Hospital sale halted

Words by David Harris, Photos by John Tweddell

A “For Sale” sign erected next to a derelict building does not usually attract much attention, but this single action led to one of the biggest meetings ever held in Emsworth.

This meeting was originally planned to launch the Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT), but the sudden decision by the building’s owners, NHS Property Services, to put the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site up for sale meant that over 400 local residents packed Emsworth Baptist Church on the evening of Wednesday 22 August 2018. The meeting was featured on BBC TV South Today.

Stephanie Elsy, Chair of the Emsworth Forum, opened the meeting stating that it was their desire to keep the site for health or community use.

Dwynwen Stepien, Chair of the newly formed Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT) said that their aim was to work to develop affordable housing and other community facilities in Emsworth, and had been considering the hospital site, expecting that the Emsworth Surgery would be moving to Redlands Grange. The hospital is listed as an Asset of Community Value and should be developed as such. However the ECLT fully supports the Surgery being on the site if a way could be found to do this.

Dr William Denby, a partner at Emsworth Surgery stated that the doctors’ aim was to improve surgery provision and to engage the community in this. They had tried to relocate the practice on the hospital site and found that the terms offered were not viable. He said that they were willing to reconsider this, but added that the surgery did not have any resources to commit to further planning.

Sarah Tiller, Director of Primary Care Development, South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SEHCCG) acknowledged that there had been no consultation about the sale of the hospital site. She apologised for instructing NHS Property Services to market the site and informed the audience that it has now been taken off the market.

This announcement was greeted with great enthusiasm by those present. She added that SEHCCG had to pay £116,000 a year to NHS Property Services in respect of the Emsworth Hospital building which was void space.

David-Christopher Thomas, Independent Health Care Strategist and Economist and spokesperson for the Emsworth Heath Action group stated that the catchment area for Emsworth surgery had a population of c. 20,000 of whom about one third were elderly. He stressed the need for a different type of health service with core GP services supported by “wraparound” support services. He felt that the Emsworth Hospital site, with its town centre location was the best option for the town. The issue was about GP business needs matching local health care requirements.

During the discussion there was strong support for the Surgery being on the hospital site from members of the public, and from the Chairs of the Business Association and the Residents’ Association. The meeting ended with the promise that a stakeholders group would be convened for 6 September 2018.

The Ems asked Havant BC for a comment on the hospital site and received the following reply. Councillor Leah Turner, Cabinet lead for Communities, Development and Housing said:

“The council would very much like to support the agreed future of the site through its Local Plan, and is working with all the interested parties to determine how to take the site forward”.

(more on pages 2, 3, 6 and 32)
Firstly I would like to say a great thank you to David Harris who took over the editorship of The Ems at short notice and produced an excellent first edition. He has made contact with a large number of the groups clubs, societies and businesses in Emsworth and encouraged them to send him contributions. As one person told me “I learnt so much about all the things that go on in our town”. Please keep the contributions coming.

I would also like to thank the other members of The Ems team. Ali Beckett designs the layout of The Ems that makes it an outstanding local newspaper, and Roma Herrick has joined us as Advertising Manager.

Finally I would also like to pay tribute to Gavin Millar and his team of over seventy deliverers who ensure that The Ems is delivered to every house in Emsworth, a mammoth effort for which we are very grateful. The Ems makes a very important contribution to the life of the town and it’s sense of belonging to a community.

In the last three months the major concern for the community and the groups that represent them, including the ERA, has been the future of the Emsworth Surgery and the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site. The Hospital was built by public subscription in 1898, transferred to the NHS in 1948, and closed in 2013. Community Services including nursing and physiotherapy were transferred to Oak Park in Havant. At that time there were also promises of new beds to be built at Oak Park but never delivered.

The Surgery first submitted a business case for a new building in 2011, and since then have been involved in seemingly endless discussions about two possible sites, the Hospital site and the land available at Redlands Grange. People and organisations in Emsworth have been consistent in expressing their support for a new surgery in the centre of Emsworth, preferably on the hospital site.

The sticking point seems to be the financial arrangements on offer at either site, none of which have been acceptable to the partners in the practice.

They are not alone in this. It is a national issue, and the DoH have launched a full review of the funding of GP premises because the current arrangements are a major deterrent to doctors contemplating becoming partners in practices. Currently only half of new entrants become partners, and the number of GPs in the country has fallen by over 1000, despite rising patient demand and the need to develop community services to care for people of all age groups out of hospital.

The decision of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to declare the hospital site surplus to NHS requirements, and the decision by NHS Property Services who manage the NHS property portfolio to put it on the market, as well as the appearance in July of For Sale notices, prompted the whole community into action. Our MP Alan Mak wrote to the CCG and NHS Propco asking them to reverse their decisions. All the representative groups in Emsworth joined together, “Emsworth United”, to campaign to save the site and to call the public meeting reported elsewhere. The support from over four hundred people for a surgery on the Hospital site was overwhelming.

The subsequent meeting chaired by Alan Mak MP of all the NHS bodies involved, the doctors and four community representatives was very constructive, and all agreed to go back and appraise all the options again.

As your representative at these meetings I fully support this, and believe that Emsworth needs a new surgery, that we want it to be on the Hospital site if at all possible, and that community health services for people of all ages should be available in Emsworth.

Theo Schofield, Chairman, Emsworth Residents Association

Along with your copy of The Ems you should have received a leaflet from the Emsworth Residents’ Association (ERA) encouraging you to join our organisation.

The ERA is an independent, non-political organisation representing the interests of the whole community to help make Emsworth a pleasant, safe and caring place to live and work. The ERA publishes The Ems, makes representations on planning applications, lobbies to promote transport links and funds local groups through the Community Chest scheme. We are also interested in health, environment, schools and community safety.

You can join for only £5 per household per year. To join please complete the enclosed form and return it to ERA, c/o Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth PO10 7DD.

The ERA needs you
Proposed new surgery

Words by GP Partners, Emsworth Surgery

A key priority for us at the Emsworth GP Surgery is our long-term sustainability so that we can best continue to serve patients at the heart of our expanding community. Vital to our discussions is reviewing whether our existing surgery remains suitable for the delivery of modern healthcare and providing the highest quality services that our patients rightfully expect from us.

We also need to try to find a solution which best suits as many of our patients as possible, both now and in the future as the size of the town continues to grow.

Following the withdrawal of the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital (EVCH) from the open market and the subsequent public meeting held to discuss its future on the 22nd August, another meeting was attended by all key stakeholders including two of the GP Partners, representatives from NHS South Eastern Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Property Services, which owns the site (except the garden), members of Emsworth United, Havant Borough councillors and Alan Mak, MP.

As a result of this meeting, the Practice agreed to reconsider the EVCH site as the location for a new surgery alongside a range of other options, including the potential for a new facility on the Redlands Grange site. No decisions have been made.

The CCG has commissioned help to support our Practice with a detailed options appraisal and all sides are keen to continue to engage with NHS England on funding.

The stakeholders group

Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital

Comment on the public meeting in August from Emsworth Community Land Trust

Words by Maggie Gebbett, Secretary ECLT. Photos by John Tweddell

The first Meeting of #Emsworth United was held at the Baptist Church on Wednesday 22nd August. It was a real success in bringing together key stakeholders with more than 400 local residents. Not only was there overwhelming support from the community that the preferred use of the Victoria Cottage Hospital site and Community Health space

as a doctor’s surgery and Community Health space

is being advertised as being unsuitable for conversion”.

MP Alan Mak writes to NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Property Services demanding it be taken off the market as the action is contrary to the HBC Local Plan and no local consultations have taken place.

“Help Save the Emsworth Hospital Site” Public meeting is held at Emsworth Baptist church and is attended by over 400 residents (see front page for full report)

Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital timeline

Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital (EVCH) opens 1898

EVCH transferred to the newly formed National Health Service (NHS) 1948

EVCH closed 2013

EVCH designated by Havant Borough Council (HBC) as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). This means that the local community should be given the chance to acquire the site if the owners wish to sell it. 2014

The EVCH site is listed in the HBC local plan as being suitable for 15 dwellings and community use (site H 12) 2015

An article entitled “Will the NHS sell Emsworth short?” by ECLT appears in the Summer edition of The Ems.

ECLT start to lobby to prevent the sale of the hospital site and arrange for a public meeting to be held on 22 August. 25 July

Late July

10 Aug

22 Aug

6 Sept

MP Alan Mak holds a stakeholders meeting including NHS CCG, NHS Property Services, Emsworth Medical Practice, HBC, local councillors, ECLT and community representatives including Theo Schofield, Chair of the Emsworth Residents Association (ERA). 22 Aug

The EVCH site put up for sale by NHS Property services and marketed by agents Heller Langston. The 0.17 ha. site is being advertised as being of residential potential. The 10,000 sq. ft. building is described as “unsuitable for conversion”.

NHS Property Services withdraw EVCH from the market.

The stakeholders group
Land at Westwood Close – a development we don’t need

Words and pictures by Nigel Street on behalf of Westwood Close residents

Havant Borough Council is currently in the process of developing its Local Plan 2036, which will shape the future development of the Borough. As part of the consultation process earlier in the year, the Council received over 150 objections to the inclusion of a proposed site at Westwood Close (H10). The proposed site is in a green field, grazed by cattle, adjacent to the River Ems that is at risk of flooding and would require the diversion of the Sussex Border Path, a much loved and well used country walk.

Following the consultation the Council published its initial response in May. One of the key changes being considered is the principle of including three policies or sites, one of which is the land at Westwood Close (H10). Clearly the Council is having second thoughts. Very likely due to the prospect that the site might ultimately be removed from the local plan the developer, Hampshire Homes, submitted a formal planning application in June to build 46 homes with 116 parking spaces for residents and visitors. The Council is obliged to consider this application within the statutory timescale and has to make a decision by 15 October.

Residents of Westwood Close and Westbourne Avenue produced and distributed 1,000 leaflets around the town. Over 300 objections were received by the Council, which was an incredible response by residents and showed very clearly the strength of feeling against this development. Common responses from people when we knocked on their doors were ‘how could they possibly build there, it’s right by the river’ and ‘to build there would be mad’, coupled with incredulous looks.

As part of the planning process the Council must seek the views of statutory consultees. One of the most significant responses is that from the Environment Agency, who have objected due to the absence of an adequate flood risk assessment (FRA). In particular, the submitted FRA fails to (1) adequately assess the level of flood risk to the site, (2) adequately take the impacts of climate change into account and (3) demonstrate that flood risk will not increase as a result of the proposed development. The Environment Agency is currently appraising flood risk issues within the River Ems catchment and is undertaking revised flood risk modelling that will update and supersede the existing model, which is over 12 years old. It is understood that results of their studies will not be available until Spring 2019.

In the meantime, the Council must make a decision. It has three options: to approve the application based on current information, which does not seem likely given the objections, to reject the application based on current information, or to agree an extension to the timescale with the developer. It is worth noting that the Council would be able to meet its housing targets without the Westwood Close development. We can only hope that they reach a sensible decision, which would be to reject this wholly inappropriate and unnecessary development.
Development of 260 houses on land north of Long Copse Lane

Words and pictures by Andrew Hunnibal, Save Long Copse Lane

Emsworth is facing an unprecedented and concerning level of change and the Save Long Copse Lane (Save LCL) campaign group believe the proposed application by Land & Partners to build 260 houses on land to the North of Long Copse Lane (LCL) is inappropriate. This development, if approved, would further overload the infrastructure and provision of services to the Emsworth community at large. It would likely cause environmental damage to accommodate the increased level of traffic that will result.

