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Environment



We're Celebrating at Brook Meadow!!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Brook Meadow has now been awarded Local Nature Reserve status. A number of residents have devoted

a lot of time to achieving this recognition, and it is great that their efforts have been rewarded in this way. Becoming an LNR means that the Meadow will be more protected from inappropriate development and can be managed to conserve and encourage the wide variety of plant and animal species growing here.

We're marking this joyful event with an Open Day on the Meadow on Sunday 13th July.

At 11am the Mayor of Havant will cut a ceremonial ribbon at the Palmer's Road car park entrance to the Meadow. There will be a succession of events on the Meadow during the course of the day, connected with conservation work, including butterfly and grass identification, a Nature Trail and Nature Hunt, and other events aimed at families as well as keen nature conservationists. A herb walk led by medical herbalist Hannah Charman starts at 2pm. Do come and see what goes on, and find out more about this wonderful wildlife haven in the heart of Emsworth.

We've had a busy winter and spring, and are now working even harder on the regular summer tasks of keeping the meadow at its best, and available for visitors to enjoy. Among these, we've had visits from two local schools, with a programme of learning about, and helping to maintain and improve the natural environment.

Sightings of Water Voles in the River Ems have been more frequent this year than last, and we hope that visitors may be lucky enough to catch sight of these enchanting but increasingly endangered mammals.

We'll look forward to welcoming many readers of The EMS to Brook Meadow at our Open Day on 13th July.



Nature Hunt in Brook Meadow 2006

Jennifer Rye

Ems Valley Walks

The Brook Meadow Conservation Group is organising two Ems Valley Walks as part of the Hampshire Water Festival on Sunday 10th August.

Starting at 10am, the morning walk led by Brian Fellows, will be along the southern section of the River Ems, including Peter Pond, Dolphin Lake and Slipper Mill Pond. Starting at 2pm, the afternoon walk led by Jennifer Rye, will take in the northern section of the River Ems, including Brook Meadow, Lumley Mill, the millrace up to Westbourne returning down the Ems Valley to the Lumley Stream.



Ems Valley near Westbourne

During the 2-hour walks you will see the wonderful diversity of plants and animals and hear about some of the history of this wonderful wildlife habitat right on our doorstep. You are welcome to do either or both walks. Meet at the Brook Meadow information board in Palmers Road car park.

Frances Jannaway

Emsworth Primary schoolgrounds

Along with schools up and down the country, Emsworth Primary School showed its support for the newly-launched Love School Grounds campaign by holding a non-uniform day and open gardening afternoon as part of National School Grounds Week (9-13 June).

The aim of the campaign, organised by the national school grounds charity *Learning through Landscapes (LTL)* and supported by organisations across the UK, is to ensure that school grounds are always kept high on the agenda, so pupils present and future can enjoy the fantastic play and learning opportunities they offer.

"We love our school grounds because it is really fun being outside!" agree brother and sister pupils, Jack (aged 7) and Grace (aged 5). "And we've had a great day today wearing non-uniform to raise money for some more seeds and compost for our school allotments." Each year group was also involved

News from the Friends of Hollybank Woods

We have had some very successful and enjoyable walks this spring starting in April with Birdsong and Flowers, followed by Trees in May, and in June an evening of Moths and Bats, all led by local naturalists.

Our next walk is on **Sunday 20th July**, 10am - 12am meeting at the top of Hollybank Lane. We will be looking at Butterflies to coincide with National Butterfly Week. In July last year, Peacock, Comma, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral and Holly Blue were plentiful in the woods. On 11th May this year, Jane Brook had an early sighting of the beautiful White Admiral butterfly. This butterfly is usually found in June and July and may be seen feeding on Bramble. It is a woodland species; its caterpillars feed on Honeysuckle leaves and overwinter inside a shelter formed by folding the edges of the leaves together with silk. The Friends also take part in a national butterfly survey in Hollybank Woods and the results are sent to Hampshire Butterfly Conservation.

For information on Hollybank Woods, please visit our excellent website at www.hollybank-woods.hampshire.org.uk There are reports on walks, sightings by local experts and wonderful photographs taken in the woods by Andrew Brook. There are close-ups of a female Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly and a bee on Garlic Mustard, as well as Cherry blossom and many flowers. The importance of bees is emphasised - "Every 3rd mouthful of food consumed by the world's population has been pollinated by bees... Bee populations are in heavy decline, not good news given how important they are".

Pauline Bond

Sewage Overflow at the end of Kings Road

- what YOU can do.

At the end of Kings Road in Emsworth, there is a Combined Storm Overflow (CSO). A CSO is a pipe that allows Southern Water to discharge raw sewage directly into Emsworth Harbour, to prevent back-up of sewage in periods of high rainfall when flows within the sewerage system may be too large for the sewerage pipes to pass forward to the sewage works for treatment.

The Kings Road CSO has regularly discharged over the past 6 months, depositing raw sewage onto the foreshore. The last two known instances were on 30th April and 28th May.

Southern Water has permission (via a 'Consent' from the Environment Agency) to use the CSO at will, and without notification after the event. The problem with this arrangement is that people in Emsworth, including young children, are regular users of the foreshore and are unknowingly exposed to the dangers presented by the sewage. Our local watersports enthusiasts, notably sailors and windsurfers, are perhaps subject to even greater exposure, as they may ingest the output of the outfall.

As a result of complaints from residents, the Environment Agency have committed to examine the Consent in their round of reviews, with a planning meeting scheduled for June 2008. The results of the planning meeting will be included in the next edition of The EMS.

If you notice the Kings Road CSO discharging anything suspicious, please notify the Environment Agency Hotline 0800 807 060, and the Southern Water Services Emergency number 0845 278 0845. The more evidence of reported discharge, the greater the chance of getting the issue resolved, so your calls will really make a difference.

Mark Riddington

in different activities to enhance the school grounds; such as making bird and bat boxes with Dave, a Chichester Harbour Conservancy ranger, and making scarecrows with Maggie and Becka from nearby Tuppenny Barn.

Besides shouting out about why they love their school grounds, Emsworth Primary School has also shown its support by signing up to the campaign at <http://www.loveschoolgrounds.org> linking up with hundreds of other schools.

"School grounds play a vital role in a child's life, from providing valuable opportunities for learning and discovery to helping improve physical, social and emotional well being" adds parent, Caroline Fisk. "And the more support the campaign receives, the better chance school grounds have of getting the investment they need. We were very lucky to receive a Chichester Harbour Conservancy Sustainable Development Fund available to harbour schools for eco-projects and this really helped to enhance our outdoor area."

Taken from a Press Release



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