

Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association CIO

Registered Charity No. 1180249

www.smpa.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the period 1st October 2022 to 30th September 2023

Charity Name:	Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association CIO (SMPPA CIO)
Registered Charity Number:	1180249
Charity's Registered Address:	56 King Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AZ

1. Objectives and Activities of the CIO and its Governing Document

Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association "The CIO" is governed according to its constitution which states that its objectives are:

'To protect and conserve the wildlife and natural environment of the Slipper Mill Pond, which is located in the Parish of Southbourne, West Sussex, for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of the public.'

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The CIO manages the Pond and its environs, focusing on the environment, conservation, heritage and recreation, while providing an open space for the general public. The Pond is a saline lagoon, a very rare wildlife habitat, both in the UK and Europe. The combination of sea and fresh water provides a unique brackish water environment which has been recognised as a Sussex 'Local Wildlife Site' (LWS) and 'Site of Nature Conservation Importance' (SNCI) as it is home to many special species. It is inside the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is part of the Chichester District Council Strategic Wildlife Corridor from Hermitage to Westbourne. The Pond is listed as a "Local Green Space" on the Southbourne Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

The Pond was built in the 1760s to provide power to drive the Slipper Mill, one of four working mills in Emsworth supplying meal for the Navy in Portsmouth. The tidal gates are pushed open as the sea breaks over the gates, and close as the tide turns, holding back the sea water which, in the past, powered the Mill. The tidal gates and sluice gate are both listed on the Southbourne Neighbourhood Parish Plan as important "Heritage Assets".

Environmental objectives include: to provide an environment that will encourage the growth of native plants and wild flowers and encourage wildlife, to use indigenous, salt resistant trees, shrubs, wild flowers and under planting; to enhance the natural beauty and views of the pond, including the removal of tired and overgrown planting where appropriate.

Heritage objectives include the maintenance and preservation of the sluice gate and tidal gates which are still operated and in working order.

2. Achievements and Performance

The CIO was able to fulfil all its usual activities during 2022-2023.

ENVIRONMENT: PLANTING & MAINTENANCE

There was a full workparty held in October 2022. This and other smaller groups carried out the following tasks during the year:

- Cutting back the wildflowers and grasses and removal of arisings, mainly along the east bank.
- Removal of large overgrown Buddleia on the east bank, replaced with indigenous planting.
- Further planting of Rowan/Mountain Ash and Sea Buckthorn along the east bank.

HERITAGE & INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & CONSERVATION:

- The tidal gates were cleaned.
- Further repairs were carried out to the footbridge support posts, the kissing gates and bird rafts.
- Repairs were carried out to the gabion netting along the west bank, and cavities on the footpath were filled.
- Bank monitoring markers were set up in the southwest corner to assess any slippage.
- New signage was installed relating to CCTV, SMPPA Fishing Policy, Drain Signs, and Bird Aware notices for dog walkers.

EVENTS:

- The Annual Dinner was held in November 2022, the first time since 2019 (postponed due to COVID).
- The Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition held in April/May was once again a great success. Entries were submitted online for the first time. Future funding for this event is now secured, at least for the next few years.
- The Summer Garden Party was held in July and was very well attended.
- The AGM was moved from October to January, in order to distribute the Committee's workload more evenly throughout the year.
- It was decided not to hold a Spring Talk as the last one was poorly attended.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership levels were down slightly, with 137 members (full and associate) at year end.

POND OWNERSHIP: Following the gifting of the Ownership of the Pond to the CIO, the Land Registry has not yet finalised the transfer documentation.

PUBLICITY: Newsletters were distributed to all members in January and July.

3. Financial Review

The income for the financial year to 30th September 2023 was £8,078 against an expenditure of £4,169, resulting in net income of £3,909. This included net income of £650 from the Annual Dinner.

The only extraordinary expenditure was £300 - the SMPPA's contribution to CCTV installation on Slipper Mill.

The bank balance at the end of the year was £16,320.

The CIO currently has no policy for holding reserves, but is conservative in its nature, with spending kept to a minimum, with work mostly done by volunteers.

4. Structure, Governance and Management

Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ("SMPPA CIO"). It operates in accordance with its Constitution drawn up in October 2018. The CIO is largely funded by its members, who mostly live in the vicinity of the Pond, and by income from Dolphin Quay Boatyard, along with additional donations and grants from time to time.

The Trustees are elected in compliance with the provisions of the CIO Constitution. Trustees have continued to meet quarterly in person during 2022-2023, and on additional occasions as required.

5. Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the Charity:

Trustee Name	Office	Dates Acted
Jo Greenfield	Chairman	Full Year
Sharon Corbett	Membership Secretary	Full Year
Simon Dwyer		Full Year
Simon Eveleigh		Full Year
James Hailstone		Full Year
Maire Park	Social Secretary	Full Year



- There are no corporate trustees, or trustees holding title to any property belonging to the CIO.
- The CIO does not hold any funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.
- There are no Exemptions from disclosure of key personnel details.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who have kindly provided additional donations during the past year and are also grateful to all the Members for their continued support.

6. Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)		
Full Name(s)	JOANNA RACHEL GREENFIELD	SIMON FRANCIS EVELEIGH
Position	CHAIRMAN	TRUSTEE
Date	14 february 2024	14 feb 2024

SLIPPER MILL POND PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION CIO**Registered Charity No. 1180249****YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023****INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Change on Previous Year</u>
Subscriptions	1,725	1,649	76
Donations	1,083	1,361	(277)
Dolphin Quay Rent	2,000	2,000	0
Gift Aid	429	543	(115)
Sale of Bird Books, Notelets etc	46	26	20
Spring Talk / Annual Dinner income	2,795	82	2,713
Interest on Bank Accounts	0	0	0
Other income	0	0	0
Total Income	8,078	5,661	2,417

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Change on Previous Year</u>
Annual Lease Rent of Mill Pond	0	0	0
Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition	322	306	16
Annual Dinner, Spring Talk, Summer Party, AGM costs	2,032	200	1,832
Public Liability Insurance	308	358	(51)
Legal Fees	0	1,618	(1,618)
Planting	166	155	11
Maintenance - infrastructure	463	615	(153)
Maintenance - vegetation	473	107	367
Printing/Stationery/Postage/Misc	155	185	(30)
Signage	127	163	(36)
Website	122	89	34
Sluice Gate & Apron	0	2,208	(2,208)
Total Expenditure	4,169	6,005	(1,835)

NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)	3,909	(344)
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BALANCE SHEET

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Change on Previous Year</u>
Cash at Bank*	16,320	12,412	3,909
Accounts Receivable (Debtors)	-	-	
	16,320	12,412	3,909
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	
Accounts Payable (Creditors)/Cheques in hand	-	-	
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	16,320	12,412	3,909
*Broomfield Schools Photographic Balance incl above	300	622	(322)

Approved by the Trustees
January 2024