



## Newsletter — May 2016



*Preparation for laying sleepers  
Workparty - 30<sup>th</sup> April*

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## **Introduction**

*We were pleased to welcome Lumley Road residents who joined us for our Spring Talk given by Asad Abbas of the Environment Agency. He gave a definitive description of the river Ems system and brought us all up to date with the developments.*

*The excitement of the fifth Maurice Broomfield Photographic Competition is now in the past and the Pond can relax into its seasonal activities. The Wildlife Report below brings you up to date with the latest news about the Greater Black Backed Gulls. Hopefully they will not impact too greatly on the other bird life in the area.*

*Our volunteers have been helping to set out the pond boundary and limit the incursions from the ever-increasing traffic on Slipper Road – the impact of the rustic sleepers along the road was very favourable.*

*Now I am looking forward to the next big event – the July Summer Party – provided the weather holds....*

*Nick Madinaveitia*

# Infrastructure

## General

The pond and its banks continue to be in good condition apart from the sluice and its apron. Their repair and construction of a possible weir continue being part of the ongoing discussions with the Environment Agency (EA) and West Sussex County Council. This was explored at the Spring Talk.

## Lower Ems River Management Group

The group continues meeting regularly to pursue the resolution of flooding issues.

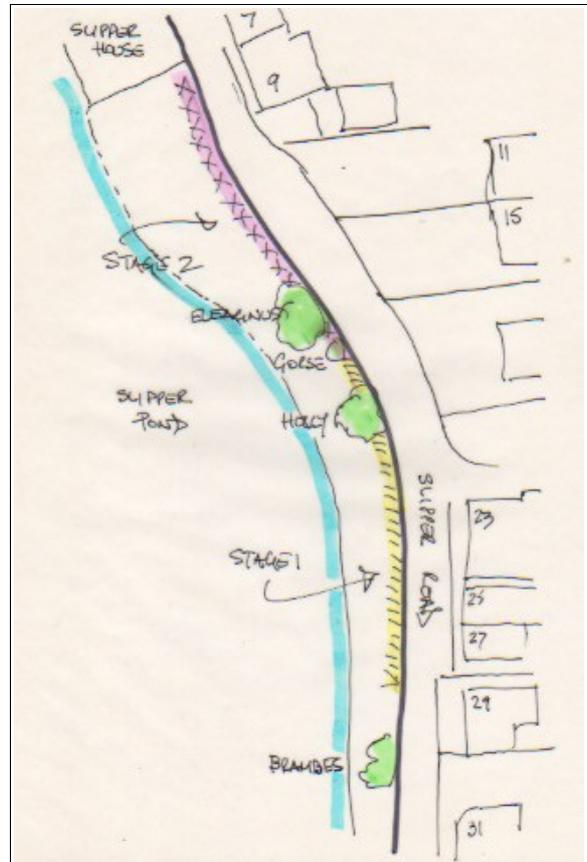
## Slipper Road Boundary

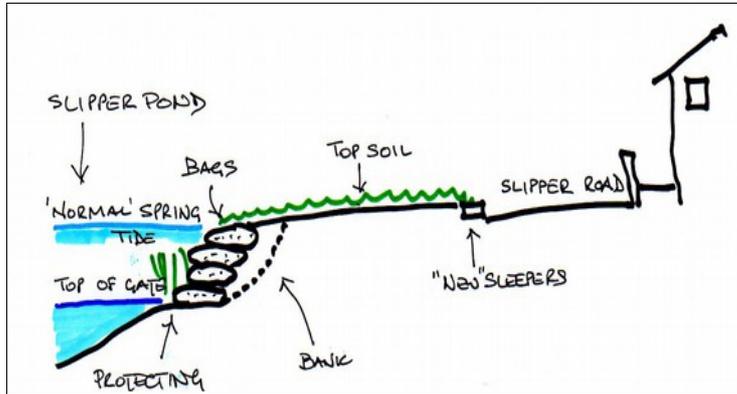
In March we had a meeting with owners' trustees to discuss the problem of traffic gradually widening Slipper Road, encroaching on pond property and causing the road to start to break up in front of the line of cottages. Solutions were explored including positioning posts on the pond's boundary and in the end we arrived at the solution of using railway sleepers to provide a non municipal kerb, containing the traffic in the more rustic spirit of the pond.

The problem was discussed by the SMPPA committee who felt that it could justify the expenditure to protect the pond's interests where the bank was threatened but the continuation would be for aesthetic rather than protective reasons, and that would need full Association approval. The provisional estimate was £1,200 as fixing an exact sum proved difficult.

We were very pleased when we were able to purchase worn untreated tropical hardwood which matched our aims, significantly below our original estimate.