The Save LCL campaign group is opposing this development and will provide the information and timetables that people need to respond effectively to Havant Borough council (HBC). We recognise that HBC are under pressure from Central Government to meet increasing housing targets as well as securing a five year land supply, but it is essential that these be achieved with due consideration to location, impact on existing infrastructure and the environment. We believe that a development on this scale should only be considered if within the Adopted Local Plan. This site only appears in the Draft Plan. It deserves to be considered by an independent Local Plan Examiner, it should not be allowed to proceed prematurely.

Concerned residents who want the full facts should register on the Save Long Copse Lane website http://www.savelongcopselane.org.uk/ to get further information and receive regular campaign updates and/or visit the savelongcopselane page on Facebook where you can add your comments. You will also be notified when a planning application is received so you will not miss your opportunity to raise your own effective objections that HBC will take note of.

What has the campaign group achieved so far?
- 2000 information leaflets have been distributed and the distinctive blue signs you might have seen around Emsworth, Westbourne and Havant have been purchased by concerned residents.
- Key issues have been identified and expert opinion sought to address them and allow them to be communicated.
- The group has been linking with other groups to ensure a coordinated approach is taken. Piecemeal approaches are unlikely to protect Emsworth from unsuitable development.
- A face to face meeting with HBC Planning Officers who answered questions and updated members on the current situation.

What will be the impact on Emsworth?

LCL provides leisure and health activities of many varieties for all of Emsworth. All of those benefits will be lost. LCL is a narrow and picturesque lane of unique character, linking Hampshire with West Sussex. Adapting it for large volumes of traffic will result in this character being lost forever with the destruction of protected trees and natural habitats.

Try driving or walking to Westbourne Square via Long Copse Lane to form your own view on the challenge of at least a further 500 car movements each day and the impact on Westbourne village itself. HBC state that they are fully committed to the concept of sustainability and to preserve the unique character of Emsworth, this campaign supports this.

Councillor Richard Kennett, Emsworth Ward, Havant BC asked The Ems to publish this statement. “Your Emsworth councillors share residents’ concerns about the scale of proposed development in our town, particularly regarding Long Copse Lane and Westwood Close. There are significant environmental, flooding and infrastructure-related issues with both proposals. We have been working with residents to support them in their objections to these developments, for example, arranging a visit by Borough Councillors, including the Leader of the Council, to view the proposed site of the Long Copse Lane development. At this stage it is unclear when a formal planning application will be submitted for Long Copse Lane, but if this does occur, we will continue providing support for residents in their understandable concerns and objections”.

The Ems asked Havant BC for their views on this site. We received the following reply.

Cabinet lead for Communities, Development and Housing, Councillor Leah Turner said: “Land at Long Copse Lane was identified in the draft Local Plan as being capable of accommodating around 260 homes. The draft policy requires the developer to masterplan the site, as a whole. They will also have to provide a number of assessments that include ecology, flood risk and transport reports showing the site’s constraints and how they could be overcome. This will also determine how future applications can be delivered in a comprehensive manner”.

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A relaxed morning stroll along Long Copse Lane

HBC Councillors met with the Save LCL group, received a presentation on the groups concerns and participated in the resultant discussion. Afterwards the Councillors kindly gave more of their time to walk the length of the Lane to get a first-hand view of the issues that had been presented. Nature groups and the National Park Authorities have been alerted and mature trees surveyed.

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The Emsworth Community Land Trust – your questions answered

Words by ECLT

Q: What are Community Land Trusts (CLTs)?
A: Community Land Trusts are a form of community-led housing, set up and run by ordinary people to develop and manage homes as well as other assets. CLTs act as long term stewards of housing, ensuring that it remains genuinely affordable.

Q: Is Emsworth Community Land Trust (ECLT) new?
A: Yes, it is. Developed in just 6 months, it is now a Community Benefit Society. Directors of the Board are local volunteers with a range of relevant skills.

Q: What are the aims of the Community Land Trust?
A: To provide affordable housing and other community facilities for people with a strong local connection to the Ward of Emsworth.

Q: So is it all about the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital site?
A: That site was a key reason for the ECLT to be set up. If the site were declared surplus to NHS requirements it could be sold to a private developer. This prospect has caused understandable public concern. Now Emsworth Medical Practice has agreed to reconsider the site for a new surgery.

Q: What if this doesn’t happen?
A: ECLT will work with a partner organisation who will purchase the site and together we will provide affordable housing and community facilities.

Q: What is affordable housing?
A: Technically it means homes that are available, usually to rent, at up to 80% of the local market rent for a similar property.

Q: How can ECLT afford to build homes?
A: There are several options. For example, ECLT would work with a partner, often a Housing Association. ECLT would own the freehold of the homes built preventing them from being sold under ‘Right to Buy’ and enabling them to stay within the ECLT in perpetuity.

Q: Are there other Community Land Trusts in the area?
A: More than 200 Community Land Trusts are in operation with active ones locally in Wickham and Petersfield. Westbourne is just setting one up and ECLT hopes to collaborate closely with them.

Q: How is ECLT different from Emsworth United?
A: Emsworth United is a campaign group established in response to the ‘for sale’ signs raised on the Cottage Hospital site. It includes representatives of many of the larger community groups in Emsworth. It hosted the public meeting in August at which ECLT was formally launched and where NHS, Havant Borough Council and other speakers were left in no doubt as to the strength of public feeling about what was wanted on that site. Since then a small steering group has been established to work with the NHS, Emsworth Medical Practice and others to help find the best solution for Emsworth’s future primary healthcare.

Q: How many people have become members?
A: There are more than 300 and the number is rising! If you paid your £1 and have not yet received your share certificate please email us on info@emsworthclt.org.uk.

Q: Can I join as a member of the Emsworth Community Land Trust?
A: Yes please! Either visit www.emsworthclt.org.uk and look under membership, or go to the Community Centre and ask for a membership form.

Q: Are you looking for more volunteers?
A: Yes, always. It is important to strengthen our mix of skills. Please email us on info@emsworthclt.org.uk.

Planning Committee of Emsworth Community Land Trust at work. From left back row: Michael Ridley, Peter Tier, Dwynwen Stepien (Chair of ECLT) and Maggie Gebbett. Front row from left: Olivia Harrison, Charles Ashe, Harry Theullier and Laura Fortune.
Emsworth property market report

Words by Samantha Hazel, Partner at Hazel and Co, Director of Country and Coastal Lettings

Do you find yourself asking is it a good time to buy? Is it a good time to sell? Perhaps you are considering being a landlord or questioning should I buy or should I rent? It is not always easy to read current trends within the housing market because it is not always widely reported and can greatly depend on region.

Recently in London, there has been a large drop in prices, seen in 21 out of the 33 boroughs. I believe that we often see the London trends become a reality further afield traditionally in the Home Counties and this is then often reflected in our local area in Hampshire and West Sussex. Rightmove reported a 50% increase of asking prices in London between 2011 and the peak in 2016. However in the last two years there have been subsequent price falls and this is now being reflected further south.

The ambivalence of Brexit is also influencing the property market as the process so far has bought great uncertainty with a torrent of questions yet to be answered. It is therefore somewhat challenging to predict exactly what may happen in the near future. Until we see the final outcome of Brexit and the effect it may have on interest rates, it is difficult to make a precise market forecast. However, people will always have a need to move whether it be to upsize, downsize or to a change of location, so I strongly believe a total market collapse is very unlikely.

Rightmove reports that the house prices in Emsworth this year were much the same as last year whilst Zoopla reports a very contrasting fall of 4.9%. They do however concur that the average sold price in Emsworth is around £380,000 whilst most properties over the last year were detached properties averaging at half a million pounds in price.

The lettings industry is a strong and solid market at the moment. Landlords are seeing a steady increase in their rental income and more and more people are choosing to rent property over buying, increasing the demand for rental properties. We are now seeing a need for all types of properties varying from small studio apartments to large five bedroom detached homes. But why is this? For some renters, it is because they simply cannot afford to get on the property ladder. For others, they simply prefer to rent a home rather than buying. They know exactly what their outgoings are each month and never have to worry about maintenance. It is very much like the noticeable increase in car leasing. People prefer to use it and then give it back, possibly upgrading to the next model.

Average rental prices in Emsworth are currently around £725 for a one bedroom flat, £850 for a 2 bed flat or slightly more for a 2 bedroom house, £1200 for a three bedroom house, up to £1800 for a four bedroom property. Five bedroom properties although rare to find on the rental market, can normally let up to or around £2500.

Development updates

Compiled by David Harris

More housing on Bartons Road
Havant BC held a Development Consultation Forum in August about a proposal to build 81 homes in Bartons Road on land west of Havant Crematorium. Whilst this site is not within the local government ward of Emsworth (the site straddles St Faith’s Ward, Havant and the Rowland’s Castle Ward of East Hampshire District Council) it will impact upon the infrastructure of Emsworth. There is also housing development currently underway south of Bartons Road with permission granted for 176 houses.

Southleigh Park House site up for sale
The Southleigh Park House site, which is adjacent to Emsworth and located between Horndean Road and Eastleigh Road is currently up for sale with planning permission for 70 homes. Fifty houses will be new-builds in the ground of the estate and the other 20 will be formed out of converting the existing Grade 2 listed house and outbuildings into flats and mews houses.

No flats for industrial estate
A planning application made to Havant Borough Council (HBC) in respect of Unit 1, Station Approach, Emsworth has been refused on environmental contamination and noise grounds. The site is next to an engineering works. The owners were seeking permission for change of use of this building from office accommodation to conversion into four flats. A previous application in 2017 was refused on environmental grounds. The building has had a varied planning history having been a showroom, offices of a computer firm and lastly a retail outlet for a disability equipment company.

Council takes action after developers fail to build doctors surgery
Land north of Westbourne Road which had previously been earmarked, as part of the original planning agreement, as an option site for a doctors surgery will now be transferred to Havant Borough Council (HBC). It is hoped that HBC will be able to bring forward this site for D1 planning use, a category which includes health services, day nursery and crèche.

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£25 million health and housing scheme falls through

Words by Ann Buckley, Coordinator, Havant Borough Residents Alliance. (Ann is a member of the Chartered Institute of Housing and former Hampshire County Councillor.)

Firstly, the Oak Park Hospital and now the Oak Park Health and Wellbeing Campus have fallen through.

Seven years ago planning consent was given for a new community hospital on the old Oak Park School site in Leigh Road, Havant. The new unit would have provided a range of services including older people’s beds, replacing those at the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital and Havant War Memorial hospital after they both closed.

Despite planning consent the NHS decided in 2010 not to proceed with the hospital but agreed to extend the existing Children’s Service building close to the Oak Park site in Havant. The Oak Park Clinic resulted and now offers day services such as physiotherapy and occupational therapy but not the beds for older people, which would reduce bed blocking at QA Hospital.

To recover the lost hospital beds, an imaginative scheme was drawn up to develop the large site, owned by Hampshire County Council (HCC) and the NHS. It would be a nursing home with eighty beds and a hundred rented flats for older people. These are flats that include a range of services on site including social care. The tender was drawn up and a consortium won the bid in 2014. The following year the planning application was approved.

Contradictory government policies initially paralysed the project. While encouraging extra-care housing their Welfare Reform policy capped rent levels making supported housing more expensive relative to Housing Benefit which would not cover the costs. After much lobbying nationally, the government agreed to support these higher rents for these supported homes and negotiations continued.

Most recent investigations reveal that the appointed contractors have now pulled out thus wasting another four years work on the £25 million project and forcing HCC to start again. In summary we started a journey eight years ago with the prospect of a community hospital; that gets cancelled and was replaced with a scheme to provide homes for older people and also a nursing home. This has now fallen through and we are back to square one. It’s hard to resist the view that there has been inadequate scrutiny, poor procurement, no information from Hampshire County Council and now a much smaller development than originally specified. Surely Havant Borough deserves better.

