



NEWSLETTER

August 2010

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Chairman's Introduction:

The glorious Flaming June is now a distant memory, July and August have flown or rather blown by. September is already here, the days are really starting to draw in and it is time to reflect on the Summer. The pond has continued to prosper as shown by the many birds and fish. The reeds on both banks are thriving and I suspect the swans are already eyeing them up for another nesting site for next year - let us hope they find somewhere that will not be a washout!

Please do come to your Annual General Meeting on 15th October .

Wildlife Report - by Gavin Millar

This has been the summer of the Great Swan Saga! Firstly, the Peter Pond pair seemed well set to produce, perhaps a clutch of up to five cygnets, when the eggs suddenly vanished. No sign of predators. Human ones perhaps? The Marina pair have raised a brood of three, one white and two grey, to be seen frequently in Dolphin Creek.

The pair on the Mill Pond (amazingly tolerated by the above pair) repeated their trick of a couple of years back and built a nest within a yard of the West Bank. Alas, they hadn't looked at the tide tables and the next spring tide duly washed them away, nest, eggs and all. Nothing daunted, they started again (wreaking havoc on the planted reeds) with, predictably, the same result.

If that seems sad to you, consider the plight of the pair of coots that decided to build a nest (what passes for one in coot speak) on the mud just below the tidal gates. They tried during every low tide for at least two weeks. I suppose bird intellect is a factor in natural selection and they were duly deselected.

On the pond itself, there was more success for coots, especially on the Northern raft. A few broods of ducklings were to be seen but mainly around the pond rather than on it. A pair of moorhens raised some chicks on the boat 'Eyas' in Dolphin Creek.

Earlier we had a mini-flock of Mediterranean Gulls for a little while. As I write, I have just seen (for the first time I think) a Sparrow Hawk winging its way low over the water. Our previous Chairman raised the question whether the large corvid on his roof might be a raven. Like him, I was impressed by its size but in the end I guess it was just a large crow. (It didn't croak, which might have resolved the question).

There have been many fish in the pond as the presence of quite a few cormorants attested. Grey mullet have been, as usual, present in numbers; quantities of small fry could be seen and unfortunate eels were being gobbled by gulls and comorants.

Peacocks and Red Admirals and the occasional LargeWhite butterfly have been around. The brambles are doing really well. I can recommend the flavour of those opposite the Caravan Park. Bill Warren has done a good job with the hedge cutter to keep the reeds from encroaching on Slipper Road in its Northern part, and by the time you read this the Southern stretches should have been subjected to the same treatment.

West Bank Repairs

The Committee was very disappointed when the potential funding from our local Land-Fill firm, Veolia, failed to materialise. In the current climate of many drastic cut backs it was probably inevitable - the more disappointing considering all the work that went into the preparation of the submission. We have been invited to make a submission to the SEEDA LEADER project and we should hear by the end of September if we have been successful.

The Residents Association invited us to join them at the Emsworth Show so we duly prepared panels explaining the project and joined them.



Spring Talk by Tony Yoward

“The Changing Shape of the Chemist’s Shop”



Prewar pharmacist

Tony gave us all a most lavishly illustrated and entertaining account of the development of the evolution of the pharmacy in the last hundred years, showing examples of medicines and equipment to amplify the highlights. He had the audience mesmerised when he showed how to make suppositories, and then proceeded to circulate (chocolate) samples



Shop in the 1950s

Tony’s Pharmacy in North Street



Thanks to Tony for letting us use his images

Summer Drinks Party

Betty Smith and Sarah Titley chose a very pleasant but cool afternoon at the beginning of August for the now traditional Summer Party. The beach by Slipper Mill was swept clear of weed and debris and provided a splendid backdrop for the occasion. All brought nibbles and wine and there was plenty to go around.



Thanks to Maurice Broomfield for the photos

North Wall

We have had a quote in the order of £4,000 for the removal of the silt which was much too high so we are exploring other ways of solving the problem.

Slipper Park – Fence

An alternative proposal has been submitted, and turned down by the Planners.

Church Bulletin:

Seen on a poster

Sermons:

Sunday Morning - 'Jesus Walks on the Water'

Sunday Evening - 'Searching for Jesus'

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Dates for your Diary for 2010

Friday	15th October	AGM
Friday	19th November	Annual Dinner at the Brookfield Hotel.

Contacts

General:	Nick Madina	01243 377749
Treasurer:	Mark Phillips	01243 376756
Social Events	Betty Smith	01243 371576
	Sarah Titley	01243 379947
Wildlife:	Gavin Millar	01243 377071
	The Downland Surgery	01243 377141
	RSPCA	01329 667541
Environment Agency	Pollution and Flood line	0845 988 1188 0800 80 70 60
	Mention the local rangers in any calls – Paul Reynolds & Trevor Page	