



*Slipper Mill Pond  
Preservation Association  
Emsworth*

**NEWS LETTER – JANUARY 2003**

Christmas and the New Year have come and gone; now we have the long haul to Easter.

Nick Madenaveitia is giving us a talk at 8.00pm on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January at the Emsworth Day Centre in South Street, Emsworth. This concerns the finding of wreckage of an allied aircraft which crashed in the Alps towards the end of the war. This discovery and the details have ramified, spreading from Italy to Britain and South Africa. Tickets will be available at the door on the night at £2.00 each.

Kissing gates are to be placed at each end of the pedestrian footpath round the pond. These gates will accommodate wheelchairs and pedestrians. They are of a type used on Harbour Authority footpaths. This path is a footpath only – bicycles, motor cycles or horses should not use it. A locked “farm gate” will be included near the tide gates allowing access for emergency vehicles.

We hope to improve the footpath according to the European Union recommendations later.

The combination of heavy rain, spring tides and frost have caused a problem. The river rose rapidly after Christmas and the pond was full in spite of a large amount of water escaping over the gates. The sluice was opened – a few hours before a Flood Warning was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2002.

The river continued to rise and the sluice only lowered the pond about six inches.

Property on both sides of Peter Pond were threatened with flooding – and I opened the tide gates before the highest of the spring tides. No flooding was caused to property but it was not practicable to close the gates immediately and then there was a series of sharp frosts which have damaged our colonies of *Ficopomatus*. We shall have to see how they recover in the spring and summer.

Lastly, but not actually our responsibility, the swan’s nest on Peter Pond, adjacent to the A259.

The swans have lost several batches of their eggs in recent years, and managed to hatch only one or two cygnets. The problem is partly due to the spring tides washing the eggs out of the nest.

An attempt to help them is in progress. The nest has been raised about twelve inches. It is rather conspicuous at the moment but should be less so after the work is complete. We hope the swans will re-occupy the nest and hatch more cygnets.

With best wishes to you all.

Arthur Townsend  
Chairman