Emsworth Surgery Patient Participation Group

Words by Jim Strudwick MIBMS, Chairman, Emsworth and Westbourne Surgeries Patient Participation Group.

Every surgery should have a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to listen and offer advice on any health matter that involves the surgery and its patients.

Our PPG consists of a number of retired health professionals, including myself as Chairman, nurses, business representatives, university lecturers and others. We meet regularly with the Practice Manager and one or two of the GP partners to discuss forthcoming events and other issues. We hope our advice is of use to them.

A committee member and I travel to the Cowplain Surgery every other month to meet with representatives of other PPGs in Hampshire for an exchange of views and to feed back any news to our committee and practice manager. We organise health education talks on a number of medical issues twice yearly, and are usually well supported by the patients. We also help with Flu Clinics and Patient Surveys. I urge anyone at risk to make an appointment to have a Flu vaccination this year at their surgery. There are now two versions, one for the under 65s and one for the over 65s, the latter being stronger to help with our diminishing immune capacity.

One matter occupying our thoughts is the future location of the surgery. The current surgery is now too small for the number of patients. Slow progress is being made exploring the possibilities of either rebuilding the Cottage Hospital or a having new development north of Emsworth. The outcome is largely in the hands of the various branches of the NHS, so please do not blame the doctors who have been working on this for a decade or more.

I think we are extremely fortunate to have doctors of quality and dedication. I know, from my meetings in other towns, how they struggle to get enough doctors, and practices are having to group together. One town I know had nine surgeries, but have now formed a health hub, so that anyone requiring a doctor with an appointment, but with a doctor they may not know. The demands for healthcare are increasing in line with the ageing population so let us all support our doctors in their demanding jobs.

Helen Irene Barnard

Words by Mike Stott, Chairman, Emsworth Community Association

Helen Barnard has died aged 90 at QA Hospital on 22 September 2018. Helen was a member of a steering group set up in 1974 to explore whether a Community Centre could be established in the St James Church School premises in Church Path.

The school was about to be moved to their new site off the Horndean Road. Sufficient progress was made for a public meeting in June 1975 to adopt a constitution, enrol members and set up the Council of Management of the Emsworth Community Association (ECA). Helen was elected as President of the Council. Her force of personality and drive ensured that the separate groups and activities, many of which she had started herself, worked well together creating a wide range of activities available at the Centre.

Helen was President of the ECA for 20 years and was then elected ‘Life Vice President’. During this time the Centre expanded in size and the variety and number of activities increased. The momentum that Helen and others managed to generate then has ensured that the Centre continues to flourish today. Helen leaves two sons, one of whom, Will, is currently a Trustee of the Association. Her funeral was held on Friday 12th October at St Thomas a Becket Church, Warblington.

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David, 87, abseils down the Spinnaker Tower for charity

Words and pictures by Brendoncare

Local charity Brendoncare hosted an abseil down Portsmouth’s Spinnaker Tower on 22nd July, to raise vital funds to support their care homes and friendship and wellbeing clubs for older people. One of the participants was Emsworth man, David Leonard.

David said, “My wife and I moved to Emsworth two and a half years ago, and heard about the Brendoncare Kurling club through the local community centre. We have been playing weekly since then, and made many friends. It’s really good fun. I took part in the abseil to raise money to go towards Brendoncare’s homes which support hundreds of older people.”

Brendoncare runs over 90 friendship and wellbeing clubs across Hampshire and Dorset, supporting over 1,400 people every year through a wide range of activities including luncheon clubs, activity clubs, clubs in pubs or garden centres and weekend clubs. The charity also operates ten care homes including a “care for life” promise, meaning people can remain in their home even if their financial situation changes.

Phoebe Day, Fundraising Manager at Brendoncare, said “We had such a lovely day at the Spinnaker Tower, with 22 people taking on the challenge in the gorgeous sunshine.”

More defibrillators in Emsworth

Words and pictures by David Harris

Thanks to the efforts of local resident Janet Barradell, Emsworth now has three more defibrillators. These are portable electronic devices that automatically diagnose life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and treat them through defibrillation, the application of an electric current which stops the arrhythmia.

The first has been installed outside the Kings Arms, Havant Road, Emsworth. The installation costs of £150 were paid for by the ERA’s Community Chest grant. The second is now in place at St James’ Church Hall. The third is due to be located at Lillywhites’ garage in Queen Street.

Janet began her involvement in emergency healthcare when she started the Emsworth Community Responders in 2010. This service is now run by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service from Emsworth Fire Station. Janet has tirelessly campaigned for more defibrillators to be located at prominent places throughout the town. She was instrumental in working with the Coop who installed one in 2017 outside of their High Street store in the centre of Emsworth.

Janet told The Ems that she wanted to thank the Emsworth Residents Association (ERA) and their Community Chest grant for helping to pay for the installation of the defibrillator and for the printing of posters to go in the shops where the devices are installed. She added that we are so lucky to have the Community Chest to help with grants which improve the quality of life to the people of Emsworth.

For more information about how your group can apply for a Community Chest grant see the ERA website: www.emsworthresidents.org

We are so grateful to David, who raised an astounding £2000, contributing to the total amount which is currently over £6,500. Thanks to all who have supported this event” You can still support David by visiting https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DavidLeonard7.

If you would be interested in joining the Brendoncare Emsworth Kurling Club, please contact 01962 857099 for more information. Brendoncare also runs more than 90 friendship and wellbeing clubs across Dorset and Hampshire for older people who may otherwise be lonely.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution - supported by you

Words and pictures by Elizabeth Spencer

Our proximity to beautiful Chichester Harbour, whether afloat or ashore, makes the water easily accessible for our community to enjoy.

However, even the best equipped and safety conscious people can find themselves in need of assistance. The RNLI provides that emergency service from our Lifeboat Stations at Sandy Point, Hayling and Selsey Bill. From crew, to safety awareness trainers and fundraisers, our community has a long tradition of volunteering in support of this non-government funded charity.

The Emsworth RNLI fund raising branch is very grateful to Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club for having provided a venue and retro café for the spring coffee morning, summer Quay Sale, and an autumn event which took place on Saturday 13 October 2018. Mr and Mrs Baldry’s Open Garden, Emsworth Yacht Harbour, Emsworth Sailing Club, Emsworth Cruising Association and ‘The Gallery’ in Bosham have all held successful fund raising events in the last year.

The Southern Co-operative store in Emsworth, which has always helped with refreshments, have now adopted us as a supported local charity for 2018. To date the staff has baked cakes, abseiled down the Spinnaker Tower and run a week of pirate themed fund raising in the store that has raised £1,160. To all our supporting groups and individuals including those who gave on Flag Day, a big thank you from your local RNLI branch, that this year is on course to raise just under £20,000 for the charity.

If you would like to join the local fund raisers please email: lizzieannespencer@gmail.com or ring 07852108356. We would very much welcome your time and assistance.
Emsworth in Bloom
Wards by Lucy Wickens. Pictures by Chris Doyle.

This summer was the hottest on record for the UK. Whilst the long warm evenings have been glorious, it has been a tough job keeping the town floral displays flourishing. Sheila and her dedicated green fingered team have been watering daily to keep Emsworth in Bloom. Special thanks to all who have supported this summer, through donating time, water or funds to help us continue the good work. Local photographer Chris Doyle has provided us with some wonderful photographs capturing this summer’s achievements. As autumn arrives the Emsworth In Bloom team have their eyes set on the winter displays, with plans to replant displays on 21 October.

If you’re keen to get involved or would like to help keep this community project going by making a donation then please check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/EmsworthinBloom/

To make a donation see our account details. Acc Name: Emsworth in Bloom Acc #: 65756975 Sort #: 08-92-99

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Autumn with Emsworth Horticultural Society
Wards by Lyn Davies and Chris Shaw

We started autumn with an inspiring talk about bulbs, by bulb expert Tim Woodland. He was able to demonstrate some of the fantastic range of bulbs with a colourful slide show that illustrated different ways of growing bulbs: broad swathes of contrasting colour in huge beds; succession planting in all sorts of containers; naturalised in meadows and around ponds.

If you are interested in gardening and would like to be able to buy things you need in the quantity you want, join the EHS at our Hut on Washington Road allotment site, open on Sunday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Popular items at this time of year include growing media, horticultural sand and grit, ground cover textile (myplex), plant protection net, grass seed, garlic, onion sets and broad beans.

EHS trips
On 4 September we visited Oxford Botanic Gardens and Magdalen College Gardens, organised by Sally and Doug Outram. The Botanic Gardens are part of Oxford University. They were founded in 1621 when the aim was to collect and classify plants, particularly those used in healing. As the science of botany advanced and plants were brought back from around the world, the collection grew forming the major scientific resource it has become today. Current research centres on the evolution of plants, biodiversity and conservation. The Botanic Gardens work closely with the science departments at Oxford University and are particularly concerned with the preservation of plant species and the discovery of new plant-based medicine.

Magdalen College Gardens. This was a haven of peace and tranquillity in hectic Oxford. The huge grassy quadrangle with its shady cloisters and creamy limestone buildings was lit by gentle afternoon sun. The gardens are formal but boldly planted. Pride of place was held by a massive 400 year old Plane tree. Across the river is a deer park.

Date for your diary
Emsworth Horticultural Society will be organising a Gardeners Question Time programme with BBC Radio Solent. The event will be held on Friday 15 March at 2 p.m. Baptist Church Hall, North Street, Emsworth. 2019 is the centenary of the EHS and this is one of a number of special events to mark the occasion.

www.emsworthhorticulturalsociety.org.uk

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Emsworth Memorial Garden
Wards by Maurice Clarke

The Memorial Garden is located in the south east corner of Jubilee Park in Horndean Road, Emsworth. The creation of the Garden and putting the Names of the Fallen into the public domain was the aim of Captain Harold Groom RA. The sculpture ‘Absence’ was commissioned by Emsworth Community Board with money from the Liveability scheme and sited in a neglected corner of the Jubilee Park Recreation Ground in 2006, with agreement from Havant Borough Council. The Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden was formed in 2007 to raise funds and construct the subsequent garden, paid for by a lottery grant and donations from local organisations and businesses. Stainless steel name plaques line the path to the Memorial.

A service is always held on Armistice Day 11 November, at 11 a.m. with residents, school children, local dignitaries, and representatives from the Army from Thorney Island attending. Norse is responsible for the mowing, and the Friends’ committee and a small dedicated team of volunteers maintain the rest of the garden.

We welcome new members and volunteers to help with maintenance, which takes place at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of the month.

www.emsworthmemorialgarden.org.uk

Armistice Day Service in Emsworth Memorial Garden

There will be Armistice Day Service on Sunday 11 November, the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War. Gather at 10.45 a.m. The Memorial Garden is in the corner of the Recreation Ground between Horndean Road and Coldharbour Road.

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Thorney Island School bag new Premier League Primary Stars football kit

Words and pictures supplied by Thorney Island School

Pupils from Thorney Island School will be able to kick-off the new term in style, following the delivery of a free Premier League Primary Stars kit for their football team.

Thorney Island School was awarded the free Nike kit, consisting of 15 football shirts, shorts and socks, after successfully applying online through the Premier League Primary Stars website. Premier League Primary Stars is available to primary schools across England and Wales and uses the appeal of the Premier League and professional football clubs to inspire girls and boys aged 5-11 to learn and be active.

PL PrimaryStars.com offers primary school teachers free curriculum-linked resources in English, Maths, PE and PSHE, and opportunities for schools to enter competitions and access free offers like the Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment scheme. Richard Scudamore, Executive Chairman of the Premier League said: “The Premier League Primary Stars kit and equipment packs provide a fantastic boost to schools at the start of the new school year. We hope that coupled with the free downloadable online resources, we can inspire children to do their best in the classroom and on the sports field.”

