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## Keeping the taps from running dry

Forecasts of demand for water in South East Hampshire point to shortages by 2020 during prolonged periods of summer drought. The proposed new winter storage reservoir at Havant Thicket near Rowlands Castle will help to close the gap.

Each person consumes an average of 160 litres a day with about half either going down the toilet or washing machines. Demand patterns are changing driven by more single households and thousands of new homes over the next 20 years.

The area is blessed with good quality local springs and aquifers. Havant's history has been influenced by its water resources hence parchment making, brewing and leatherwork.

The £46 million reservoir will store 8,700 litres of water pumped along a pipeline from Bedhampton Springs through Leigh Park and into the site at Havant Thicket.



Local clay and materials like timber will be used in the construction and heavy plant kept out of residential areas. The project, due for completion in 2020, creates potential opportunities to enhance the pipeline route running beside the Hermitage & Riders Lane streams. A small diversion will be made to avoid disturbing trees in Great Copse.

Power from renewable energy sources such as solar and wood fuel are being explored. There is considerable focus on ensuring that any local ecological impacts of the reservoir are mitigated. Unique habitats for bats and reptiles, which are numerous, will be part of the landscaping. A new wetland area will be provided which will attract birds including ducks and grebes. It may even attract rare migrants like the Osprey. Along with Staunton Country Park, the proposed Broadmarsh Coastal Park and existing Farlington Nature Reserve, Havant's new reservoir could become a major destination for nature lovers throughout the district.

The aim is to achieve a delicate balance between the need for water, protecting native animal and plant life as well as creating new facilities for leisure, like cycling, angling, bird watching and walking. *Ray Cobbett*

## Goose Watch: Volunteers Wanted

An innovative new scheme was launched this autumn in Chichester Harbour to help protect the migrating flocks of Brent Geese. Called 'Goose Watch', volunteers are being recruited to help monitor the movement of the Geese over the coming months.



Brent Goose - picture  
by George Spragg

Last winter, a peak of over 12,000 Dark-bellied Brent Geese visited Chichester Harbour, making the area internationally important for this species with about 5% of the population. The Geese are easily identified by their 'cackling' sound as they fly overhead in their favourite 'wavy' formation or form groups plodding over the mudflats on their sturdy webbed feet. In the daytime, the Geese will often move inland and can be seen grazing on fields.

They favour crops such as wheat, oil-seed rape as well as grassland. Keeping track of their movements as they look for new grazing land can be a bit of a headache for Conservation Officer, Ed Rowsell. Ed says, "Each year we try to build up a picture of where the Geese go, which fields they use and how many visit Chichester Harbour. Over the years we have developed an understanding of how the Geese use the Harbour and the surrounding fields in the AONB. It is my task to try and track them down." To help with this important work, nearly 30 keen volunteers have been allocated a sector within which they will monitor the Geese on a fortnightly basis. Reports will then be fed back to the Harbour Office to help the Conservancy build up a much better informed picture of the habits of these special winter visitors.

Anyone interested in joining 'Goose Watch' should contact Ed Rowsell at the Harbour Office, 01243 510985. No birdwatching experience is necessary as training, maps and recording forms will all be provided.

*Chichester Harbour Conservancy*

## Hedgerow restoration - Continued from page 1.

Our second project is to restore the mainly Hawthorn hedge along the eastern edge of the Horndean Road recreation ground, which is in a very poor condition with a large number of gaps. To begin with, we will clear dead wood and prepare the ground to plant a large number of Hawthorn whips in the gaps. Andrew Skeet (arborist at HBC, responsible for trees on HBC land) has agreed this project. He suggests that we plant root-trainer cell grown plants which would get off to a good start. We have applied for a Woodland Trust 'Trees for All' grant of £100 to pay towards this.



## Street trees

Thousands of street trees are being felled by local authorities all over the country, usually on health and safety grounds. The trees that have been felled are frequently not replanted because of declining budgets. So the maxim of *planting two trees for every tree felled* to maintain the tree stock does not apply. This inspired our third and most challenging project, planting street trees.

Opportunities for planting trees in verges along roads are limited because of a number of restrictions, which include overhead telephone cables, underground TV/phone cables, gas, electricity and water pipes, street lighting, width of verge and buried road surfaces. 'Street trees' are the responsibility of the Highways Department of Hampshire County Council.

Bearing the above restrictions in mind, Emsworth Tree Wardens have put forward a number of possible tree planting sites to HCC Highways. These sites are currently being checked by HCC to make sure they are suitable. We will then make a final selection and ask the residents of the selected roads for their comments and help in looking after the trees once planted.

In the meantime, we have applied for a grant of just under £2,000 from the County Councillor Devolved Budget scheme. This will provide funds for an accredited contractor to plant about 12-15 street trees, depending on the type of tree. County councillor David Gillett supports this application and we hope to hear whether we have been awarded the grant by the time you read this.

## Suggestions for planting trees

Last but by no means least - if you have any suggestions for planting a tree or trees in Emsworth or would like to make a donation, please let Richard Galloway, tel. 377009 or me know, tel. 430314. *Frances Jamnaway*

## A Year in Hollybank Woods

WOODLAND MAINTENANCE - Friends of Hollybank Woods work parties are mostly a winter activity beginning in November and continuing through to March. This is to cause the least disturbance to resident wildlife. Last year average turnout was about 10 and we continued to clear paths and remove Sycamore saplings and pull Bracken in the new glades. This year we had a first with a summer work party in late June specifically to pull Bracken in the new glades as by then it had begun to take over again. This certainly helped contain the quantity of Bracken and will be repeated next year. Incidentally, the glades look particularly good in the spring with a mass of Bluebells followed by a spectacular display of Foxgloves. So far no sign of the wildflower seeds planted a couple of years back but we did expect it to take a few years, if at all.

Looking after 150 acres of woodland with a handful of volunteers with manual tools is quite difficult so we were pleased when in September we heard that our application for a grant to purchase a brush cutter had been successful. So this year, we have a gleaming new 4-stroke brush cutter, which should help considerably.

WALKS IN THE WOODS - Our summer programme of walks kicked off in April with 'Flowers and Birdsong' led by Brian Fellows. In May, Jonathon Huet took us on a walk through the woods looking at the fine and varied selection of trees on offer. And in June our old friends Mike Perry and Robin Storkey from Chichester Natural History Society ably supported by Andrew Brook ran a Moth and Bat evening. As usual lots of moths and no bats!

On 20 July, to coincide with National Butterfly Week, we had a butterfly walk led by Mike Bridger, also from Chichester Natural History Society. Fine weather and a good selection of butterflies were spotted.

We took a break in August and September then in October we rounded off the year with the ever-popular Fungus Foray led by Rosemary Webb with support from Ralph Hollins. *John Bond*



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