replacement. We hope to open them again in the middle of October and November to take advantage of Spring Tides to flush out sediment from the main channel of our and Peter ponds.

Sluice Gate



Last Autumn we sought quotes for the replacement of the Sluice gate and its structure and appointed the lowest bidder - Nick Gates Ltd - to carry out the work. He has sealed the gate temporarily with canvas, organised suitable timber which is seasoning at the moment and work is due to take place in September when we will be draining the pond to provide access.

Footpath

Holes have appeared in the path at the South end of the West bank caused by rats and tidal washouts. In the near future volunteers will be cutting back the surface and making them good with concrete taking due precautions not to pollute the pond and sea.

Flooding Reminder

The Environment Agency publish a useful guide to measures to protect your property

•https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/451622/LIT_4284.pdf

A detailed Code of Practice is in the final stages of preparation by CIRIA.

https://www.ciria.org/Research/Prothe final stages of jects_underway2/Code_of_Practice_and_guidance_for_property_flood_resilience_as_px

Signage

Prior to the removal of the old signs in the Pond new reworded warning signs have been placed at the footbridge as well as at the kissing gates and above the tidal gates. The old signs will be taken away and the poles will be adapted to become bird perches.

The tired Information Panels at the head of the pond and on the wall of Slipper Mill are being reviewed at present and a revised panel is being discussed.

Social Affairs

Applause - NHS & Essential Workers.

The lady who inspired the “Thursday Evening Clap”, to show appreciation for NHS and other essential workers, empowered the community to express its appreciation for the wonderful efforts being made by front line personnel during the Corona pandemic.

Starting shortly after the commencement of lockdown on 23rd March, people in Slipper Road, King Street and other local roads turned out at 8.00pm every Thursday evening to give voice to their thanks. The enthusiastic sounds of clapping, car horns, whistling, dinner gongs and tambourines echoed across the pond. There was an especially good acclamation on the final Thursday, which was the 28th May.

Now, I do a regular DJ spot on the local Hospital Radio (St. Richard’s – my signature tune being “Telstar”, which dates me!). During the lockdown I quite missed that role, so when my eyes fell upon my old PA equipment in the garage an idea came to me – why not play out an encouraging track or two over the pond? So, I set up the speakers and amp at the garage door. At 8.00 pm on each evening up to the end date, I played out a single track into the dusk. The music was selected from sources ancient and modern. Featured artists included Elvis Presley, The Opera Babes, the Everly Brothers, Simon and Garfunkel, Jennifer Rush and Harry Secombe to name but a few. People said to me that they had enjoyed it, but I’m aware that these things must not be overdone, and after all, good things must come to an end!

Thursday’s musical offering was always the same – Paul McCartney’s Frog Chorus. This seemed appropriate to Slipper Pond, and the message –

“Sink or swim, we’ll never give in” – was spot on.

Bill Keeble

VE Day 2020

The “Stay-home” Party.

On the 8th of May 1945 London, along with cities, towns and villages throughout the land, erupted with spontaneous joyous partying in response to the ending of the second world war. 2020 brought the 75th anniversary of the event, and the hope was that this would be celebrated this May with similar street parties nationwide. Of course, Covid 19 put the tin hat on that idea!

However, English Heritage came up with a suggestion for “stay-home” garden parties, along with suggestions for recipes, posters, dance moves and a play list of period music. Jo Greenfield, on behalf of the SMPPA, circulated a colourful poster which encouraged people to decorate their houses with red, white and blue bunting and to enjoy a picnic in their front gardens.

The day dawned bright and fair and events commenced in the morning with a two minute silence. In the afternoon there was a toast to the heroes of the war and later the Queen spoke on television. Folks in Slipper Road and King Street had responded magnificently and there was a profusion of flags and bunting. Many sat in their sunny front gardens relishing a picnic with a glass, possibly two, of wine. From 12.00 noon to 8.00pm I used my old PA equipment to pump out sets of forties music on the hour. The pond made a splendid sounding board for tracks from Vera Lynn, Glenn Miller, Al Bowlley, Gracie Fields and Flanagan and Allen among many others. It was a memorable day commemorating a historic occasion.

Bill Keeble.

2020 Summer Party

Whilst we all want to meet again and have the now traditional party it seems unlikely because of the COVID pandemic implications. We will keep you informed of developments.

2020 Annual Dinner

Whilst we all want to meet again and have the now traditional dinner plans have to be on HOLD because of the COVID pandemic implications. We will keep you informed of developments.