Mr Dean Clegg, Headteacher at Thorney Island School said: “Having this new kit will inspire our children to be part of a team, encourage an increase in physical activity, improve fitness levels and raise the profile of PE in our school”.

Havant WEA Day School: The Dramatic Art of the London Underground

London Underground has employed leading artists since the 1930’s to install permanent art-works in stations and on platforms that serve to enhance the experience of travellers. The Day School explores this vast gallery of art-works and brings to life the dramatic events and personalities of London’s history that it portrays. Tutor: Mike Grundy

Fireworks at New Life

In conjunction with St Georges Day, each year the Chief Scout acknowledges service of outstanding quality given by members of the Movement.

This year Emsworth resident John Forster was awarded the Silver Acorn in recognition of his dedicated service, outstanding commitment and enthusiasm for scouting in Emsworth. John was Akela and leader of the 1st Emsworth Drake Cub Pack for 37 years before retiring at Christmas. However, his commitment does not end there and he will still be actively involved with the 1st Emsworth Scout Group helping out when needed and organising events.

Scouting in Emsworth dates back to 1919 and Emsworth Scouts will soon be celebrating their 100th Anniversary. The 1st Emsworth Scout group is thriving with Beaver Colonies, Cub packs, Scout Troops and Explorers.

If you have scouting in your blood and are interested in finding out about becoming a leader, not necessarily for 37 years, find out more by contacting Michael Croucher, the Group Scout Leader. Email: gssl@emsworth-scouts.org.uk

Local scout leader wins national award

Words and pictures by Marian Forster

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Star gazing

Words and pictures supplied by Chichester Harbour Conservancy/ Recenseo PR

Chichester Harbour has provided the backdrop for an episode of the BBC's star gazing programme 'The Sky at Night' which was broadcast on 12 August. Filmed at Eames Farm on Thorney Island, one of the Harbour’s new Dark Sky Discovery Sites, the programme was shot on a hot and sunny morning – perfect for a close up look of the sun. The Sky at Night team was led by local expert astronomer Pete Lawrence who has been working with The Sky at Night for the past 14 years. The main focus was on the sun and included advice on preparing different kinds of solar filters for use with telescopes.

Three new Dark Sky Discovery Sites were designated in Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2017. All sites were identified as excellent places for stargazing due to their impressive levels of darkness, lines of sight and good accessibility year round. The locations of the sites are north of the Lt. Col. John Q Davis footpath in West Itchenor, Maybush Copse in Chidham, and Eames Farm on Thorney Island.

In partnership with the South Downs Astronomical Society, the Conservancy is holding a number of stargazing events.

More information about Dark Sky Discovery Sites is available at www.darkskydiscovery.org.uk.

Tuppenny Barn wins National Lottery support for Heritage Collection Orchard

Words by Janet Nunn, Marketing Manager

Tuppenny Barn has received a National Lottery grant of £9,300 for an exciting heritage project, Uncovering and Discovering our Heritage Collection Orchard. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, over the next twelve months the project will focus on finding out more about the history and lineage of some of our native varieties for future generations.

Maggie Haynes, CEO of Tuppenny Barn and well known locally for her passionate belief in educating youngsters about the environment, commented about the award: “We are delighted to receive HLF funding for this vital work to preserve and cherish our heritage varieties of fruit trees. With this much needed support, we will capture the history and lineage of some of our native varieties for future generations.”

www.tuppennybarn.co.uk

Flood defence exercise in Brook Meadow

Words and pictures by Roger Mills, BMCG

Brook Meadow is a placid place of relaxation. It is a nature reserve and in a bad mood nature can be anything but placid. The meadow can become an intimidating place when a high tide with gales behind it meets massive headwaters flowing down from rain-soaked ground to the north. Transformed from a pleasant rippling stream the Ems fills up quickly with brown sludge from upstream, threatening the very limits of the raised path network.

The Ems is a key part of the storm water drainage system from the A27. If the river broke its banks the water would flow towards the Lumley Stream reaching that through the front doors of the properties to the east. This happened, three years ago which led to flood protection works on Lumley Road. Plans are being made for a permanent bund here but precautions are needed now.

The Environment Agency (EA) was in the meadow recently doing a trial installation of a temporary flood prevention barrier. This could be deployed quickly once the situation was getting critical. They have a number of indicators including groundwater levels, rainfall rates and tidal conditions which guide the decision to call for the protection which comes from a stockpile held at the ready. Brook Meadow Conservation Group went along to see what was happening and whether the installation might have any deleterious effects of the local nature reserve.

All agreed it was a most ingenious and non-intrusive solution to the problem. A wide path had to be made to get access, but it was done with minimal damage and things grow again readily. A better solution would be to make this a permanent path giving access to another part of the meadow.

BMCG Chair Jennifer Rye said: “It was good to see the EA out in force trialling the temporary flood defence so successfully. For those interested in their proposed permanent bund, they are holding a public consultation on the morning of Monday Nov 5th in the Community Centre.”

Members and non-members of Brook Meadow Conservation Group are welcome at our AGM on Friday 9 November at 7 p.m. when we shall be considering how to carry forward the excellent conservation work begun by our founder Brian Fellows almost 20 years ago.

www.tuppennybarn.co.uk
Tuppenny Barn beehives

Words by Adrian Pert, Beekeeper at Tuppenny Barn, Southbourne. Pictures by David Harris.

In 2009 there was intense coverage in the media concerning the plight of flying insects in particular, the Honey Bee. Pesticides, the disappearance of wild flower meadows, a general lack of forage and the Varroa Mite, were all blamed as contributors to what was to be known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). UK beekeepers were suffering as well and this spurred me into looking at the possibility of keeping bees at home.

I found out about Chichester Beekeepers and went along to their next meeting. They were a very friendly crowd who answered all my questions and were very positive regarding my venture into beekeeping. Fortunately they ran a beginners course every year in early spring. The course was brilliant, well worth the money and I came away desperately wanting my first colony of bees.

With all the necessary equipment bought and the bees safely ensconced at the bottom of the garden, I continued my beekeeping education. One thing I was frequently told was that bees do not read books, so no matter how much studying I did, the bees regularly put me on the back foot and so had to re-think what I was doing. One thing you can guarantee bees will do at some time, is swarm. It is their natural means of reproduction. One colony becomes two or sometimes three and if you are prepared you can double or treble your colony number. Frequently the bees beat you to it and disappear before you can re-hive them.

Over the next two years, my colony number went from one to five and most of the back garden became a no go area for anyone without a bee suit. A good colony in summer can have up to 40,000 bees, so a possible 200,000 bees were living at the bottom of my garden – they had to move. Moving bees takes time as they have to be located outside their usual foraging area for a few weeks, which means finding somewhere to put them.

Luckily, Chichester Beekeepers have a training apiary at the Aldingbourne Country Centre, so I was able to use a piece of land there. Then I had to find a new location close to home and this is where Maggie Haynes of Tuppenny Barn was very accommodating, allowing me to move them on to the site at Main Road, Southbourne.

The bees have become a very important part of the education programme run at Tuppenny Barn and they also provide pollination for the fruit, vegetables and flowers. They also make excellent honey which is sold at the shop.

Emsworth Millpond gets a much needed clean up

Words and pictures by Chris Clode

Many local residents and visitors will have noticed during the hot summer months a build up of weed and algal bloom on the Emsworth town Millpond, resulting in a very nasty smell being suffered by residents of Bath Road and Bridgefoot Path as well as anyone walking round the Millpond. The Millpond is owned by Havant Borough Council and the water levels are managed by the Environment Agency. Volunteers clear the numerous cans, bottles and general detritus that gets dumped in the pond on a daily basis, but the weed clearance is something that is well beyond their expertise. Being one of the main tourist attractions in the Borough of Havant, the view was that something needed to be done.

A group of locals led by Chris Clode and Mike Kidd, approached Havant Borough Council (HBC) in an effort to try to persuade them to spend a bit of money to tackle the build up of weed and the terrible smell. After much discussion and with the help of our local councillor Lulu Bowerman and the support of the Emsworth Business Association and others, finally a decision was made in July by HBC to contract the services of Northney Marina based Harbour Clean to deploy their shallow draft boat to scoop out the weed.

By the time the necessary paperwork had been completed, the weather had broken and fresh rainwater coupled with strong winds had dispersed much of the weed. Nevertheless, considerable quantities were collected as well as much general rubbish and the Millpond is now looking at its best in the late summer sunshine.

Now that a precedent has been set and a good rapport established between local residents, Councillors and HBC, it is hoped that an annual clean will become the norm and visitors and residents will no longer have to suffer the unsightly weed and terrible smell that was present for so long this summer.
Waste management in Havant

Words by Cllr Gary Hughes, HBC Cabinet Lead for Contracts and Commercial Services.

Havant has a problem with Waste. We put too much rubbish in our black bins that can be recycled and too much material in our recycling bins that is not recyclable, or can’t be recycled in Hampshire. This results in contamination and additional costs (currently absorbed by Hampshire) that might have to be paid by Havant. This is a big problem.

Some simple facts:
- More money is spent on Waste Management in Hampshire than on Highways Maintenance.
- Havant’s recycling rate is 29%, compared to Eastleigh (41%) (best performing) and Gosport (22%) (worst performing). The national target is 50%.
- Havant’s contamination rate (non-recyclable in recyclable waste) is expected to be 13% for 2017/2018 against a target of 5%.
- The amount of recyclable materials captured in residual waste in Havant is 17%.

The Challenge: To reverse the two figures; recycle more of the correct material and put non-recyclable material into general household waste. If we achieved this, our recycling rate would increase to 46% (the best in Hampshire) and significantly reduce the likelihood of incurring costs associated with contamination.

Despite what we read in the press, plastic ‘food trays’ are not one of biggest problems. Surprisingly, the three biggest recyclable contaminants are textiles, food and ‘black bag’ waste. 7,000 tonnes of textiles are put in recycling bins every year in Hampshire. Yes, they can be recycled, but not through our recycling bins.

My wife thinks she is a good recycler; anything that has ‘recycle’ sign on it goes into the recycling bin. Unfortunately, there are restrictions on what can be recycled by Hampshire, which limits some of the materials that can be taken for collection. As a consequence, my wife is a poor recycler (yes, that was a difficult conversation).

The following can go into your green recycling bin:
- Paper. No gift-wrap, plastic coated, shredded paper or paper towels, napkins and tissues.
- Cardboard. No food packaging e.g. boxes with food debris. Ensure no plastic or foam packaging left inside cardboard boxes; dispose of this in your rubbish bin.
- Bottle shaped plastics. No bottle tops, spray or pump dispensers, yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and plastic trays. All bottles containing liquid should be emptied before recycling.
- Tins. No paint tins, tin foil, partially full food/pet food tins or dirty tins. No other metals or metal packaging.
- Aerosols. No lids or partially full cans.

Bottles/glass and clothes can be recycled; there are many collections points around the borough, but not (currently) from the doorstep by Havant Borough Council.

I always ask residents if they can spare 30 minutes a year to help the Council. Each time you put your recycling bin out for the fortnightly collection, just have a look along your street and if you see any paper, cans, plastic bottles etc, pick them up and ‘pop’ them in the bin. It will make your street look better, help us to reach our recycling targets and discourage others from dropping litter in your street.

Boomerang Bags started in Australia a few years ago. It is a movement aimed at shifting societies’ throw-away mentality to a more sustainable revolution of repurposing and reuse. The circulation of reusable bags within the community creates an opportunity to spread an important social and environmental message about reducing single-use plastic consumption and fostering conscious habits that extend well beyond the plastic bag.

