

WORLD OF WIDEWATER (WOW) MAY 2017, RUNDOWN.

www.lancingwidewater.com



Welcome to this spring edition of the Rundown, on behalf of the committee we hope that you find the information interesting.

Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th June 2017 - 7pm-9pm

WOW will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 7th June 2017, 7pm-9pm at The Marlipins Museum, 36 High Street Shoreham-by-Sea BN435DA.

For an informal chat about being nominated at the AGM for any role within WOW Please contact:

- Paula Baker 01903 368863
- Jo Procter 01903 752505
- Gill Purnell 01903 765440

The AGM is a great time to meet fellow lovers of the Widewater Lagoon, members of the current committee will be on hand and WOW's updated display boards will be shown, there will be refreshments and a light buffet. Garry Purnell will be giving a talk on his well researched history of the Lagoon and surrounding area. Here is a taster of Garry's talk:

'During the talk, I will go back as far as the Domesday Book and will progress through the centuries until we get to our present time. This will be backed up with maps and photos and is a must for anyone who would like to know;

- How long has the Lagoon been here?

- What did it look like in the Middle Ages?
- Where were the houses on the beach?
- What was the original name of your property?
- Where were the salt marshes?
- What did the area look like before the airport existed?
- What does the Shoppesdam mean?'

Membership Subscriptions.

Please remember to renew your WOW subscriptions that are due in June, our standing order subscriptions are increasing yearly but membership overall is slowly declining each year.

Why do we need WOW? Well....

- WOW has a solid presence on the Lancing Parish Council and Adur District Council. The committee are informed of any matter that would affect the Widewater for example the proposed replacement of the Widewater footbridge, information surveys have been completed and we have been informed that the replacement is planned for 2017/2018.
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- We were consulted about the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) which replaces the Dog Control Orders.
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- WOW has two parish councillors' who regularly attend the committee meetings and recently Helen Plant (Clerk to Lancing Parish Council) came to a meeting to introduce herself.
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- Jo Procter and Garry Purnell sit on the Lancing Parish Council Widewater Management Group.
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- We have been successful in gaining agreement that when planning permission is granted around the Widewater, the need for builders to be vigilant of the Widewater's balanced fragile eco system and take all rubbish off site not allowing any to fall in the lagoon.
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- WOW's fund contributed to the Widewater Nature Information Panels - for all to enjoy.
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- We hold regular litter clearance and information talks.

So please support WOW - subscriptions are ONLY:

Single membership - £6.00

Family membership - £ 9.00

Senior single membership - £4.00

Senior couple membership - £ 6.00

[Membership renewal form and Standing Order form at the back of this rundown.](#)

Swan News -



The lucky resident Widewater Mute Swans have had yet another successful year raising five cygnets who left the lagoon in late March to start their new life in the wild, probably joining the flock of other young swans on the river Adur. The female has been sitting on her nest and lucky a Widewater resident, David Wilson who lives close to the nest site and keeps a careful eye on them, spotted 9 eggs in the nest. On 2nd May, the proud parents took 4 cygnets on to the water for the first time! Fingers crossed for them. If you live on the lagoon, leaving a bowl of fresh water

by the waters edge is helpful for the cygnets as they don't cope with salinity well when very young. Thank you!

We had a lone juvenile swan visiting for a while at the west end of the lagoon. He was joined by some other swans but all eventually were chased away! The territorial pair won't share this prime location and become very aggressive when defending their patch! It's best not to feed "intruders" as they are at risk of attack not only by the swan pair but also dogs off leads.

Jo Procter.

Widewater Nature Information Signs.



This year should see the completion of our latest project to have 5 nature signs on the plinths around the lagoon. Our first sign, Flowers and Plants has been installed on a brand new plinth about half way along the footpath. A second sign showing insects and other creatures is almost ready for delivery and it will be closely followed by two Bird signs. The fifth sign will show underwater life. WOW was successful in obtaining a grant from WSCC community initiative fund for two signs and the new plinth. The local ornithological group, SDOS, have kindly found funding for the bird signs including one donated in memory of former president Stanley Allen. WOW also funded one sign. We hope that the signs will provide interesting information about the wild life here whilst enhancing the nature reserve.