2019 Annual Dinner Poem

For a change at our last Annual Dinner the following poems were compiled during the evening and read out by a representative of each table;

Table 2 (Melrose) – read by Lesley Harris

Nick eyes an opportunity to eliminate the Black Backed Gulls”
There was a great gull on the Slipper
Who had a bad time with a Kipper
The catching was easy
But it made him quite queasy
So he called for the help of the skipper
Our hero was fast on the case
To gull island he headed in haste
The gull was quite sick
A great chance for our Nick
So he blew up both gull and its base

Table 3 (King Street) - Kate White

The gem of Emsworth is the Slipper Mill Pond
A natural beauty of which we are all fond
Birds in flight, pond water shimmering in moonlight
Fur, Fowl and Fish we must protect for all
Winter, spring, Summer and Fall

Table 4 (Urry) – Gavin Millar

I once saw a bird on the Pond
They said “That’s not a bird, you’ve been conned”
It don’t fly like it oughta
Just sits in the water
Take a picture, quick! Or he’ll abscond

Table 5 (Davis) – Linzi Coull

The wind and the willows and toad of toad hall
They need to learn if they think they have it all
For nothing compares to the place we call home
To the scenes from our windows and the streets that we roam
The birds and the wildlife, the water and sky
To residents and visitors, who all claim “oh my”
Yet no place is devoid of its drama and strife
But who’d think we would worry about a swan and its wife!
Poor Nick is a slave to the Pond and its rules
Direct line to the Council, who don’t suffer fools
Well at least all the gang can hang out for a night
Let’s hope King Street and Slipper Road don’t get into a fight!

Table 6 (Roundhouse) – read by Stamper

There was a young lad from the hill
Who love to swim in the mill
He jumped in each year

Whilst drinking a beer
And really annoyed our friend Bill

Table 7 (Turner) – read by Jackie Vincent-Coulter

There once was a nasty cob
Who was a horrible yob
He beat up his pen
She died about then
And the dog that got blamed was calledBen

Broomfield Schools Photo Competition

Our Photo Competition year opened up as normal in early January and the usual arrangements and bookings were put in place. Sadly Mark Phillips, who had done such an outstanding job as Competition Administrator in recent years, had passed away. However, Jo Greenfield (assisted by Nick Madina) offered to cover his role. The competing schools had all been visited by the end of February, and our encounters with the children were the usual happy affairs. Events then moved against us as the Covid 19 Pandemic spread. National "lockdown" occurred on March 23rd. Schools closed and it was announced that the Emsworth Arts Trail weekend would be cancelled. It was with real regret that we had to follow and cancel this year's Photo Competition, but there was really no alternative. All being well we will continue as "normal" next year. Should anyone feel that they would like to help with the project, particularly in connection with the computer-based administration of the entries, then we would be more than happy to hear from them.

Bill Keeble

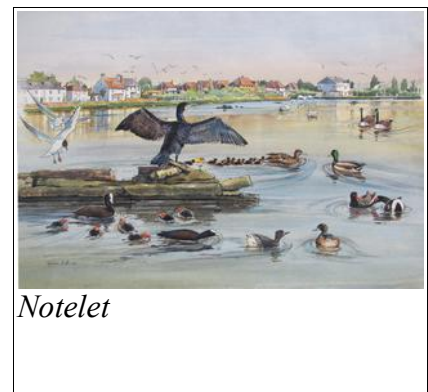
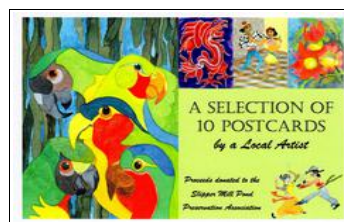
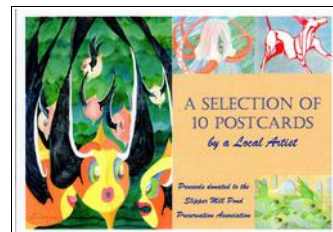
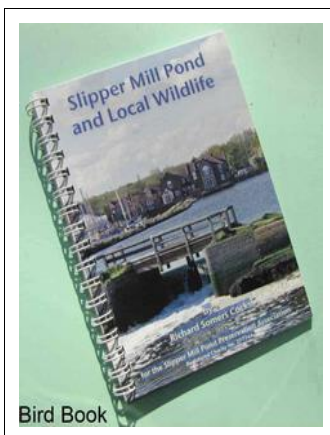
Dates for the Diary

Date		Day	Event
All on HOLD	Summer	Sunday	Summer Party
	23 rd October	Friday	AGM
	20 th November	Friday	Dinner

Contacts

General:	Nick Madinaveitia	01243 377749	chmn@smppa.org.uk
Treasurer:			
Membership	Sharon Corbett	01243 389994	membership@smppa.org.uk
Social Events	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134	info@smppa.org.uk
Work Party			
Photo comp.			
Wildlife:	Downland Surgery	01243 377141	
	RSPCA	01239 667541	
Environment Agency	All incidents	0800807060	
	Flood line	0345988 1188	
Police	Emergency	999	
	Disturbances	101	<i>For help and possible tracking</i>
Post	c/o 35 Slipper Road, Emsworth, Hants., PO108BS		

Publications



Notelet

Please contact Jo Greenfield if you wish to purchase the Bird Book, Notelets or Cards all on sale to support the Association.

Data Protection Act 2018

To comply with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation we have added our Data Protection & Privacy Policy to 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 by writing or emailing to info@smppa.org.uk.

Unless noted, illustrations by Nick Madinaveitia