Basically, it is a community lead initiative where spare material/textiles are donated. A team of volunteers make up the bags with contain the Emsworth Boomerang bag logo. They are then offered free of charge to shops in the village, to give for free to their customers instead of a plastic bag. In Surrey sewing machines have been donated to local schools and other community groups for them to sew bags. At the moment they make 700 bags a month.

I would dearly love to see this initiative spread to our local groups in Emsworth. Sue Foster Fabrics (now in Emsworth Marina) have kindly agreed to donate any spare fabric they have which is a wonderful start.

If anyone would be interested in donating material, sewing bags, or cutting out even, could they please get in touch with me? Vicky Gould 01243 373118

Please visit my website to sign-up for my new residents’ email newsletter and details about my drop-in surgeries.
Words by Jan Copsey, photos by David Harris.

The Emsworth Artists Summer Exhibition was a great success with £1500 raised on behalf of the Community Centre.

Emsworth Artists are a group of professional, semi-professional and highly talented amateurs who come together once a year for this fabulous exhibition, held over the August Bank Holiday Weekend.

They all live within a two mile radius of the town centre and have been invited to exhibit because of the quality of their work in paint, ceramics, photography, print and willow. Artists kindly give 25% of the price of their work towards the donation we make to the Community Centre.

This year’s Exhibition achieved record revenue enabling us to make a donation of £1500 to the Community Centre. There were 40 individual Artists who exhibited and the standard was extremely high. Almost 1000 people visited the exhibition and were very complimentary about the art.

The results of the two Internal Competitions voted for by the visitors were as follows.

The Sydney Stokes Award for the most favourite exhibit was won by:
1st Simon Cowper with “South Street Emsworth”
2nd Ian Banfield with “When you’re gone”
3rd John Tweddell with a triptych “Swanning Around”
4th Sue Long with “Coast 1/11”
5th = David Morgan with “Winter Morning, Porthleven”
5th = Ysobel Banfield with “Winter Storm”

The Mountford Watercolour Award was won by:
1st Michael Bury with “On the Crest of a Wave”
2nd David Collier with “Boats at Rest”
3rd Nic Cowper with “Moonrise Emsworth”
4th = Stuart Thompson with “Emsworth Sunset”
4th = Jan Copsey with “At Peace”

The raffle which was kindly donated by Chris Doyle raised £288 and was won by Hilary Walker. The Printing Workshop for “Future Artists” ran in the week preceding our Exhibition and was well supported. Their work was displayed on our launch evening and continued until the Bank Holiday Monday.

We hope to repeat this success next year. Many thanks to all those people who visited the Exhibition and we hope to see you again.

Future Artists exhibition

Words and pictures by Maureen Thompson

The Emsworth Artists collaborated with the Emsworth Community Association and the Portsdown Arts Society in exhibiting the work of the Future Artists. A group of young people aged 12 to 15 participated in an art printing workshop, which was funded by the Community Association and the Arts Society Portsdown. Led by Emsworth Artist, Fabiola Knowles, she taught the young artists the technique of reduction linocut printing, to produce their own works of art. The young people were really pleased with the results which were displayed in the Lumley Room at the same time as the Emsworth artists’ exhibition.

The Arts Society Portsdown hold monthly lectures for arts enthusiasts in Bedhampton. Contact Maureen Thompson youngartsportsdown@gmail.com
http://theartssocietyportsdown.org.uk/
“Fabulous”, “a rich experience”, “the best Show I judge at”, “wonderful atmosphere”. These were just some of the many positive comments we have had back from members of the public, judges, entertainers and volunteers this year.

There were almost 750 exhibits in the horticultural Marquee, including many classes like the children’s ones, not affected by the poor growing season. There well over 100 stalls, including a popular Reptiles and Amphibians tent; the brand new Arena event in the Jago Developments Arena from the Sussex Army Cadets, with two teams assembling a Jago Kitcar, and racing to be first driving it over the finish line.

Old favourites like Fit ‘n Funky and the falconry display entertained the crowds round the Jago arena, whilst the Morris Dancers and Dog Show was popular in the Sanctuary Vets Arena in the West Field. The bands in the Seaward Developments band tent had everyone tapping their feet while they enjoyed a drink.

About 5,000 adults and children were on the grounds, with over 180 volunteers working hard all weekend to give the local community a fabulous day, and raise money for their own work.

The Rotary Club of Havant, and the bottle tombola for the Lions raised almost £2000. The total value of donated prizes was about £1800, mostly generously given by local businesses. The top 3 prizes were:

1st Champagne scenic flight won by G. Gamble, ticket no. 1311 privately donated
2nd £100 John Lewis voucher won by R. Ashley, ticket no. 457 donated by Belcher Frost
3rd Local Luxuries Hamper won by P. Godfrey, ticket no. 1055 donated by Bellway Homes
Traffic chaos mars the day

On all our literature we stated ‘there is no public parking at the Show’. For the last six years we have run a free Park and Ride shuttle bus (costing the Show £2000) from the nearby New Life Church off the main road, which has been fairly well used. Those who would not use this service, could drop off their passengers at the entrance, and then go down to the Park and Ride.

This year a large number of drivers decided that they would not only park in the residential side streets, often blocking drives, but also park along Horndean Road, causing a two hour snarl up.

This is unacceptable, including the abuse given to our traffic team, and I apologise through your pages to the local residents who suffered, or had their cars damaged this year.

Unfortunately the police assistance we have had in the past has not been available for the last three Shows. We had put out some cones, but have no legal right to stop people parking so thoughtlessly.

The Show Team will be working hard to explore possible solutions to avoid this problem next year.

Join the Dream team!
We need new volunteers to help over the Show weekend or to assist with the huge preparations needed to put on the Show. Please contact Faith Ponsonby on 01243 372825 to discuss how you could help in 2019.
End of the road show for antiques shop

A planning application has been approved by Havant BC (HBC) for change of use of 12 Queen Street (formerly Tiffin Antiques) from retail to a residential property.

No rooms at the inn

The Railway Inn, 95 North Street have been refused planning permission in respect of a extension in respect of a grotto for the children. Carol Waldron for over 35 years. Since new owners purchased Gibson House, in June 2018, and the subsequent departure of Pantry Weigh, there has been considerable speculation surrounding the future of Bookends. Carol Waldron, a former librarian, has owned it for 38 years, initially in Havant and for the past 19 years in Emsworth.

Local pubs are tops

The 2019 edition of the Good Pub Guide (Ebury Press £15.99) lists the local pubs: Blue Bell, South Street; Goal Exchange, South Street; Lord Raglan, Queen Street and Sussex Brewery, Main Road, Hermitage as amongst the top 5000 pubs for food and drink in the UK.

Christmas lights

The switch on of Emsworth’s Christmas lights will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday 30 November 2018 with the arrival of Father Christmas in the Square. Carol singing from 5:30 p.m. It is hoped to have a grotto for the children.

Special events at 36 on the Quay

The restaurant will be open on Sunday 18th November for another Cloudy Bay wine tasting evening due to high demand. The restaurant will also be open on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th of December for lunch and dinner, and Monday 31st of December for dinner with an eight course tasting menu.

Legal eagles fly in (2)

Andrew & Andrew solicitors have opened an office at 51 High Street, Emsworth. The firm also has a branch in Portsmouth. The premises have recently been refurbished and were previously occupied by Sue Foster Interiors who have moved to Emsworth Marina.

Belcher Frost Solicitors have opened an office at 26 High Street, formerly occupied by Harbour Framers. They also have an office at 3 West Street.

Emsworth firm scores hat-trick of awards

MindWorks Marketing, based in Emsworth, has scored a hat-trick of business awards. They are: Moore Stephens Owner Managed Business of the Year; UK’s Top 25 SME Culture Leaders 2018 list: Investors in People Standard for the 15th year running.

Pasta purchase

The very popular Italian restaurant, Nicolino’s in North Street, Emsworth is up for sale. The 90 cover freehold restaurant and owners flat is being offered for sale at £650,000. Nicolino’s is famed for its huge servings and has had over 700 reviews on Trip Advisor making it the most reviewed restaurant in Emsworth.

New Lifestyle shop

PO10 Lifestyle and Interiors opened on Sat 6 October at 7 High Street. The premises were previously occupied by Pantry Weigh. PO10 is a concept created by Sarah May and Lisa Edgington, whose vision is to bring you a range of uniquely designed gifts, home-ware and services. Many items have been lovingly handmade, by our carefully selected local artisans, many rescued and brought back to life. Our objective is to support local creatives by renting space to them to use PO10 as a platform to showcase and sell their work. There will be a feature on this new shop in the Winter edition of The Ems.

End of the road show for antiques shop

Under cover

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Hi-tech comes to Emsworth

Words and pictures by David Harris

We tend to think of Emsworth as a town with independent shops, fine pubs, cafes and restaurants and a beautiful harbour. But few would think of the town as a centre for cutting edge technology. However, next to the garages, tyre fitters and body repair shops that make up Palmers Road Industrial Estate is 2J Antennas UK, the British arm of a Slovak company that specialises in antennas for mobile phones and internet devices.

David Noble, Senior Design Engineer showed me around their impressive laboratory and workshop. Pride of place is an anechoic chamber which is a room designed to completely absorb reflections from electromagnetic waves. The chamber itself is built into another room which is a Faraday Cage, a device for blocking electro-magnetic fields. The chamber is designed for measuring the performance of antennas. It all looks like something from a Doctor Who programme.

The firm moved to Emsworth last year having been previously based at Port Solent, Portsmouth. The Head Office and manufacturing facility is in Bardejov, Slovakia near the Polish border, where they employ 150 staff. The firm also has an office in San Diego, California. They were founded in 2002 and the UK office opened in 2008. You may find their products as a component of your mobile phone, wireless device or in a GPS application.

The firm hopes to expand due to the increase in wireless devices used in the Internet of Things (IOT). This is where you can control your home appliances, car, phone, wireless device or in a GPS application. Currently 2J Antennas UK employ three staff at the Emsworth site. Antenna design is a very specialist area of electrical engineering with new staff having to be recruited nationwide. The Emsworth branch specialises in the design and testing of new antennas which are then made in Slovakia.
Community Events

Emsworth British Food Fortnight
The Big Feast Weekend

Words by David Harris. Pictures by David Harris and John Tweddell.

Beautiful weather coupled with a good variety of events brought the crowds into Emsworth for the Big Feast Weekend from 29 -30 September. The extra Farmers Market in St Peters’ Square had all the usual stalls and proved very popular with over 20 producers from all over the area.

The Thought for Food Local Showcase Market was located in the South Street car park. Exhibitors included: Hog roast, Coop, Montezuma’s chocolates, Emsworth Brewery, Mir Seafood, Winchester Distillery, Chalk Stream Trout, local fisherman Peter Williams “Fresh from the Boat”, Cold Pressed Oils, Solent Oyster restoration project. Emsworth Brewhouse, Spice Island Chilli, environmental project Final Straw, Refill and Replenish and Super Snacks. The Coal Exchange had a beer tent to cater for the thirsty shoppers.

Part of the Thought for Food event was The Grape Escape wine tasting experience hosted in a marquee by local wine merchants, Bush Wines, Portal Dingwall & Norris, Hermitage Cellars and Vin Wine Merchants. Also exhibiting was South African wine maker Irene de Fleuriot with her La Bri wines from Franschhoek, near Capetown.

For a modest entry fee of £5 including a glass, over 40 wines were available for sampling along with local gin and English Whisky. Entertainment for shoppers was provided by 12 live bands courtesy of Harbour Records. Ukulele maestros, Credible String Band proved to be a rousing opening act with their renditions of old favourite rock tunes. The Simon Cattermole Band provided more traditional folk music.

