

# **BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF**

## **MONTHLY REPORT –APRIL 2008**

### **Executive Summary**

A total of 61.7mm fell during the month thereby living up to the 'April showers' title. The rainfall has spurred on vegetation growth and that means ditches and watercourses becoming overgrown with weeds; more on this later.

Messrs Hinckley, Newman, Stern and Price (of the BA) with additions from me helped to produce the Bosham Flood Report on the 10<sup>th</sup> March Sea Surge event. This was published on 10<sup>th</sup> April and copies were distributed to the Environment Agency, Chichester District Council, Bosham Parish Council and Harbour Conservancy. A sterling effort was made by Messrs Price and Hinckley in collating all the information in a short space of time and arranging the printing of the document. Meetings were arranged to discuss the recommendations.

The first of these occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> April and involved a meeting with the EA in Bosham itself. This was a good opportunity to meet the new Area Manager Mr Alan Hopkins, and show him the areas of concern firsthand. The second meeting was with the CDC (Mr David Lowsley) held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Some very useful guidance was given by Mr Lowsley and we felt confident that matters would be progressed in the right areas.


One of the issues arising from the 10<sup>th</sup> March flooding concerns the provision of sandbags. The Bosham Flood Plan states that these will be made available but the practical provision of these falls short of the well intentioned principle in my view. One practical solution was forthcoming from our meeting with the CDC. A Dorset-based company produces a plastic portable barrier in sections that can be deployed quickly by one person and can also be stored more easily. I believe it is worth considering as a practical alternative to sandbags and I will be presenting this idea to the Parish Council in May. I have attached some pictures to the Appendix.

The state of the Shore Road gabions was also raised and it was suggested that two examples of flood defences/sea walls should be looked at so I took a trip to Birdham Pool and Bracklesham to view them and take pictures. I will report on these to the Bosham PC next month as well.

The growth of weed along the Stumps Lane and Churchfield Stream sections has been reported to the EA who will visit and consider whether an out of season cut is required. At this time of year a bird nesting survey also has to be carried out. I will report the outcome in my May report. A vole has been spotted in the Stumps Lane section which is pleasing news and I've passed this sighting on to the Harbour Conservancy Environment Officer and to the EA.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> April I spotted a welcome sight; a WSCC sucker lorry attending to drains along the A259. My enquiries to the WSCC Hwys department about the possibility of Delling Lane receiving the same attention resulted in the announcement that Delling Lane and the adjoining roads were scheduled for June and the remainder of the A259 due in August.

I was pleased to receive an update from the EA on the planned repair to the leak into the old Millpond near Moreton Road; this would be scheduled for summer '08.

Mr Price of the BA gave an excellent presentation on flooding issues to the Bosham Parish Council Annual Assembly on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. As I was unable to attend due to my day/night job I helped supply Peter with some slides of The 10th March Sea surge for his PowerPoint show. I was invited to attend the Bosham Association committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April to give an update on flooding (and how to do it ). As the BA flood team were away for this occasion I gave a summary of developments since the 10<sup>th</sup> March event to the committee.

Finally, it was suggested at the March Bosham PC Amenities Committee meeting that I should write an article about my work as Water Bailiff for the local **Downland News** magazine. I'm pleased to say that the editors welcomed the idea and some of you will have seen the result in the May edition. I've been asked to make a regular contribution to the magazine on flooding matters so you've all been warned!!

#### **Action Required/Requested**

1) An update is requested from the EA concerning the likely date for the Stumps End sluice outer flap replacement

**ACTION - EA**



David West  
1<sup>st</sup> May 2008

Copies, via e-mail, sent to:

#### **Action, if required**

Mr G Holder - Building Services, Chichester District Council  
Mr A Davison - Flood Defence Strategy, Environment Agency  
Mr M Ford - Environment Agency – Operations Delivery Tech Support  
Mr J Thomas - Wastewater Networks Western Area Manager, Southern Water  
Mrs V Treagust – Bosham Parish Council Clerk

Mr R Riley – Chichester District Council  
Mr B Killner – Environment Agency – Operations Field Team Leader  
Mr S Johnson - Highway Network Services (Western Area), WSCC  
Mr A Adams - Sewerage Policy Manager, Southern Water

**Information**

Mr J Hinton- Chairman, Bosham Association  
 Mr P Price - Bosham Association  
 Mr E Hinkley – Bosham Association

Mrs P West - Chairman, Bosham Parish Council  
 Mr P Stern - Co-author Bosham Flood and Sewerage Report 2001  
 Mr P Newman – Bosham Association

**Abbreviations:**

**PP** - Peter Price                      **PS** - Peter Stern                      **DW** - Dave West (Author)   **EA** - Environment Agency  
**HWYs** - Highways                      **HW** - High Water                      **BA** - Bosham Association   **CDC** - Chichester District Council  
**PN** - Peter Newman                      **JH** - John Hinton                      **U/S** - Unserviceable

<b>Date</b>	<b>Site/Weather Situation</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Action</b>
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Delling Lane and Bosham Lane ..... Millstream Hotel gauge	CDC Roadsweeper in operation ..... Showing 2.9m at 1100hrs	Thank you .....
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	East Ditch ..... Millstream Hotel gauge	Fairly poor state in the ditch bed downstream from Frenchams. Debris build up and plastic bucket seen. ..... Showing 3.0m at 1200hrs	Monitor .....
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Delling Lane and Bosham Lane	CDC Roadsweeper in operation	Thank you

Date	Site/ Weather Situation	Observation	Action
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Stumps Lane ditch and upstream	Almost clogged with cress-type weed	Reported to EA
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	A259 between <i>Hillier's Garden Centre</i> and <i>White Swan</i> roundabout	WSCC sucker attending to drains	Enquire from Hwys when Delling Lane planned (done)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	East Ditch ..... Walton Lane grille ..... Millstream Hotel gauge	Mostly clear from <i>Frenchams</i> to midway to end, then lots of debris including plastic bucket. ..... Clear but no flow. <i>Forge Cottage</i> stretch above it very bad with broken bricks on their bank and becoming overgrown. ..... Showing 3.0m	Sigh! Farmer or EA??? ..... Will consider a letter to homeowner .....
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 2.9mm at 1600hrs	
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Delling Lane and Bosham Lane ..... Stumps End sluice (2030hrs)	CDC Road sweeper in operation ..... Cleared of debris	Thank you ..... (JH)

Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	22.4mm fell in last 24hrs		
	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 3.2mm at 0745hrs	
	.....	.....	.....
	Millstream Hotel gauge	Showing 3.8m at 1430hrs	
.....	.....	.....	
Delling Lane	Blocked gullies on western side causing significant ponding	I rodded some of them out (against my better judgement)	
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Walton Lane	Grille running clear but <i>Forge Cottage</i> ditch section overgrown and full of pond weeds	Will write to owner/occupier	

**END OF REPORT**

## APPENDIX



**FLOODSTOP <sup>TM</sup> – an alternative to sandbags?**