

# Why won't they tell us what is happening with the Swans?

THE SWANS disappeared from Horsham's Swan Walk for the first time in 2007 and the town lost an attractive feature in the form of Lorne McKean's iconic sculpture.

After considerable public pressure and much adverse publicity for Aviva, the owners of Swan Walk, the Swans were reinstated in the summer of 2008.

Unfortunately, their habitat was rather unusual as there was a complete absence of water.

At about the same time, we mourned the loss of the resident female swan, presumably to a fox, in Horsham Park.

Nothing much changed



by **David Moore**  
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until Easter 2009, when the Swan Walk Swans were given some water, once again as a result of considerable pressure from The Horsham Society as well as the public.

Mind you, no-one was too impressed with their new location, but at least it seemed to be a partial victory.

Things also picked up in the park, when the male

swan attracted a new partner so perhaps things were looking up for the town.

The regular visitors to the park watched out for what would happen next with great interest.

By 2010 the swans in the park were building a nest. Soon eggs were evident in the nest and the contented female settled down to hatch them out.

This process ended in disappointment as only one of the eggs ever hatched.

Mind you that was better than nothing and soon we had a proud newly-hatched signet swimming around the pond with one of its parents.

Unfortunately, this was not to last and one day the signet had disappeared, leaving two lonely adult swans to compete with the Canada geese and the resident ducks.

This seemed to be the precursor for a return to the Dark Ages.

The euphoria concerning Swan Walk didn't last too long and soon the Swans were sent to join Shelley's Fountain as yet another non-operational water feature in the town. Why was this, you may ask? Why didn't the water flow anymore?

This simple question has become an insurmountable barrier for The Horsham

Society as the management of Swan Walk has refused to respond to the obvious questions.

What's the problem, what's the reason for the delay and when will the water flow again?

Even today, all we are told is that 'there are multiple issues', whatever that might mean after all these months. Can it really be that difficult to switch the water back on?

Other shopping malls up and down the country successfully manage much larger water features.

It's difficult to understand why a straight answer cannot be provided to this simple query. If it's a health

and safety related problem, why not tell us? If it's an equipment problem, why not inform us?

If it's part of a grand plan to get rid of these troublesome Swans once and for all, we need to know.

*The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces.*

*Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone, who shares these concerns.*

*For more information, visit our website [www.horshamsociety.org](http://www.horshamsociety.org) or telephone 01403 263870.*