

H E M P S T E A D V I L L A G E S O C I E T Y

Anvil Rise,
Hempstead,
Essex.

16th May, 1972.

Dear Mrs Grimster,

Following your request for an up-to-date report on the reclamation of the village pond, our Pond Committee have instructed me to give you the following progress report.

Originally it was intended to recommence work on the pond site at Easter, but shortly after the Annual Parish Meeting this plan was interrupted when our Chairman went into hospital. This with the indisposition of other working members delayed further progress.

At this point it was found that the drainage pipe to the stream was blocked, causing the water to rise to a higher level than the unfinished bank was intended to contain. For safety reasons the pond was drained and this has allowed the bottom to consolidate and dry out thus permitting further work to be carried out.

The Pond Committee now intends working to the following plan:

1. To generally tidy the whole site.
2. Puddle the clay bottom.
3. Lower the bank and rake smooth.
4. Lay turf.

Mr Lambkin has provided a supply of clay and Messrs Jossaumes are delivering the turves by 19th May.

It is planned, (volunteers permitting), to lay the turf during the weekend 20th/21st May. The Hempstead Gardeners Club was approached to enquire if they were willing to participate in this operation but they declined to do so except on an individual basis.

When the pond is landscaped the Committee intend completing the laying of the drainage pipes from Mr Turner's field to the stream. The pipes that were donated by Messrs Jossaumes having proved to be too small, they are anxious to secure glazed or pitch-fibre pipes of a larger diameter to complete the work satisfactorily.

Would the Parish Council consider a grant to provide these pipes if the Village Soociety obtains an estimate of their cost?

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HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE SOCIETY

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With the laying of these drainage pipes and the reinstatement of the horse-trough the major part of the work will be completed apart from the planting of suitable aquatic plants.

The Village Society trusts that the Parish Council will appreciate that the pond committee being dependant entirely upon voluntary workers cannot guarantee working to a deadline, and indeed, would not have achieved the progress it has made were it not for the considerable amount of help it has received from outside the village.

Despite our critics we are of the opinion that the site is already more attractive than before rehabilitation and that their threat to resume dumping refuse will be proved unjustified and quite unnecessary.

Nevertheless, we consider the work this season to be in the nature of an experiment and that this trial period be reviewed at the end of the year when any further modification can be made or planned.

Yours sincerely,

Alban Graham

Alban Graham
Hon Secretary
Hempstead Village Society

*to [unclear]
[unclear]*

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE SOCIETY

Mrs M C Grimster LLB AIM
Clerk to Hempstead Parish Council,
Trevor House,
Hempstead.

2nd April 1975

Dear Mrs Grimster,

Hempstead Village Pond

Thank you for your letter dated 20th March which has now been given careful consideration by our ~~Committee~~.

We are surprised to hear that the Parish Council regards the restitution of the pond as unsuccessful and proposes "to fill in the site, grass it over and make it a village amenity."

We are glad that the Parish Council has kept the state of the pond under observation, as of course we have ourselves.

Last year on several occasions a working party removed debris and cleared grass from the pond, but as we have stated previously, it takes a long time to re-establish a natural feature such as a pond.

We have observed that in dry weather it maintains a water level and does not overflow in wet periods.

Despite our original brief to "keep it shallow, in order to avoid the possibility of danger to children" we were anxious to open the water surface and therefore consulted Dr. Forbes of Cambridge University, (the Senior Consultant Geologist for this area) who made a specific visit to the pond earlier this year.

Before we received your letter we had arranged for an Easter working party to (1) Clear the pond grass which has advanced over the shallow southern area during the exceptionally mild winter, and
(2) To follow the Consultants advice on increasing the depth of the pond.

We have of course, held up the work on the pond until we hear further from you.

From a conservation and ecological point of view this pond has been successful, with an abundance of wild life, including among others, sticklebacks and frogs (now a rare species) and thus indicating the purity of the water.

Knowing that you asked for an early reply, we have made a number of enquiries as to the position of the pond. It had been clearly stated at the meeting of Amenity Societies and the Uttlesford District Council in December and January last, that the policy of the latter was to promote the conservation of village ponds, regardless of their size.

contd.....

Mrs M C Grimster

2nd April 1975

We realise of course, that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintainance of the area as part of the Village Green, whose use for the inhabitants includes, of course, its usage as a pond. Aware of our position as part of a natural, rural area, we are sure that the Parish Council would not wish to act in this matter without consulting the County or District Councils to see whether there is any guidance they can offer on this matter.

Incidentally, concerned as we are about the cost of clearing or deepening part of the pond we are glad to note that the Ford 'Save the Village Pond' Foundation is prepared to offer advice and help in this field.

Forgive us for going into such detail in this letter but we have tried to cover as many points as possible while not knowing the precise nature of the complaints you have received.

We shall be sending copies of this letter, and of your letter of 20th March, to the Ford Foundation, Dr. Forbes, ^{Dr. Ranson} of Monks Wood Research Station, Colin Ranson of Nature Conservancy and to various authorities whom we have consulted on this project.

We look forward to hearing from you in greater detail.

Yours sincerely

Alban Graham

Alban Graham
Hon Secretary,
Hempstead Village Society

HEMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs M. C. Grimster LL.B. A.I.P.M.

Clerk.

Tel: Radwinter 367

TREVOR HOUSE
HEMPSTEAD
Nr SAFFRON WALD
ESSEX

16th May, 1975.

A. Graham, Esq.
Secretary, Hempstead Village Society,
Anvil Rise,
Hempstead.

Dear Mr. Graham,

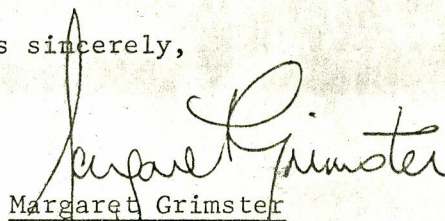
Further to our recent correspondence the Parish Council have now met again and discussed the Village Pond in the light of your letter of 2nd April.

They have decided that in view of the recent efforts made by your Society on the site, they are prepared to give you one final chance of putting the pond in good order and maintaining a water level.

The Council's concern has been the unsightliness of the area together with the safety angle, since they are responsible for the public liability should an accident occur.

The Council has asked me to iterate to your Society that it does have the overall responsibility for this site and if the project is not successful, then in the interests of the village, they will reconsider the position.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret Grimster

Clerk to Hempstead Parish Council