

# Slipper Mill Pond

Words and picture by Jo Greenfield

We look after the Slipper Mill Pond (Emsworth's Eastern Pond) and its environs, for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of everyone. We rely on the support of our members and friends to help preserve and look after the Pond banks, planting, infrastructure and bird rafts. In "normal" times, we hold work parties and events and the Broomfield Schools' Photographic competition, part of the Emsworth Arts Trail.

We have left the Pond drained for the last few weeks, to enable the replacement of the tired 80 year old Sluice Gate. Nick Gates, a local timber boat builder, is using local English oak, and refurbishing the original ironwork which should last another 100 years. We are drawing on our reserves to pay for this, assisted by some very generous bequests. However the Sluice outfall is also in a parlous state requiring costly repair which will need specialist help and external funding.

We were recently very fortunate to be gifted land on the West side of Dolphin Creek by Mr and Mrs Wardle, committed Pond supporters (facilitated by their two daughters), in order to ensure that the area is not developed.

Many walkers and their dogs have used the Pond footpath this year, and large groups of youngsters gathered by the footbridge during the summer high tides. To ensure social distancing on the narrow West bank footpath we have installed one way signs, which most people respect.

2020 saw the retirement of our long-standing Chairman, Nick Madinaveitia, who has served the SMPPA for over 20 years. We also regret the sad passing away of Mark Phillips, our Treasurer of 25 years. Jo Greenfield has



Jo Greenfield (new Chair) and Nick Gates (Emsworth Wooden Boat Builder) by the new sluice gate

taken over from Nick, and hopes to be able to focus on encouraging more diversified wildlife and indigenous planting going forward.

If you would like to support the work of the Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association or find out more, please visit our website [www.smppa.org.uk](http://www.smppa.org.uk) or email [info@smppa.org.uk](mailto:info@smppa.org.uk). Nick Gates sluice photos at <https://www.facebook.com/classicyachtservices>

Nick Madinaveitia (former Chairman) and Alex Wardle at Wharf House, with Alex holding a photo of her parents