Meanwhile at the Emsworth Community Centre in North Street, the 3rd Emsworth Beer, Cider and Wine festival was well under way. Over 30 beers were available, mainly from local breweries, but also some from as far afield as Orkney. Mark and Des were kept busy by a steady stream of appreciative real ale lovers.

Emsworth British Food Fortnight canvas bags were given out for free. Not on the official programme but to be commended for their efforts were Mimi and Ella, pupils from Bourne College who set up a cake stall outside of the Coop in the High Street.

They were selling homemade cakes in aid of Cancer Research. The stall was part of a project they were doing for their Religious Education studies.
Emsworth Cricket Club
Words and pictures by Nick Webb

1st Team. They have achieved another promotion this season, which completes ‘back to back promotions’. Life in County Division 2 will pose new challenges for the club, with travel around the County, and the improved standard that the players will be competing against.

2nd Team. They finished in the middle of the table with the knowledge that some of the losses, could have quite easily been turned into wins. This is something they will be looking to work on for 2019, as they endeavour to keep up with the 1st team.

3rd Team. They entered Hampshire Cricket League for the 2018 season. The team was introduced to ensure we could provide cricket for all club members, including some juniors to adult cricket. This has worked well, with the team winning more games than they lost, with the Under 15’s fulfilling major roles in the success of the team.

Junior Cricket. The youth section of the club continued to develop at all age groups, with the teams competing in local leagues and competitions. The club also had its first players represent the club at district level this summer. In addition, we will have teams represented at U13 and U16 level for the indoor winter league for the first time this year.

Development. This season we have already purchased a new high-quality pitch mower and are hoping to purchase a pitch Roller this autumn, partly using funds donated by The Emsworth Residents Association. We also plan to start looking for funds to improve the facilities at Emsworth Park, which will include development of the pavilion and training facilities.

For more information: or email Nick Webb directly at nick.webb21@yahoo.co.uk. www.emsworth.play-cricket.com www.emsworthcc.co.uk

Local tennis coach has been named UK Coach of the Year

Words and picture by Wordsmith PR

The prestigious title was awarded by the Lawn Tennis Association to Ashley Neaves for his work mentoring young coaches, increasing the participation of children in tennis and working with disabled players. Ashley runs the coaching programme at The Avenue Lawn Tennis and Squash Club in Warblington.

“I was pretty shocked,” said Ashley, 29. “I wasn’t expecting it. When I walked up to collect the award I was shaking. But I’m very proud to have got the recognition.”

The award was presented to Ashley during this year’s Wimbledon championships by former British number one Andrew Castle and Leon Smith, the British Davis Cup captain. The day out included a walk around centre court before play got underway, as well as lunch and afternoon tea. Ashley was nominated as Coach of the Year while working for the Portsmouth Tennis Centre.

The Avenue is one of the biggest clubs in Hampshire, with 10 superb grass courts and seven newly refurbished all-weather courts. There are also three squash courts, a gym and a thriving social scene. You can find it behind the Avenue House, Horndean Road, Emsworth.

For information about joining The Avenue, email office@avenuetcs.co.uk or call 02392 482750. For coaching and courses for kids, contact Ashley on play@theavenuetennis.com.
Spotlight on United Reform Church

Words and pictures by David Harris

Waterside United Reform Church (URC), Bath Road, Emsworth is the oldest church in Emsworth and can trace its origins back to 1808. It was in 1800 that Olivia Holloway started an independent congregational church at her own home in Emsworth. In 1808 she was able to build the Nile Street Congregational church which served the town until it was replaced by the current Bath Road building in 1929. The United Reform Church was formed in 1972 through a union of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church. The Nile Street building was later used as a warehouse and was demolished a few years ago.

Nationally the URC has around 56,000 members across 1,400 congregations which are served by 600 ministers. URC was one of the first churches to ordain women and since 2016 can conduct same-sex marriages. Each congregation is self-managing and can decide its own policy on many matters.

Waterside URC has a hall which is used by Rainbows and Brownies, U3A wine tasting group and other organisations. The hall can be hired for rate of £6 per hour. Every Friday there is an informal coffee morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon where all are welcome. There are a good range of second hand books for sale in the hall and the church organises two big book sales every year. The church supports a number of local charities and financially supports a children’s project in Bolivia.

URC hold ecumenical prayer meetings and has good links with other local churches through Christians Together in Emsworth. Emsworth URC has a joint pastorate with Havant URC where the minister, Rev. Harry Lanham is based. Morning worship is held in Emsworth at 11 a.m. every Sunday.

For more information contact URC secretary Pam McBirnie 01243 371718 www.havanturc.org

Church news

Welcoming the stranger

Words by Maureen Thompson

Churches were asked by the British Red Cross in Portsmouth to help highlight some of the problems faced by refugees and asylum seekers. In Refugee Week we decided to gather as Christians for a walk of witness. Members of Churches to hear a different refugee story, linking culture, and be totally dependent on charity for everything.

If you would like more information or be involved in Christians Together in Emsworth see website www.emsworthchurches.com

Gospel choir workshop

Words by Jacky Chong

A Gospel Choir Workshop, organised by Havant Passion Play will be held on Saturday 3 November 2018 at St Michael and All Angels’ Church, 67 Bramdean Drive, Leigh Park, Havant. A Choir leader and keyboard player, from Soul Sanctuary group, London, have been hired for the event. The cost is £20 p.p. which will include a light lunch. The day will start at 10.30 a.m. and end at 2.30 p.m. with a short concert showcasing what we have learnt during the day. The concert is open to everyone.

For more information e-mail: jackychong@btinternet.com or contact Havant Passion Play through Facebook or Twitter or see our webpage at: www.havantpassionplays.org.uk

Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre

Words by Deacon Laura Evans

The Pastoral Centre is located in the Methodist Church building in the Square. We offer tea, coffee and snacks all week. We offer an informal environment to meet old friends, make new ones and be greeted by a friendly face. We have a number of activities available: exercise classes; an activities afternoon and a monthly ‘Faith in Film’ session. We are a friendly worshipping congregation and welcome you to our Sunday services.

Our Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 11 November at 10 a.m. will include 2 minutes silence. With Christmas soon upon us we’re already planning special activities including a special Christmas tea on Tuesday 11th December (please pop in or call us to secure a ticket), and Carols and Mince Pies on Tuesday 18 December at 2 p.m. On Boxing Day we will be open for a free Christmas Party with hot drinks, snacks and crackers; ideal if you find yourself on your own. Details of our Christmas services which will be available nearer the time.

For more information please pop in or contact the Pastoral Centre on 01243 373773. The Centre is open: Monday-Friday: 10 a.m - 4 p.m. Saturday and Bank holidays: 10 a.m - 12 noon.

Emsworth Baptist Church

Words by Pastor Joel Ferreira

In this centenary year, between the 4th and 11th of November we are devoting the garden area on the North side of our church to remembrance. Anyone is invited to come and spend some time considering those who have given so much for our security and praying for the peace of our nation and across the world. You are welcome to leave poppies or remembrance messages at the foot of the cross.

On Sunday 11 November at 10.30 a.m. we have our Remembrance Service with two minutes of silence at the eleventh hour. Although we encourage children to share in this with us, there are creche and children’s programmes in place to allow them to show their respects in a less adult way if you would rather.

The church will also be open from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Remembrance Sunday with the opportunity to enjoy the Remembrance Sunday displays and spend time in independent, quieter contemplation.

www.emsbaptist.org.uk
Stansted Park: Through the Glasshouse

Words and pictures supplied by Stansted Park

Stansted Park Foundation has secured first stage funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) towards a new visitor centre and exhibition of the Ponsonby family.

The award marks the beginning of important restoration work to the derelict Victorian glasshouse, one of a pair in the estate’s Walled Gardens. The second was restored in 1999 and houses the Pavilion Tea Rooms.

The ‘Through the Glasshouse’ project puts Stansted Park’s rich heritage right at the core of the site. A wide range of activities will encourage participation from audiences of all ages, including a Visitor Welcome and Information Point, exhibition space and workshop rooms along with education programmes. One of the aims is to introduce Stansted’s visitors to its landscape and rich history – including its most recent owners, the Ponsonby family.

In 2016, the Stansted Foundation secured ownership of the nationally significant Ponsonby Family Archive Collection. The archive comprises medals, miniatures, letters, photographs and personal documents, including hand-written notes from Queen Victoria to Sir Henry Ponsonby, her private secretary. Other highlights of the collection include Frederick Ponsonby’s sword, which saved his life at the Battle of Waterloo and is considered to be one of the nation’s most important surviving artefacts from the battle.

Stansted Park Festival of Light

Words and pictures supplied by Stansted Park

From 1st to 13th December you are invited to take a moonlight stroll through the enchanted parklands of the Stansted Estate and see the house and forests brought to life as never before. From the mystery of the chapel grove to the magic of the mansion house, you will marvel at the interactive displays and magical lights as you navigate the pathways of Stansted, including many secret tracks not usually open to the public.

Along the way you will discover unique works of art and encounter walkabout performers who will guide you along the way. Your visit will take you through the ancient arboretum to a welcome finish in the Victorian walled gardens for hot chocolate, mulled wine and other festive refreshments.

Please wrap up warm and bring wellies – we are a country estate and the route may be muddy. While it is wheelchair and buggy accessible, please call us to discuss your needs prior to booking for the same reason.

Tickets are £10 per head and we would advise you to book in advance as some of the most popular slots are already sold out.

For more details call 023 9241 2265 or check www.stanstedpark.co.uk.

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PHONE: 01243 673081
EMAIL: chris.s.corry@btinternet.com

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Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust (Emsworth Museum)

Words from Dorothy Bone

Exhibition: In Commemoration of the Men of Emsworth who Served in WWI

October 6 – November 11

This exhibition tells the stories of the men of Emsworth who served around the world during the Great War of 1914-1918. Local men were lost from the start of the conflict right through to within three days of it ending. This exhibition shows the history of the war from the perspective of the people of Emsworth. The display also illustrates the home conditions for the average working family. Finally, the display illustrates the support given to the fighting forces by horses, mules, dogs, and homing pigeons.

Emsworth Museum is open on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Sundays 2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Admission is free. A stair lift is available.

www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk

Talk: The Butler’s Christmas by Dr Bob France

Monday November 19 7.30 p.m.

John Dine, Petworth’s ancient butler, explores how dramatically Christmas changed from his Georgian youth to late Victorian times. Discover how our Christmas traditions developed. Did the Georgians have Christmas trees, presents and turkeys? Why was Boxing Day so important? These and many more questions will be answered during this amusing and joyful look at the festive season.

Admission: Members £3.00, non-members £4.00. Venue: Mountford Rooms, North Street Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth.

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The Spring – autumn season

The Spring presents a very diverse autumn programme. For comedy lovers, the Spring offers on 25 October “The Learner Parent” by Sam Avery (Sam was a finalist in the Leicester Mercury Comedian of the Year). On 9 November Juliette Burton brings her spectacle “The Butterfly Effect”. Also, in November there is Graham Fellows, on the 10th, with “Completely out of Character”, and on the 12th James Anderson presents Nathan Caton. If you don’t want to miss Stephen K Amos “Bouquets and Brickbats” there are two dates when you can go and see him, 15 and 16 November.

In the literature section, the book group will discuss, on 8 November, “On Chesil Beach” (now adapted into a movie starring Saoirse Ronan) by Ian McEwan. On the 17 November performance poet Francesca Beard will present her “Post-Truth Apocalypse” which is based about the controversial topic of fake news. On 22 November is “The Front Room”, where you are invited to bring along your own poems to read. That event will also support “Post-Truth Apocalypse”. Closing the year on the 13 of December the book group will be discussing “Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine” by Gail Honeyman.

