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## Environment

### Nore Barn Woods and the future

Emsworth is fortunate to be an area with much variety of scenery, from rural pasture to woodlands and seashore. However natural it is, this environment still has to be protected and conserved.

Nore Barn Woods in the southwest corner of Emsworth are under serious threat from rising sea levels and gradual erosion. Part of the Chichester Harbour "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty", the woods are a major recreational area. It is of concern that the woods will gradually disappear.

To protect the woods in the longer term, the Friends of Nore Barn Woods have made a written submission to the Environment Agency, as part of the recent updating of the Coastal Protection Strategy.



However, there are short-term problems too, primarily with erosion. Although there are 200m of coastal defences on the south side of the woods, there is an unprotected 100m gap in the defences, which is suffering severe erosion.

There is imminent danger of losing six mature Oak trees - see photo for graphic evidence of how serious the problem has become.

The Friends have contacted the landowner, Havant Borough Council, requesting that they make good the unprotected gap. With the support of the Emsworth Tree Wardens, and Councillor Gibb-Gray, it is hoped that something positive can be done.

The outlook is optimistic and, if the funds can be made available, HBC may be able to effect repairs in the not too distant future. Otherwise future generations will not have the same benefits that we enjoy.

Mike Thomas

Friends of Nore Barn Woods



### Chichester Harbour Photo Competition

Could your snap of Chichester Harbour win you a £100?

This year Chichester Harbour Conservancy are inviting

photographers to be inspired by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and get snapping.

The competition is now in its third year and regularly attracts over 100 entries. This year's theme is 'Inspired by Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. Whatever inspires you is likely to make a good photograph whether it be the tranquillity of a spring footpath, a group of birds enjoying the mudflats or a dinghy sailor racing at top speed.

The competition opens on 1 April and the closing date for entries is 11 September. Four cash prizes of £100, £80 and two lots of £50 are on offer. In addition, Whitby's Imaging Centre are offering a 40-page Photo Book for each winner. Judges Mike Repp and Louise Adams will choose the top three prizes. The fourth prize will be chosen by public vote at the final exhibition and online. Voters will be entered into a prize draw to win a print of their choice on a large-size canvas by [www.boatart.co.uk](http://www.boatart.co.uk).

An exhibition of the top 18 photographs chosen by the judges will be held at Emsworth Museum during October. The competition has been generously sponsored by the Friends of Chichester Harbour. Entries can be submitted to [allie@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:allie@conservancy.co.uk), for full details please call the Harbour Office 01243 512301 or visit [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)

Taken from a press release



Winning photograph from 2008 competition.  
On the Wing at Dusk by Nick Moore



### Changes to Brook Meadow work sessions

It has been decided to change the dates of Brook Meadow Conservation Group work sessions as they conflict with those of other conservation groups in Emsworth.

Work sessions will now be held on the *first Sunday* and the *third Thursday* in the month starting from *Sunday 2 August*. Work sessions are from 10am to 12.30pm, meet at the Lumley gate. Refreshments, gloves and tools are provided. A variety of tasks are carried out according to the time of year.

Frances Jannaway



### Woodland Management in Hollybank Woods

You may notice some tree work going on along the northern boundary where the woods meet Emsworth Common Road. The plan is to remove some of the weaker trees along a 25-30 metre strip parallel to the road which will then allow more light into the remaining, stronger trees. Aesthetically, this will give the woodland edge a lighter, airier feel while at the same time providing a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

Also, in the conifer plantation in the north-eastern part of the woods, line thinning will be carried out. This will involve selective removal of trees (mainly Scots Pine) to allow the Western Red Cedar, Oak and Beech to prosper. This plantation was probably planted around 30 years ago with the conifers intended as 'nurse' trees for the environmentally more valuable Oaks.

Sycamore trees reproduce prolifically and can quickly become a problem so the work started by 'the Friends' of removing Sycamore saplings will continue.

All this work has been approved by the Forestry Commission and, as the work will be carried out by a local training organisation, there is no cost to us. Chris Bain, who runs the training organisation, is a regular walker in the woods with his family, a member of the Friends of Hollybank Woods and is committed to sensitive woodland management.

Overall control is by Havant Borough Council with direct involvement of the Friends of Hollybank Woods and the Emsworth Tree Wardens. This is not a short-term project, but a long-term forest regeneration scheme that will benefit future generations, and the woodland itself.

John Bond

### Slipper Mill Pond bank repair

Some years ago we noticed that the sea wall forming the west bank of the tidal pond had deteriorated despite the earlier repair work carried out by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and volunteers in the 1980s. With more generous help from the Conservancy, Emsworth Business Association and others, we carried out a detailed investigation which confirmed that two sections of the bank need urgent attention. - some 40m of the southern end is being inexorably undermined by the sea and the core is being washed out of some 15m of the central section.

In both sections the conclusion is that the outside face should be replaced using an underpinning approach. Such work requires a careful and methodical approach to reduce the impact on the surroundings and particularly to maintain stability of the bank during the construction process.

We have been in lengthy discussions with the authorities, potential contractors and funders and have confirmed the overall cost and viability of the project. We discovered to our amazement that whilst it lies in West Sussex, the administration of the bank along with the bed of the river had been transferred to Havant Borough Council. We now have approval, subject to submitting a formal method statement prior to initiating the works.

The next stage is to appoint professionals to consolidate our plans and obtain competitive prices for the works. We are looking for funding and hope to get a land-fill grant which should defray much of the cost. Work might start this coming winter but we fear that it will be delayed a year as we wish to minimise the impact on wildlife.

Nick Modena



### Would you like a tree planted in your street?

As mentioned in the April issue of The EMS, Emsworth Tree Wardens have obtained funding to plant at least 30 street trees in Emsworth. A number of possible locations and types of suitable trees have been suggested. But we still need more.

Once the locations and types of tree have been selected, we will write to nearby residents asking for their comments and for their help in looking after the young trees. The trees will be planted between October 2009 and March 2010.

If you would like a tree planted in your street, please get in touch with either Frances Jannaway (Tel 430314) or Ann Jolly (Tel. 372847) as soon as possible.

Frances Jannaway



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