As mentioned we are so near the completion of the five information panels around the Widewater, but we **desperately need a BUILDER** to spend a half day to re-point a few plinths - we can supply the material - Please contact us if you are able to help:

- Paula Baker 01903 368863
- Jo Procter 01903 752505
- Gill Purnell 01903 765440

Jo Procter.

Bird Sightings.



We are lucky to see regularly at Widewater, Little Egrets, Little Grebes, Redshanks, Cormorants, Teal, Mallard ducks, Mute swans, a Kestrel and if you're quick, a Kingfisher darting past! Other rarer sightings reported to our Bird Survey on the WOW website this year include: Little Ringed Plover, Greenshank, Whimbrel, Red Breasted Mergansers, Brent Geese, Canada Geese, Goosander, Stonechat, Rock Pipit and a Gannet. Thanks to all who have contributed to these sightings particularly Tim Holter who also led an interesting bird walk round the lagoon and on the beach in February and Tony Benton who has become a regular reporter. Please keep the sightings coming!

www.lancingwidewater.com.

Tim Holter (Shoreham and District Ornithological Society - SDOS |) kindly facilitated a Wide water bird walk for WOW on 12th February which was well attended, informative and fun.

Jo Procter

Welcome to New Residents

World of Widewater, or W.O.W. as we are known, is a local community group who share a passion for the Widewater Nature Reserve and aim to help it flourish by keeping it clean and tidy, helping to protect and encourage wildlife and raising its profile so it can be enjoyed by all.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the several new residents who have moved to the lagoon in the past year and hope that you will share our vision to care for this beautiful nature reserve that we are so lucky to have on our doorstep, or in most cases back decks!

We hold many activities throughout the year which you will find in our Forthcoming Events section of this newsletter and welcome new members, or volunteers to join us. More information about the group, local wildlife, activities and photographs can be found on our web site: www.lancingwidewater.com

We look forward to meeting you at some of our future events!

Forthcoming Events

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 7 th June | WOW Annual General Meeting at The Marlipins Museum, High Street, Shoreham @ 7.00pm. This will be followed by a short history talk by Garry Purnell, all welcome, refreshments available. |
| Saturday 17 th June | Widewater Flower walk, 10.00 to 12.00. Marion Wood will lead an informative flower and plant walk along the lagoon, all welcome. Meet at the information kiosk next to the toilets at the eastern end of the lagoon. |
| Saturday 22 nd July | Litter pick up @ 11.00 am, meet at the information kiosk next to the toilets at the eastern end of the lagoon. |
| Saturday 16 th Sept | Litter pick up, as 22 nd July |



Flower Walk

I am looking forward to the WOW Flower Walk on Saturday 17th June and anticipate hopefully that we will have good weather, an enthusiastic group and also of course, plenty of flowers.

To introduce myself - I was brought up on a farm in Kent; lived in Northumberland; Kenya in East Africa; Shropshire on the Welsh borders; then Shoreham Vegetated Shingle Beach Local Nature Reserve and now on Widewater Lagoon LNR.

I have over the years, together with my late husband David, developed a love of nature, especially now, that of wild coastal flowers. So starting on Shoreham Beach for a dozen or so years and then having the privilege of being included in the World of Widewater Committee, I have been asked to continue with Flower Identification Walks and Talks here as well.

Look forward to meeting you all.

Marion Wood

Widewater Spring Clean

An impressive 25 volunteers gathered at the information booth on Saturday 24th March to help kick start the year for the Widewater Spring clean. WOW members were very heartened to meet volunteers from Shoreham District Ornithological Society (SDOS), Friends of Shoreham Beach (FOSB) as well as many local residents.

