

North Mundham Parish Council

www.northmundham.org

Skype: northmundham.pc

email: clerk@northmundham.org

Tel: 01243 203050

1 Charlmead East Wittering Chichester West Sussex PO20 8DN

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CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

As I write this, it is raining hard. We are coming to the time of year when local flooding can be a problem as ditches overflow and culverts get blocked. Keeping the drainage channels clear is a shared responsibility, and much of it falls on local people. The Environment Agency is only responsible for the major drainage channels - in our Parish that means the Rife. Otherwise it is the 'riparian owner' who should keep the drains flowing clear - in other words whoever owns the land next to the ditch. West Sussex County Council, as the Highways Authority, look after culverts which run under the road, but culverts under entrances are the responsibility of the landowner. If you detect a problem which you think is not being dealt with properly, then please let us know.

There is another problem which is liable to affect us when the water table is high and there is a lot of surface water about - overflowing sewers. Southern Water is the drainage authority. If you detect a problem with the public sewer than make sure they know about it - the number is 0330 303 0368. It is important that you tell them straight away - it is little use telling the Parish Council some time after the incident has occurred.

Sticking to the theme of keeping the ditches clear, and following the success of the work on the old canal, there is further work planned to improve the watercourses in the parish. By the time you read this I hope you will see some changes to Camic Pond as part of a network of improvements to the ditch network in the Manhood peninsula, and to increase wildlife habitat.

Tim Russell, Chairman. 01243 781052. t.russell@northmundham.org

Your Parish Council

Vicky Roe Dos Santos : 07789030041
V.roedossantos@northmundham.org

Frances Neave t: 782391
f.neave@northmundham.org

Annie Maclean t: 01243 265804
A.maclean@northmundham.org

Tim Russell t: 781052
t.russell@northmundham.org

Rob Callaway-Lewis t: 07880713159
r.callaway-lewis@northmundham.org

Peter Stephens t: 0774768699
p.stephens@northmundham.org

Paul Chivers t: 789990
p.chivers@northmundham.org

Keith Phillips t: 07980666812
k.phillips@northmundham.org

Hugo Wall t:278542
h.wall@northmundham.org