The sleepers arrived on 5<sup>th</sup> April and Clayton Cairns' helpers and volunteers unloaded and fixed the sleepers that day.





The works including the paid labour came to £818 thanks to the sterling work of Clayton and Rob. Mark, Bill Keeble and Nick, each assisted in their own way. We have still to stabilise the pond face and topsoil the bank and will be using the collected heaps of the winter storm reed debris as soil improver.



*Edge before  
Note potholes and scuffed grass edge*



*Sleepers in position  
Potholes repaired by road users*

Everyone has agreed it is a very appropriate solution completely in keeping with the spirit of the pond and asked why the works were not continued northwards to Slipper House! Reviewing the actual expenditures we are able to complete the works for a further £450 – and the committee has agreed to proceed.

We hope to lay the remaining sleepers at the beginning of May.

## **Silting**

The investigation of silt still has to be investigated. As noted in our last Newsletters we hope to drain the pond more frequently in the winter aiming to use spring tides and rainfall to try to flush silt away.

## Spring Talk

The meeting was held in the Methodist Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> April. Some 35 members and guests from Lumley listened intently making the meeting, which everyone appreciated, friendly and lively. As John Smith was unable to join us Asad Abbas spoke for the Environment Agency. These notes have been prepared with him and are a summary of what was discussed.



Asad explained that after 15 years in the Pakistan army he left as a Major and has worked as Flood and Coastal Risk Management Advisor with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Region of the Environment Agency for 7 years.

About 4 years ago he was charged with addressing the increasing flood risk in the Emsworth area..

As the problems of the river system were understood the residents came together with West Sussex Council and the EA to form the Lower Ems River Management Group to address the issues. The very constructive discussions at regular meetings have initiated projects to resolve the issues including:

- First major exercise on the Ems was the taking over and replacement of the dilapidated sluice at Constant Spring to control the potential extreme flows to the front of Lumley Cottages.
- The raising of the bank of the main river where it left the culvert under the railway – its overtopping had flooded the back gardens and Lumley cottages.



Original



Stage 1



2014 Flood



Current

- Improvements to the flow through Constant Spring
- Involvement with the implementation of a scheme for the protection of Lumley cottages. The first phase was the construction of a sandbag wall by residents and volunteers to protect them from tidal flooding followed by stage two, a prize-winning wall and flood boards along the fronting stream funded by a WSCC Watershed

grant. Funding and approval have been obtained for the second stage for completion in the Autumn.

- The river balancing pond – in reality the South Meadow of Brook Meadow nature reserve - has been brought back into use and its discharge into Peter Pond improved and enlarged. Its flanking wall alongside Gooseberry Cottage is in the process of being improved and stabilised with a second line of rock-roll to be placed in the near future.
- Lumley Road bank flanking Peter Pond has been upgraded with the help of a WSCC Watershed grant.
- Slipper Mill Pond has been checked and, whilst there are problems with the sluice and its apron, the pond is able to cope with current extreme fluvial flows.

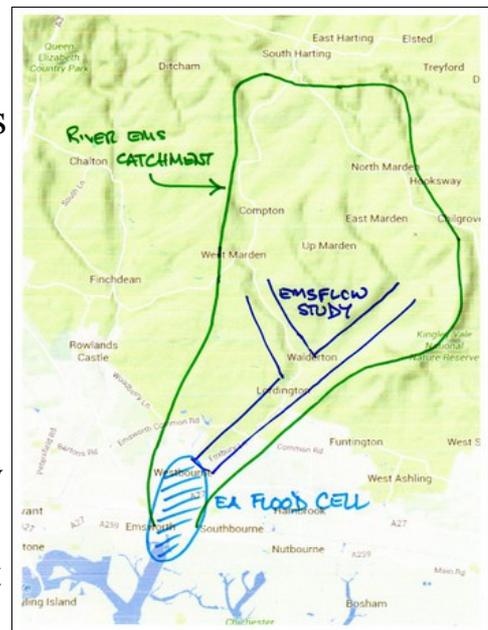


In support the EA commissioned a Study of the lower River Ems including Westbourne and the whole area has been classed as a flood cell because of the number of properties at risk. Reasons for flooding and the peaks in water flow are now better understood and schemes to attenuate the flows upstream are being developed including the de-silting and bringing into use of two significant ponds.

Other issues covered in the EA Study are not being taken forward at present because their cost/benefit ratio is low.

- Lumley Cottages - Phase three works to their rear.
- Reviewing the main river where it passes under the Old Flour Mill, Lillywhite's garage and Queen Street.
- Raising the bank of Slipper Pond as a tidal barrier
- Silt build up from the river and the sea.
- Tidal flooding

He specifically noted that WSCC are currently carrying out an Emsflow study to relieve flooding in the villages in the catchment and it is in the SMPPA and LERMG's interest to be kept aware of developments.



