



*Dolphin Creek and footpath*

## **Newsletter — September 2017**

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## **Introduction**

*Dolphin Quay*

*The heady days of Summer are now a memory, school is back, and everyone is slipping into their Autumn routines.*

*The hurricane news from the Americas reminds me that we too are at risk of bad weather conditions so we have included an overview of flooding in this issue.*

*More exciting is the possibility of a most generous gift of land from the Wardle family – enabling us help ensure that the environment of our zone is protected and remains open for the enjoyment of everyone.*

*I hope to see you all at the Annual General Meeting – the Agenda is being circulated with this Newsletter.*

*I must thank the Committee and the volunteers for their help and support over the summer.*

*Nick Madinaveitia*

*September 2017*

## **Wildlife report**

### **Fish**

In August on calm days the mirror-like surface of the pond was scored by the wake of large fish just below the surface – mullet, sea bass, sea trout and possibly salmon. Even now the shallows are full of young and when the sun is shining they flash and twinkle in the light making it quite magical. Cormorants and herons are very regular visitors at the moment, flying heavily away fully replete!

This activity attracted some locals who, to everyone's annoyance, tried netting them. We have taken this up with the Fishery Officer of the Environment Agency who is looking into the rules which are obfuscated by definitions. It appears that shore netting of sea fish is allowed subject to standard rules about species and size whilst freshwater fish cannot be caught this way. Since the pond is classified as a brackish lagoon the question of is it sea or river remains to be clarified.

## **Birds**

The swan family continue to be in residence – one of the cygnets has disappeared but the remaining five still often glide majestically across the pond following their parents.

## **Pond Draining**

We plan to leave the tidal gates open from Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September to facilitate work on the Hermitage Brook. This timing is constrained by our only being able to tie the gates back during Spring Tides when the tide pushes them open. The week's work is due to start on the following Monday.

We will be opening the gates again to flush away as much mud and sediment as possible during the Autumn and Winter when tides permit and there is adequate flow in the Ems.

## **Work Parties**

The Autumn clean-up of the Slipper Road bank is just around the corner with the following sessions programmed:

- 30th September
- 14th October
- 21st October

More details to follow....

Volunteers always welcome.

Contact Rob Turner, Tel: 376508. Email: [workparty@smppa.org.uk](mailto:workparty@smppa.org.uk)

## **Social Activities**

### **Summer Party**

Sadly the variable weather caused this year's Summer Party to be cancelled – we will have to have twice as good one next year (If that is at all possible thinking of how great they were in the past).

### **Annual Dinner**

The Brookfield is waiting for the traditional invasion of pond folk and tickets will be sale at the AGM and also from our Social Secretary - Jo Greenfield.



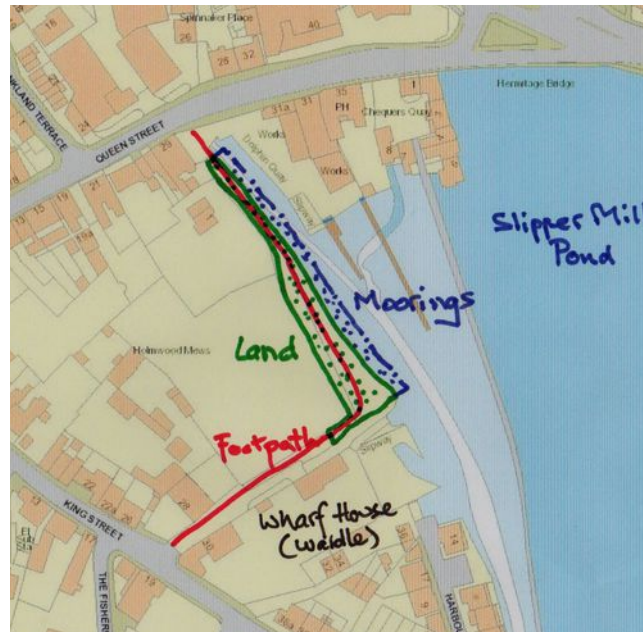
# Gift of Land

## **Background**

For many years Mr and Mrs Wardle, keen pond supporters, lived in Wharf House and when the opportunity arose they bought a parcel of land on the West side of Dolphin creek to ensure that it was not developed. Sadly they both have passed away.

Their two daughters want to ensure that the strip of land and its footpath remain as 'public' open spaces for the use of everyone, in memory of their parents.

Their solicitor suggested the best mechanism was to gift it to a suitable charity and the idea of the SMPPA came up as we already look after land and the public footpath on the pond bank.



## **Extent**

In loose terms to the South the parcel abuts the slipway flanking the main garden of Wharf House. The West boundary follows the hedge line as far as No 29 Queen Street. The gate is the North boundary and the area in discussion includes the moorings on the West bank of Dolphin Creek



*Path looking North towards Queen Street*



*West towards the gate*

## **Current Position**

At a Special Committee Meeting the Committee cautiously welcomed the idea and agreed to open discussions with the daughters. They have engaged a surveyor to look at the bank and moorings.

## **Action Plan**

Wardles:

- Specialist surveyor preparing a report for probate
- Explore the legal technicalities of gifting
- Moorings leased to the Still family to be clarified

Association:

- When details arrive consider them carefully.
- Get expert advice on the liabilities
- Review the Constitution including updates in Charity Law

## **Outcome**

Seek formal approval of the approach at the forthcoming AGM. Put a formal proposal to the membership for approval when all the details are available.

