

Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association CIO

Registered Charity No. 1180249
www.smppa.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

for the period 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

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 2023-2024.

ENVIRONMENT: PLANTING & MAINTENANCE

There was a full workparty held in October 2023. 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.
- Placing of matting to reduce the spread of invasive Phragmites Australis reeds.
- Further planting of Sea Buckthorn along the east bank.

HERITAGE & INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & CONSERVATION:

- The south-west bank is being monitored closely for any slippage
- Minor adjustments were done to the wooden sluice gate
- Additional signage was installed relating to Fishing.

EVENTS:

- The Annual Dinner was held in November 2023, at the Emsworth Sailing Club for the first time.
- The AGM took place in March 2024 and was well attended.
- The Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition held in April/May was once again a great success. Future funding for this event is now secured, at least for the next few years.
- The Summer Garden Party was held in July 2024 and was well attended.
- It was decided again not to hold a Spring Talk.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership levels were down slightly, with 133 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 still 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 2024 was £19,169 against an expenditure of £4,785, resulting in net income of £14,384. This included net income of £816 from the Annual Dinner and some very generous donations totalling £10,606. The only extraordinary expenditure was £305 for adjustments to the sluice gate.

During the year, donations and savings were transferred to M&G Charifund, with the balance standing at £24,259 at year end (of which £7,042 is protected for long term reserves). The bank balance at the end of the year was £6,662. Total funds therefore stood at £30,921.

The CIO currently has no policy for holding reserves, other than that described above. The charity 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 2023-2024, 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	Resigned March 2024
Simon Dwyer		Full Year
Simon Eveleigh		Full Year
James Hailstone		Full Year
Maire Park	Social Secretary	Full Year
Christine Hows	Membership Secretary	Co-opted in April 2024, pending members' vote at the March 2025 AGM

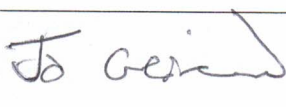

- There are no corporate trustees, or trustees holding title to any property belonging to the CIO.
- The CIO does not hold any funds as custodian trustees on behalf of others.
- There are no Exemptions from disclosure of key personnel details.

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)	JO GREENFIELD	SIMON EVELEIGH
Position	CHAIR	TRUSTEE
Date	19 JAN 2025	19 JAN 2025

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2024



			<u>Change on</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Previous Year</u>
Subscriptions	2,003	1,725	278
Donations	10,606	1,083	9,522
Dolphin Quay Rent	2,000	2,000	0
Gift Aid	639	429	210
Sale of Bird Books, Notelets etc	30	46	(16)
Bank interest	89	0	89
M&G Dividend Income	443	0	443
Annual Dinner income	3,011	2,795	216
Other income (Broomfield donation)	350	0	350
Total Income	19,169	8,078	11,091

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Change on Previous Year</u>
Broomfield Schools Photographic Competition	403	322	81
Annual Dinner, Spring Talk, Summer Party, AGM costs	2,323	2,032	291
Public Liability Insurance	400	308	92
Legal Fees	0	0	0
Planting	220	166	54
Maintenance - infrastructure	42	463	(421)
Maintenance - vegetation	554	473	80
Printing/Stationery/Postage/Misc	174	155	19
Signage	243	127	116
Website	122	122	0
Sluice Gate & Apron	305	0	305
Total Expenditure	4,785	4,169	616

BALANCE SHEET

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Change on Previous Year</u>
Cash at Bank* (Current Account)	1,074	16,320	(15,247)
Bank Interest Account	5,589	0	5,589
M&G Charifund **	24,259	0	24,259
Accounts Receivable (Debtors)	-	-	
	30,921	16,320	14,601

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
Accounts Payable (Creditors)/Cheques in hand	-	-

NET ASSETS	30,921	16,320	14,601
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*** initial M&G investment

Approved by the Trustees
January 2025