

# **BOSHAM PARISH COUNCIL WATER BAILIFF**

## **MONTHLY REPORT – June 2009**

### **Executive Summary**

**A total of 28.7 mm of rain fell this month** (7.7mm less than last year) - a dry month with heavy rain on the 6<sup>th</sup> and small amounts on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

The month of June has been fairly quiet overall, however, there are ongoing issues that continue to be of considerable concern and must remain high on our agenda for action this summer. Most notably these include the known leakages at: a) the Moreton Road break [broken sluice]; b) the Penstock Field corner; and c) an apparent new leakage from the Millpond. (Also see appendix A for other unresolved issues)

Concerning Moreton Rd and Penstock Field, the EA has been promising to take action for nearly 2 years. We are not insensitive to their budgetary constraints and very grateful for all they do, however these issues are surely now a top priority. Potential consequences are explored in Appendix B. Peter Price and I will be in touch again this month to suggest a low cost solution and to let the EA know that members of the Bosham Flood Team are entirely willing to offer “hands on” support as and when required. It has never been our tradition simply to complain and then sit back. (Thank you team)

I will be investigating the new leakage at the Millpond this week as part of an overall survey and will report my discoveries a.s.a.p. I will also be producing pictures, measurements and drawings to include in next months report - hopefully with a time-line for a plan of action. I shall be spending additional time with my predecessor who has generously offered to share yet more of his considerable knowledge and expertise. (Thank you very much Dave)

Generally speaking, for me the “learning curve” continues and it has been particularly interesting to observe the changes at this time of year. I am somewhat surprised that the waterways flow as they do with such an explosion of flora and fauna and I am delighted to see our wildlife continue to flourish as a result and, indeed, for residents to appreciate what is surely one of Bosham’s finest assets: Fresh water!

Aside from a tree falling into the stream in “Greens Field” (which has yet to be resolved, see image) and another log for my Chiminea in Walton Lane (where do they come from??) there has been little in the way of potential blockages.

In conclusion, this month the situation has been “stable”. I suggest however that, with so many leakages in the system, had it not been for: i) a significant reserve of groundwater held in the Downs (as per Chilgrove & Compton); ii) the resultant fresh water springs to the north of Bosham and; iii) a reasonable rainfall it could be a very different story! Without proper action I am apprehensive as to what our condition could potentially be in Aug/Sept?

Anthony Black (Tony / AB)  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

**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  
 Ms. Lisa Roberts – 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:**

<b>PP</b> - Peter Price	<b>PS</b> - Peter Stern	<b>DW</b> - Dave West	<b>EA</b> - Environment Agency
<b>HWYs</b> - Highways	<b>HW</b> - High Water	<b>BA</b> - Bosham Association	<b>CDC</b> - Chichester District Council
<b>PN</b> - Peter Newman	<b>JH</b> - John Hinton	<b>U/S</b> - Unserviceable	<b>AB</b> - Anthony Black (Tony) Author
<b>BPC</b> - Bosham Par Council	<b>LR</b> - Lisa Roberts	<b>MM</b> - Mike McGrail	<b>MH</b> - Millstream Hotel

<b>Date</b>	<b>Site/ Weather Situation</b>	<b>Observation</b>	<b>Action</b>
Fri 5 <sup>th</sup>	Millstream Hotel / BSC/ Penstock	Concerned that MH Gauge was very low (less than 2)	Quay Flush apparent with BSC gate open.
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Millstream Hotel / BSC/ Penstock	MH Gauge still very low (just over 2) even after a significant amount of Rainfall.	Observe.
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	BSC / Millstream Hotel	BSC sluice gate closed. MH gauge back to 2.2	Thank you.

Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Green's Field	DW reports finding a sizeable rotten tree fallen across the stream at the north western corner of Green's Field (see pics)	Requested Mr Green's Farm manager have it removed.
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	Penstock & field corner.	Water at Penstock having been set to 54 last month is still showing almost level with top. There is good flow coming from the north but <b>the leak at the corner of the field is worse.</b>	Action must be taken soon. <b>EA please.</b>
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Swan Pub Roundabout / Quay	MM reports strange colour water in Millstream. Observed road works on broken pipe Swan roundabout.	Observe.
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Millstream	No problem. It is clear.	None needed.
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Millstream Hotel	After long dry spell MH gauge surprisingly showing 2.5 after short but heavy burst of rain yesterday.	None needed.
Tue 30 <sup>th</sup>	Benedicts	Meeting with PP & PN. Thank you.	AB & PP taking several actions to be reported next month.

**END OF REPORT**

## APPENDIX A



### Green's Field - fallen tree.

Thank you DW for these pics.

**There are other issues** about which we hoped to report progress such as the old Service Station pipe and feedback from **CDC** on Environment Health issues concerning nitrates, sewage and high levels of seaweed and algae in the harbour. Concerning the garage pipe there is some confusion as PP has received a letter stating that the Garage site has been cleared and the matter now closed. We are looking into this. I have not yet heard back from CDC but understand that holidays and staff sickness have delayed the matter.

## APPENDIX B

### The importance of fresh water flowing through Bosham.

Prior to becoming Water Bailiff and despite my being “several generations Bosham”, I was almost unaware of the complexities and importance of our waterways. As modest as they may be, they are absolutely vital. My former ignorance is shameful. None-the-less, if I took such things for granted I suspect that many others might do likewise. I am often asked “what on earth is a water bailiff and why do we need one”?

Generally speaking most locals have absolutely no idea what goes on behind the scenes. This has a lot to do with the modesty of the 16 member team who volunteer their time and expertise without reward or accolade. Many of these have extraordinary skill sets such as water engineering, surveying, law and logistics to name just a few. All have a passion toward the welfare of the Village and a deep gratitude for being resident here. I completely share their sense of privilege. “North”, “South”, “New” or “Old” Bosham - we all share a beautiful and vibrant community.

In the months to come I hope to supplement our Village website with a pictorial tour and précis of the how’s and why’s of the importance of fresh water in Bosham. By no means do I have a total grasp on the subject yet but I do have unique access to a substantial knowledge base gleaned from those who have so generously donated their time and expertise in the past. In the meantime, in this short article I aim simply to outline **just some** of the certainties, possibilities and consequences of what would happen without a healthy and wholesome fresh water supply running into and throughout the Village.

- **The Certainties:** Approx 3,000 fresh water eels would die, as would 800 water voles and countless small fish. Hundreds of rare plants would disappear. Trees would collapse for lack of root support. The Swans would leave the area for lack of fresh drinking water as would countless other birds of all species. Geese would not migrate here. Ducks would leave the safety of the Millstream and be eaten by foxes who would then eventually move away or die out, as would rabbits, hares, moles etc. Horses, Cows and other farm animals would need to be kept elsewhere or manually supplied with water in fields now without streams. Farmers could not extract water for the fields nor could many residents for their ponds & gardens.
- **The possibilities:** The road drains and Leat would become blocked. Stagnation in static ponds and ditches would lead to disease in both wildlife and humans. Farmers would go bankrupt as would other related services and industries. Sewage would become slurried, difficult to cleanse or pump. The Harbour would become even more silted, the Quay totally silted. Sailors would go elsewhere and the Sailing Club close.
- **The consequences:** Bosham would become a far less desirable place to live. Property prices would plummet and negative equity exacerbated. The local economy would suffer. Jobs would be lost. Young people would (completely) leave the area in search of pastures new. Local taxes would increase. Professionals (doctors, lawyers etc.) would move away. **Chichester** would be affected.

**That Bosham even exists in the first place is due to the fresh water supply.** The Monk Dicul settled here because of it, the Romans extended it. The Fishermen and Oystermen could not have lived here without it. Mere taps and pipes can never replace it. Be assured it is as vital today as it has ever been, and please rest assured that your Bosham Parish Council with the aid of the Bosham Association is here to make sure it thrives for your welfare.

Thanks for reading. Please visit our website for updates, explanations and (soon) a visual tour of the waterways and systems. [www.bosham.org/water](http://www.bosham.org/water)