On a beautiful, sunny but very blustery day around 30 bags of litter were collected. There was a prize for the most unusual item found. Runners up found the top of a Lava lamp, 7 Vodka bottles, a pair of scissors and a tooth brush but the winning find was a plastic Donald Duck head! The photo



features 2 of our younger helpers and conservationists of the future with this rare find!
Many thanks to Ian Brereton for organising the event and Adur and Worthing councils for providing the equipment and of course a big thank you to all the helpers.

Jo Procter

Visitors Centre.

Some of you may remember that replacing the current (very sad looking) WOW booth at the East end of the Widewater has been discussed and members views, which were very supportive, have been gathered. A WOW steering group has been formed and we are to apply to two funding streams, Peoples Health Trust and Rampion for a feasibility study, both funding streams are open mid May - Mid June.

Following consultation the committee are united in replacing the booth but with a smaller visitor's centre than originally discussed.

Gill Purnell

Lots of opportunities to become more involved with WOW:

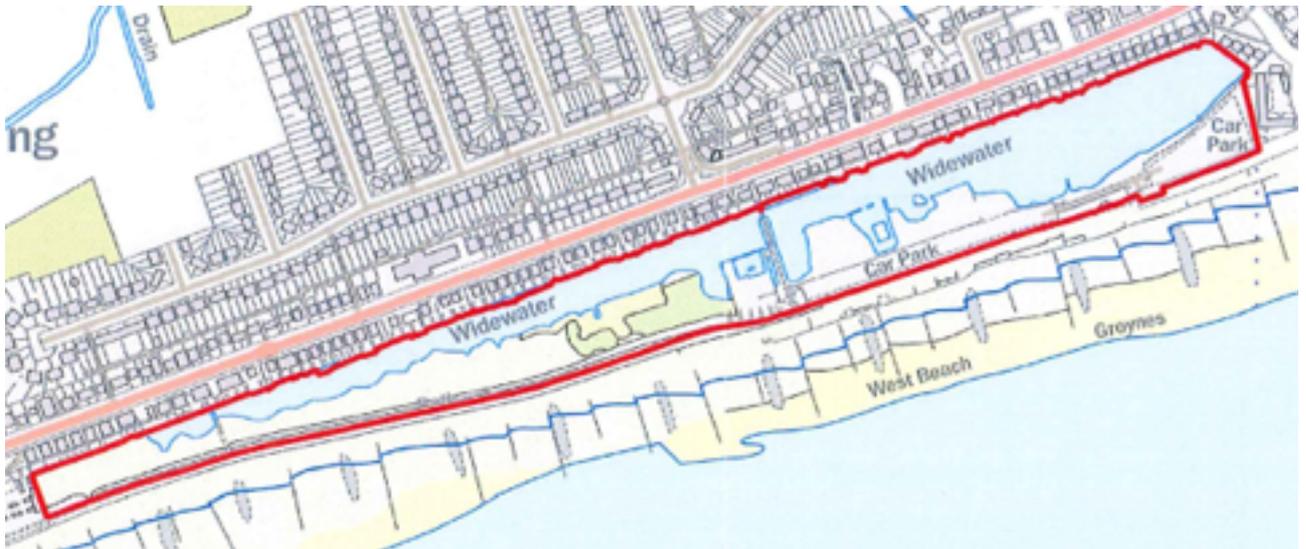
- Frances, a committee member has lived on the Widewater since a small child, she is now retired. She has a wide and varied treasure box of photographs and information and would like to form a memory history for future generations, this is not possible for her to do alone. If anyone would like to support Frances and collect her memories either in written or recorded form, please come on board.
- If you would like to join the committee (we meet approximately four times a year) you would be most welcome, we are a very friendly group and all do as much or as little as we are able.
- If you would not wish to be a committee member but have a particular skill, for example producing the World of Widewater Rundown, that would enhance the future of WOW please come aboard.

For an informal chat please contact:

- Paula Baker 01903 368863
- Jo Procter 01903 752505
- Gill Purnell 01903 765440

The Widewater Local Nature Reserve and Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

Love them or hate them dogs need to be controlled by their owners, especially when on the Widewater Local Nature Reserve, which has recently been designated as a 'protected area' by the 'Public Spaces Protection Order' legislation which means that within the area of the PSPO all dogs* must be controlled and on leads at all times.