The programme is also packed for music lovers. From the 6 until the 29 of October The FB Pocket Orchestra are rehearsing in The Gallery and everyone is welcome to attend this free event. Their gig will be on the 3 November, also on the same day, Havant Light Opera will be performing at lunchtime. Los Pecaminos with Paul Young will be having their gig, on the 2 November, however all the seats have been sold out and there are only standing tickets available.

The last month of the year is the busiest at The Spring. Portsmouth-based singer-songwriter Sean Fisher will be opening the month of December. Christmas season starts with Havant Light Opera performing Humbug by Fraser Charlton from 6 - 8 December. On the 9 December the Spitfire Sisters (a vintage-inspired band) will be bringing some musical nostalgia. On the 10 December there will be Rockscho...
Wemsfest 2018 and looking forward to 2019

Words by Victoria Giosa, Arts Correspondent and Mark Ringwood. Pictures supplies by Wemsfest.

Fara who are four girls from Orkney will perform on 26 October at the smaller but atmospheric Brook Hall (the former Baptist Church) next door to the main Baptist Church. The end of year concerts at Wemsfest bring a big variety of music styles and musicians. Tickets for folk-rockers Oysterband on Thursday 15 November at Emsworth Baptist Church have all been sold two months prior to their show. This follows the similar success with Fairport Convention last year.

WemsFest Director Mark Ringwood says, “The appetite for tickets is extremely encouraging and brings extra business into Emsworth with many people visiting the village for the first time. As a venue the Church is firmly on the national touring circuit for medium-size artists who simply cannot find another suitable venue anywhere along the South Coast between Shoreham and Southampton.”

Two other folk bands will be playing in Emsworth. On November 9 at 8 p.m. acoustic band, The Strawbs will be playing at the Emsworth Baptist Church. Their original concert was scheduled for 27 April, but due to illness, it was moved to November. The original tickets from April are valid. Jacqui McShee’s Pentangle play at the Baptist Church on 23 November.

Wemsfest are promoting classical music with a concert by a trio led by cellist Ella Rundle at St. John the Baptist Church, Westbourne on 27 October. They are performing a scintillating programme which includes ‘The Goldberg Variations’ by JS Bach, and ‘Trio D471’ by Schubert. Wemsfest also hope to bring more events to the Westbourne Club now that its future appears to be more certain.

Wemsfest seem to have developed a niche for attracting Scottish musicians because Breabach’s show on 12 February at Chidham Village Hall are selling well. Tickets are also going fast for the concert on 30 March by Karen Matheson who fronts the Scottish folk group Capercaillie and is performing with her own band.

The partnership with Emsworth Sports and Social Club is proceeding well with pre-Christmas concerts featuring Amy Rigby on 24 November, and former Oysterband member Ray Cooper on 30 November. In 2019 Wemsfest will be working with comedians Jeff Lane and Joe Wells to bring two nights of Comedy to the Club on 18 January and 8 March.

On Sunday 7 April, Red Dirt Skinners will be performing at Chidham Village Hall at 8 p.m. The Red Dirt Skinners are a duo consisting of Sarah and Rob Skinner, both multi-instrumentalists. Other names already confirmed for 2019 (but dates to be arranged) are: The award-winning acoustic English band Show of Hands, who are another multi-instrumentalist duo formed in the 80’s and Fotheringay, another British folk rock band formed in 1970’s. They were only active for a year, however 45 years later, a new version of the band re-formed with three of the original members. Another band confirmed for 2019 is John Reischman & The Bluebirds Finally, in May 2019, Front country will return to Wemsfest. Front Country are an American folk pop and progressive bluegrass band formed in 2011 in San Francisco, California. Wemsfest brings a wide variety of music genres and musicians not only from Britain, but also from all around the world.

Tickets for all these events are available from: Bookends, 9 High Street, Emsworth (open 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday) www.wegottickets.com or 01243 370501.

WemsFest would like to publicly thank Carol Waldron who has so positively supported us by selling tickets since we started seven years ago. We wish her a long and happy retirement and look forward to working with the new team at Bookends.
**FloVibe Festival 2018**

**Words and pictures by Victoria Giosa, Arts Correspondent**

From Friday 10 to Sunday 12 of August, FloVibe, the festival of well-being, took place in the grounds of Stansted House. Despite the adverse weather on Friday, the festival had a good but delayed start: it was not until 6 p.m. when the showers stopped, and the festival could have its opening ceremony. The weather did not stop those attending from enjoying some yoga sessions under the rain. On Saturday morning the day started with a yoga session on the big stage where everyone met their fellow yogis through a good vibe yoga dance. The festival had three other tents (Thoy/Yogahaven Tent, Partner Tent and Workshop Tent) where other activities were carrying on simultaneously.

Despite an early start the grounds of Stansted House were vibrant with people, some with their yoga mats relaxing and others stretching ready to start the day. Adults enjoyed the festival, including many families attending the festival with their children.

There was a whole area designed for the children, which also had their own adapted yoga sessions. Although wellbeing was the motto of the festival, the atmosphere changed in the evenings. At nighttime, it was time to party at the DJ Tent, where every evening a different DJ would set off the party mood for campers and visitors.

FloVibe also offered the opportunity to camp in the grounds of Stansted and there was a Glamping area where some people had their own tips for the weekend. There were a variety of food stands, from Spanish dishes to vegetarian and vegan options. There were also clothing tents with a big selection of handmade clothing and local representatives from the Westbourne Wellbeing Clinic.

People came from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales to the grounds of Stansted to enjoy the festival. I interviewed Mishy and Claire; they both shared the same thoughts about FloVibe. “We both love yoga, and although we live in separate parts of the country we agreed to come to this festival and meet up to do what we love.” They also commented on the fact that they felt part of a big community, where everyone was nice and friendly. FloVibe finished on Sunday 12 August under heavy rain. Although the weather was not ideal throughout the weekend, that did not stop the participants to attend the different workshops carried out during the festival.

For any more information on next year’s FloVibe visit: www.flovibe.com

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**Events roundup**

**Harbour Records (Emsworth) presents The Jigantics at Chidham Hall**

One of the UK’s ‘must see’ live roots acts with discernible quality oozing from every groove. Delving into the myriad roots of Americana and British music and serving it up with an originality and respect that is as heartening as it is refreshing, The Jigantics are one of the UK Americana scene’s most arresting new bands who perform a fusion of great songs, stunning harmonies and fine musicianship. It is a genre defying mix of roots, cajun, blues, trad and country. The band play on Saturday 1 December, Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall, Chidham Lane, Chidham at 7 p.m. Tickets are £12 and are available at Harbour Records, High Street, Emsworth or online at www.wegottickets.com

On Saturday 9 March 2019, Steve Knightley (one half of the country’s top folk band Show Of Hands) will be bringing his “Roadworks” tour to Emsworth Baptist Church.

On Friday 17 May 2019, world renowned songsmith, broadcaster, activist and raconteur Tom Robinson will be bringing his unique show to Emsworth Baptist Church.

Tickets for both events are available from Harbour Records or www.wegottickets.com

**When the Poppies Bloom Again**

**Words and picture by Jim Strudwick**

Jim Strudwick, local playwright, actor and artistic director of the newly formed Emsworth Players has written a play with music called “When The Poppies Bloom Again”. It is a tribute to the fallen in World War One and in particular to celebrate the Centenary of The Armistice on 11th November. The play features the events of the First World War that involve a local family who had four sons who went to war, as portrayed by a group of talented local actors and singers augmented by the Andy Beaumont Band with Carol Sagar. The performances will take place in Brook Hall, Baptist Church, North Street, Emsworth from Tuesday 6 November to Friday 9 November at 7.30 p.m. and ending with a matinee on Saturday 10 November at 3 p.m. Tickets cost £8 and are available from Bookends, 7 High Street, Emsworth.

For more information contact: jim.strudwick@yahoo.co.uk.

**Music at Tuppenny Barn**

Music@theBarn presents Phillip Henry. A multi-instrumentalist and figurehead for English slide guitar, Phillip brings his solo tour to the Barn to celebrate the release of his long awaited solo album, Steelworks: Slide Guitar Solos.

Saturday 27 October. Doors open 7.30 p.m. Music starts 8 p.m. Tickets cost £14. Licensed bar.

Tickets from Tuppenny Barn, Main Road, Southbourne, PO10 8EZ. Tel: 01243 377780 contact@tuppennybarn.co.uk www.tuppennybarn.co.uk

**Village Voices Concert**

Village Voices Winter Concert will be held on Saturday 1 December at 7.30 p.m. at Emsworth Baptist Church.

Tickets £5 on the door or contact: tickets@emsworthvillagevoices.org

**Emsworth Concert Band’s Christmas Concert 2018**

**Words by Richard Taylor**

Come and join us for our ever-popular annual Christmas Concert on the evening of Sunday 16 December at Emsworth Baptist Church. The evening will be full of festive music including traditional favourites and some added surprises. There will be something for everyone and the evening will be a great way for all the family to truly get into the Christmas spirit. Tickets for the concert will be available both in advance and on the door.

More information will soon be available on the band’s website www.emsworthconcertband.com
Films showing at Emsworth Community Centre

Films showing at Emsworth Community Centre over the next couple of months.

Tickets are just £5 per person (includes refreshments). Film tickets are available from Loretta’s Cafe or the Community Centre office (Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 12 noon). Or reserve and pay at the door, call the Community Centre on 01243 373805 or email us at info@emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk.

Doors open 30 minutes before the show starts.

Monday 22 October 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (94 mins)
The Breadwinner (12A)
The Breadwinner is an animated film set in Afghanistan which is under the control of the Taliban. It is based on Deborah Ellis’ bestselling 2000 children’s novel. Parvana is an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban. When her father is wrongfully arrested, she disguises herself as a boy in order to support her family. Parvana and her friend discover exciting new worlds which were previously unavailable to them.

Monday 26 November 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (113 mins)
The Bookshop (PG)
Based on the novel by Penelope Fitzgerald. It is 1959 and widowed Florence Green (Emily Mortimer) risks everything to open up a bookshop in the sleepy seaside town of Hardborough. When she exposes the narrow minded townsfolk to the best literature of the day including Nabokov’s scandalizing “Lolita” and Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451” she gains a kindred spirit and ally in the figure of Mr Brundish (Bill Nighy) who is himself sick of the town’s stale atmosphere.

On Monday 12 November there is a double bill commemorating 100 years of the RAF and the end of WW1.

Monday 12 November 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (60 mins) Spitfire (PG)
The Spitfire story in the words of the remaining combat veterans accompanied by rare footage. Credited with changing the course of world history, this is the story of the Spitfire – told personally in the words of the last-surviving combat veterans. With breath-taking aerial footage form the world’s top aviation photographer John Dibbs and rare digitally remastered archive footage from the tumultuous days of the 1940’s, when power in the skies was unrivalled; all combined with a specially commissioned score by composer Chris Roe and an incredible soundscape of the famous Merlin engine. All in all a striking and poignant film. Narrated by Charles Dance.

Monday 12 November 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (107 mins)
Journey’s End (12A)
Set in a dugout in Aisne in 1918, the story of a group of British officers, led by the mentally disintegrating young officer Stanhope (Sam Claflin) as they await their fate.

Monday 10 December 3.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (112 mins)
The Leisure Seeker (15)
John and Ella Robina (Donald Sutherland and Helen Mirren) have shared a wonderful life for more than 50 years. Now in their eighties, Ella suffers from cancer and has chosen to stop treatment. John has Alzheimer’s. Yearning for one last adventure, they escape from the grown-up children and doctors who seem to run their lives and leave their home in suburban Detroit for a forbidden vacation of rediscovery.

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Events at Emsworth Community Centre

There are a number of events being held at the Community Centre this autumn.