## Wildlife report

### **Birds**

We are now in the breeding season and there is plenty of action on the pond. Coots are nesting on the two smaller rafts, swans have built a magnificent nest in the reeds close to Slipper House and the Greater Black Backed Gulls (GBBG) have re-established their nest on the central raft. Whilst all is tranquil for the moment – incidents do happen.



*Swans on their nest in the reeds by Slipper House  
Note the eggs in the middle*

The other week a third GBBG appeared and threatened the sitting swan. Her cob took exception and cornered the GBBG, and in the ensuing scuffle held its head under water until it was lifeless

score: Swans 1, GBBG 0.

No doubt there will be more squabbles in the near future when the young hatch and the parents are looking for prey.

### **Fish**

Plenty of large fish have been seen as witnessed by the frequent visits of cormorants!

### **Reed control**

We will deal with errant fronds when they cause concern.

## Photographic Competition

Maurice Broomfield (1916-2010) documented British industry in photographs from its postwar boom right up to the 1980s. His international reputation was for photography principally of British industry. His work is regarded as so important that it is held in the V&A, London



Maurice being interviewed  
*Photo: Jeff Thatche*



Bottling salad cream, Crosse and Blackwell, Bermondsey, London

He spent the last years living beside the Slipper Pond, where he loved to watch the wildlife and people. Donations to his memory were dedicated to us, the Association, which he supported whole heartedly.

The Association felt that such a generous donation could not go by unappreciated so set it aside to fund for an annual competition to encourage school children to take up photography. With the help of his widow and many friends, the winning images, plus as many others as possible are exhibited annually as part of the Emsworth Art Trail in May.



This year 103 entries were received from 27 competitors. We were delighted that Nick Broomfield, Maurice's son, specially came from California for the event to give out the prizes.

Jeff and Gill Thatcher, Jenny Tyson and Gavin Millar were also thanked for all their hard work mounting and judging the competition and to the Co-op for sponsoring the refreshments at the private viewing for the entrants and their families.

## Water and Wildlife Section

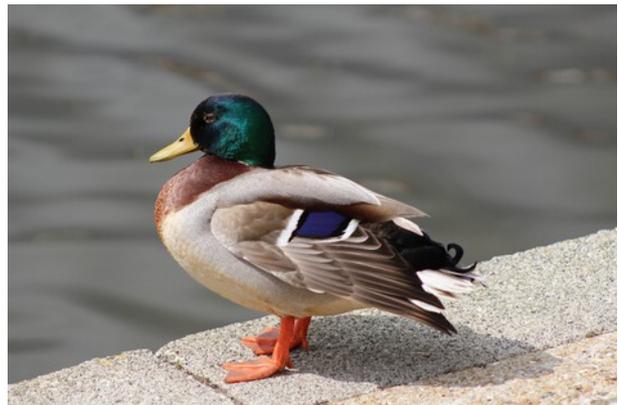
### Overall and Year 3 Winner



Thorney Geese by Evie Linsell-Ayers, Southbourne Junior School.



Year 5 - Afternoon on Wickor Bank - by Thomas Williams, St James Primary School.



Year 4 - Duck Display - by Alex Barker, Southbourne Junior School.



Year 6 - Sea Shore - by Ollie Probee, Funtington Primary School.

## Open Subject

### Overall and Year 4 Winner



Budding Life by Alex Barker, Southbourne Junior School.



Year 3 Gaston Farm Workshop  
by Evie Linsell-Ayers, Southbourne Junior School.



Year 6 - Best Mates - by Ellen Middleton,  
Funtington Primary School.



Year 5 - Spring Bluebells - by Aimee Walker, St James Primary School.

## Dates for your Diary

17 <sup>th</sup> July	Sunday	Summer Party
Autumn		Work Parties
28 <sup>rd</sup> October	Friday	Annual General Meeting, Hewitts, South Street, Emsworth (was the old Day Centre)
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Friday	Annual Dinner, Brookfield Hotel.

## Contacts

General:	Nick Madinaveitia	01243 377749
Treasurer:	Mark Phillips	01243 376756
Membership	Sharon Corbett	01243 389994
Social Events	Betty Smith	01243 371576
Publications	Jo Greenfield	01243 371134
Wildlife:	The Downland Surgery	01243 377141
	RSPCA	01239 667541
Environment Agency	Pollution	0845 9881188
	Flood line	0800 807060

## Publications

All on sale to support the Association.

Please contact Jo Greenfield if you wish to purchase the Bird Book, Notelets or Cards