Map of the Widewater PSPO: Adur & Worthing Council.

The Widewater Local Nature Reserve is clearly signed and is bounded by the coastal pathway to the south, Beach Park caravan site to the west, the rear gardens of properties fronting onto Brighton Road to the north and other properties to the east.

In public areas such as the Widewater Lagoon Local Nature Reserve you must:

- keep your dog on a lead
- put your dog on a lead if told to by a police officer, police community support officer or someone from the Council
- stop your dog going to certain places including the water of the lagoon
- limit the number of dogs you have with you (this applies to professional dog walkers too)
- clear up after your dog

Failure to observe the PSPO can result in a £100 on the spot fine (a 'Fixed Penalty Notice') or a fine of up to £1,000 if your case goes to court.

The lagoon and Nature Reserve is an unbelievable public facility and we would appeal to all residents and visitors to simply abide by the Rules so that everyone can continue to enjoy the wildlife which is present if you look.

Hand-in-hand with 'PSPO is the problem of dog fouling: Dog owners can be given an on-the-spot fine if they don't clean up after their dog. The amount varies from Council to Council and is usually £50 but can be considerably more. If you refuse to pay the fine, you can be taken to court and fined up to £1,000.

* **N.B.** The PSPO does not apply to guide dogs and Registered Blind owners.

Dave Baldwin

David James, 22nd June 1939 - 9th May 2017.

It is with great sadness that we inform all WOW members that David James, a man of great knowledge and love for the Widewater Lagoon has died. David has been involved with WOW for many years and was on the committee until recently when he stood down due to ill health. David's main passion was education and some of you may remember the children's education afternoons he held on the Lagoon, we all have very happy memories of one such afternoon with David appearing dressed as a pirate.

David, you will be sadly missed and thank you for all your hard work and dedication to this lovely nature reserve.

Gill Purnell

World of Widewater (WOW) - Membership application and renewal form.

WOW is an organisation to promote the beauty and diversity of the Widewater Lagoon (www.lancingwidewater.com), It is a voluntary organisation and aims to encourage people to enjoy and contribute to the care and protection of the Widewater Lagoon, a unique local nature reserve. We publish and distribute regular rundowns to members to publicise events and inform of flora, fauna and wildlife updates, as well as providing general information about the area.

Members are regularly contacted by e-mail with updates and we are very fortunate to have such an easy to use and exciting website - kindly provided by 'Freshly Pressed' Each member is encouraged to keep a watchful eye on the Lagoon and report to the website, any sightings or points of interest. We welcome any feedback.

WOW membership subscriptions are due each June.

Cheques made payable to World of Widewater. Standing Order details below, if you prefer this method of payment.

Single membership - £6.00 - Family membership - £ 9.00

Senior single membership - £4.00 - Senior couple membership - £ 6.00

Please complete this form and either complete the Standing Order Mandate or send a cheque to:

Gill Purnell - 170a Brighton Road, Lancing, BN15 8LL - gillpurnell@hotmail.com - 01903 765440.

NAME:

ADDRESS AND POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:



STANDING ORDER MANDATE

For the membership of World of Widewater (WOW)

Please complete this mandate and post to your Bank or Building Society.

OR

Set-up the Standing Order yourself by using your Internet banking facility.

To: (name of your Bank/Building Society).

NAME:

ADDRESS AND POSTCODE

PLEASE PAY:

HSBC. Sorting Code Number 40-41-28

FOR THE CREDIT OF:

World of Widewater. Account Number 21364022

Quoting reference - please put your surname.

THE SUM OF : amount in figures and words

COMMENCING (date of first payment)

AND THEREAFTER EVERY 30th JUNE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE FURTHER CONTACT FROM ME.

ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED:

NAME:

ACCOUNT NUMBER TO BE DEBITED:

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

And finally four new members of WOW!