## **Dolphin Quay**



*Drilling*



*General view*

Geotechnical site investigation preparatory to designing the foundations for the new development started on 14<sup>th</sup> September

## **Flooding**



*Slipper Pond – tidal flooding - looking North across A259 with Peter Pond*

Recent storm events in the Atlantic and the devastating damage are a reminder that we too are at risk of inundation. It is worth each of us making due provision for extreme events. Apart from the direct effects of high winds we are subject to two main threats – tidal flooding and high river levels.

### **Tidal Issues**

Aspects have been reported on in many newsletters and the main issues can be summarised as:

- 'Normal' astronomical tides cause little or no disruption
- Storm surges can add 60+ cm to predicted tide levels



*Looking North from Slipper Road across the A259 and Lumley Road*



## River Flooding

- Significant run-off occurs when the aquifers upstream are saturated
- The new flood prevention measures at the Lumley Cottages aim to cope with current expectations
- Provided the gratings protecting the Old Flour Mill and Lillywhite's culverts are clear the total capacity of the system is sufficient



*Brook Meadow South field*



*Slipper Pond Tidal Gates - full flood flow*

## Environment Agency

Their web site web site - <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk> has much useful information including:

- Warnings - [Sign up to get warnings in England](#) - by phone, email or text message if your home is at risk of flooding. The service is free.
- Check immediate risk of flooding – check - [current flood warnings](#) and [river and sea levels](#)
- at risk of [flooding in the next 5 days](#)
- in an area that's likely to flood in the future - check your - [long term risk of flooding](#) - and view your area's flood maps

Perhaps the most useful document to have is the Flood plan - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan> which lists items to be considered.

We, the SMPPA, are very active members of the Lower River Ems Management Group and are working on resolving a variety of local issues.

## Dates for your Diary

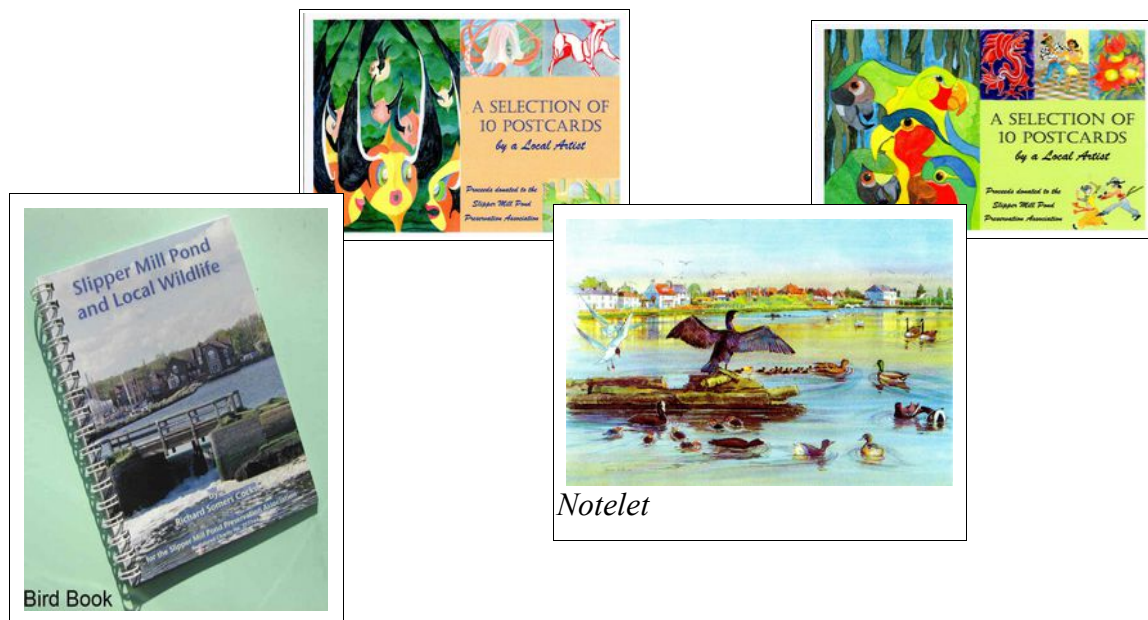
|          |                            |                        |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Saturday | 30 <sup>th</sup> September | Work Party 1           |
| Saturday | 14 <sup>th</sup> October   | Work Party 2           |
| Saturday | 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | Work Party 3           |
| Friday   | 27 <sup>th</sup> October   | Annual General Meeting |
| Friday   | 24 <sup>th</sup> November  | Annual Dinner          |

## Contacts

|                    |                         |                                |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| General:           | Nick Madinaveitia       | 01243 377749                   | chmn@smppa.org.uk             |
| Treasurer:         | Mark Phillips           | 01243 376756                   | treasurer@smppa.org.uk        |
| Membership         | Sharon Corbett          | 01243 389994                   | membership@smppa.org.uk       |
| Social Events      | Jo Greenfield           | 01243 371134                   | info@smppa.org.uk             |
| Work Party         | Rob Turner              | 01243 376508                   | workparty@smppa.org.uk        |
| Photo comp.        | Mark Phillips           | 01243 376756                   | Photos@smppa.org.uk           |
| Wildlife:          | Downland Surgery        | 01243 377141                   |                               |
|                    | RSPCA                   | 01239 667541                   |                               |
| Environment Agency | Pollution<br>Flood line | 0800 80 70 60<br>0345 988 1188 | <i>Note - revised numbers</i> |

## Publications

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



*A special thank-you to Brian Fellows for allowing us to use his bird photographs and, unless noted, illustrations by Nick Madinaveitia*