Table Top Sale
Saturday 27 October 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
ERA public meeting
Monday 29 October at 7.30 p.m.
EHS Horticultural Quiz
Thursday 15 November at 7.30 p.m.
Emsworth Museum talk: The Butler’s Christmas
Monday 19 November at 7.30 p.m.
Quiz Night
Saturday 24 November at 7 p.m.
Craft Fair
Saturday 8 December 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Christmas Carols & Songs
Saturday 8 December at 7:30 p.m.

Emsworth Community Centre, North Street has changed its email address to Info@EmsworthCommunityCentre.org.uk. The telephone number 01243 373805 and website remain the same: www.emsworthcommunitycentre.org.uk
**Days out with Dogs Part 2**

**Weald and Downland Living Museum**

*Words and pictures by Juliet Walker*

Just eleven miles from here, you and your dog have the opportunity to time travel together to the Anglo-Saxons, through the Tudors, and on to the Victorians, with all the eras in between; more than Jodie Whittaker can achieve in half a day in the Tardis!

One August day two Emsworth residents and three dogs spent four very wet hours at the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton, exploring the site together.

The Museum is very dog friendly, as the website stresses. Dogs can be taken everywhere on leads, apart, understandably, from the few areas where food is prepared. They are even allowed in a large section of the café, which is just as well since we lurked in there with them for over an hour, waiting for a dry interlude. After this they were raring to go.

Being on the lead all the time might sound unexciting, but there is so much to see, and so many different areas, smells and types of terrain to explore. Starting in the Market Square they got a taste of what was to come in the private homes on the site, with a visit to an upper storey in the Market Hall from Titchfield. If this was a tentative exploration, they got fully into their stride by the time we reached Bayleaf, the magnificent Tudor farmstead. Here all three dogs scampered confidently up a steep flight of stairs to the well-appointed bedchamber, gave a passing glance to its airy en suite facilities, then made it safely down again.

Cottages, school room, barns, granary and toll house were all visited, but there was much to discover outside as well. The temptation of the free ranging mallards by the lake needed to be avoided, but the dogs had their first encounter with oxen, when the Museum’s resident working pair were being led to their field. They were mesmerised by these huge, gentle beasts.

Many of the houses have their own gardens, each growing vegetables, herbs and flowers appropriate to the period. The dogs brushed past aromatic thyme, fragrant soapwort and statuesque fennel, unaware of the painstaking efforts that have gone into creating such an authentic experience. There is also a series of woodland paths, which we followed for some distance, before having to run for cover from more heavy rain, sheltering first in the pitch dark of a windowless Anglo-Saxon hall house, then in a seventeenth century farmhouse.

Thoroughly soaked, it was time to head back to Emsworth, but despite the weather we had all enjoyed the outing. The Museum definitely warrants another visit, to do it justice, but hopefully on a day with a more accurate forecast!

Editor’s note: If you are planning to visit Weald & Downland Living Museum here are the details:

Weald & Downland Living Museum
Singleton, Chichester, PO18 0EU
Tel: 01243 811363
Email: office@wealddown.co.uk
www.wealddown.co.uk
Opening hours 10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Winter)
Opening dates 2018
1 January - 23 December Open daily
24 - 25 December Closed
26 - 27 December Open for Christmas
28 - 31 December Closed

Weald & Downland is 11 miles north east of Emsworth (via Funtington and Lavant). It can also be reached by public transport. Go to Chichester by train or 700 bus. From Chichester bus station catch the No 60 Midhurst bus (every half hour, Mon-Sat, hourly on Sundays). The museum is a 5 minute walk from the Grooms Yard bus stop, Singleton. The museum offers 2 for 1 entry to those who come by bus. You can also visit the new café which is open from 9am daily without having to pay to go into the museum.

If you would like to contribute a Days Out with Dogs article please contact the editor with your ideas. Articles should be 500-600 words and include photos. Email: editor.theems@outlook.com
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

Words by Perry Dodgson, Emsworth Fire Station. Photo by David Harris

In addition to several small fires in the open due to the period of dry weather Emsworth Fire station crew attended these incidents from July - Sept 2018.

- July: mud rescue (off Thornney Island); commercial fire, West Sussex; fire, West Sussex; standing crop fire, West Sussex; large fire at Havant Thicket; road traffic collision, Emsworth Common Road.
- August: large fire in the open, West Marden; car fire, A3(M); road traffic collision, Woodmancote; caravan fire, Havant.
- September: commercial fire, Havant; road traffic collision, Chichester; fire inshipping containers, West Sussex; chimney fire, West Sussex.

You may also wish to visit our website for information on Halloween, bonfire and firework safety. Visit www.hantsfire.gov.uk. Feel free to drop into Emsworth Fire Station on Monday evenings for any further information.

Lastly, from the crew at Emsworth, many thanks for your kind donations during our charity car wash in support of The Fire-fighters charity on 29 September.

Hampshire Constabulary

Words by PCSO 15070 Ben Howard and David Harris

According to the website www.police.uk there were 68 crimes committed in the Emsworth area in July 2018. Details of the types of crimes and locations can be found by visiting the website.

In the build up to Halloween, the police have issued this crime prevention advice surrounding trick or treaters and staying safe over the Halloween period.

Elderly and vulnerable people.

If you do not know who is calling at your house, you do not need to open the door.

Try to see who is at the door by looking through a spy hole or window before opening the door. If you have a chain on your door – keep this in place when opening the door. If you feel threatened in your home, contact the police.

Children and their parents:

If your child is going outside in a costume, make sure they are wearing reflective clothing or add reflective tape to their clothes.

Warblington Road issues

Words by Chris Hallam, Emsworth Residents Association, Committee Member (Transport). Email: chrisjhallam@talktalk.net

I was asked to investigate, a very sensible suggestion from a local resident, about the feasibility of seeking to prohibit traffic turning right off Havant Road into Warblington Road, coming from the Havant direction, which can be a dangerous turning. Unfortunately, this was not deemed possible as such a ban can only be achieved through a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The proposal would need to be supported by the Police as they will have to enforce it. There is a long waiting list for TROs, so unless there is a statistically significant accident record at this location it is unlikely to see the light of day.

I have obtained accident data from a variety of sources including the website, www.crashmap.co.uk. The records demonstrate one ‘serious’ and four ‘slight’ accidents in this location in the past 18 years, not all related to the issues raised about turning right into Warblington Road. I know it sounds daft, but reports that “twice today cars so turning have come too fast, have cut the corner, and have been very lucky not to have crashed” does not immediately equate to a trigger for action, because they did not crash. It also seems silly to have to wait for an accident to happen before positive action is taken.

However, there would appear to be two areas of concern. One at the junction of Havant Road and Bridge Road and the other is by the roundabout. May I ask that drivers to please drive safely, within the speed limit, and be aware of other road users.

Carry a torch and consider road safety at all times. If your child is going out trick or treating, make sure they go out in a group, preferably accompanied by an adult. Older children should let you know where they are going and what time they will be back. Children should carry a mobile phone in a pocket or bag. Make sure your children know not to enter anyone’s house or to accept lifts from strangers. Not everyone appreciates trick or treaters turning up at their door - look out for the ‘No trickers or treaters poster’ displayed in windows.

Be respectful to others property if they don’t answer the door or offer a treat. Playing trick could get you into trouble and may amount to a criminal offence.

If you wish to receive updates from the Police in regards to ongoing crime trends, anything happening in your area crime wise and any engagements that may be happening, sign up to Hampshire Alerts at www.hampshirealert.co.uk/
Contacts

Arts and Crafts Groups

Bench Theatre: Club nights first & third Thursday of month at The Spring, East Street, Havant. Contact: Janice Halsey Email: secretary@benchtheatre.org.uk

Bourne Quilters: 7:15 p.m. first Monday of each month, Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Averil Menzies 01243 375506.

Emsworth Afternoon Flower Club: Meets 2 p.m. fourth Friday of month. St James’ Church Hall, Church Path. Emsworth. Contact: Vanessa Davies, Secretary 02392 789282.

Emsworth Art Group: Meets 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. New members welcome. Contact: Anne Elgood 01243 377228.

Emsworth Beading Group: Meets 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. 2nd Saturday of each month at Hewitts Centre, South Street. Email: shirley@shirley-mundy.co.uk or tel: 02392 825481

Emsworth Concert Band. Meets Thursday 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. St James Church Hall, Church Path. Contact: guyandjo@btinternet.com

Emsworth Meridian Singers: Main choir meets alternative Wednesday and Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Louise Russell 07985 606670.

Emsworth Morning WI: Meets 9.45 a.m. second Friday of month, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Kate Randall 01243 373637. New members welcome.

Emsworth Players. New Drama group. Contact: Jim Strudwick 01243 272543 Email: jim.strudwick@yahoo.co.uk

Emsworth Watercolours Group: Meets 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Mondays & Thursdays. Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: David Moignard 02392 267498.

Friday Workshop Art Group: Meets 9.30 a.m. – 12 noon on Friday mornings at the Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact Mike Gledhill 02392 786642.

Havant Light Opera: Meets 7.30 p.m. most Mondays at The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre, East Street, Havant. Contact: John Butt 02392 412262 www.havantlightopera.co.uk

Community Organisations

Community First: Services such as Call & Go bookable buses, older people’s activities and mobility scooter hire. Contact 0300 500 8085, admin@cfrfirst.org.uk.

Ems Valley Community Transport: A voluntary body that arranges transport to hospitals, GP surgeries, dentists and occasionally shopping. To volunteer as a driver; Contact: 01243 371903 or email: evctsec@gmail.com

Emsworth Business Association: Contact: Gilly Babb 01243 373934. Email: giles@blue-bellinemsworth.co.uk.

Emsworth Community Association: Emsworth Community Centre, North Street Contact: 01243 373805 10am-12noon, Mon-Fri. Email Info@EmsworthCommunityCentre.org.uk

Emsworth Forum: Contact: Mike Bateman, email mikebateman20@gmail.com

Emsworth Good Neighbours: Offers help with shopping, reading, writing letters, collecting prescriptions, transport to essential appointments. Contact: 01243 430999.

Emsworth Horticultural Society: Organises Emsworth Show, Horticultural supplies hut at Washington Road. Talks and coach outings. Contact: Lyn Davies 01243 373810.

Emsworth Museum: North Street. Open 10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. Saturdays/Bank holidays, 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. Sundays April–October, 2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m. Fridays in August. Contact: Mrs Dorothy Bone 01243 378091.

Emsworth Residents’ Association: Publisher of The Ems. Contact: Theo Schofield, Chairman. Email: theoschofield@icloud.com

Emsworth-St Aubin Twinning Association: Contact John Auric 01243 379018 or Judi Milburn 02392 471645

Friends of Emsworth Community Health: (formerly Friends of Emsworth Hospital): Supports organisations providing health-related facilities in Emsworth. Contact: Irene Craig 01243 378635 Email: irenecraig71@gmail.com

Community, Contacts

Hole in the Wall Group – Emsworth’s Community pottery: Located behind Emsworth Community Centre. Contact Clive Yeomans 01243 375860

Institches Emsworth’s first Stitch ‘n’ Bitch group. We are about laughter, fun and friendship. Venue: Hewitts, South Street, Emsworth. Meets Friday 10 a.m. –12 noon.

Knit. Crochet. Stitch. Drop-in, it’s free. Contact Judy Williams 07906 214963. Email Judywilliams9@gmail.com

Monday Workshop Meets every Monday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth. Open to all with an interest in painting. Please bring own materials. Contact: Edgar Baileff 01243 376674

Renaissance Choir: meets 7.30 p.m. – 9.30 p.m. Friday at Emsworth Community Centre. See website for details: www.renaissancechoir.co.uk

Weekly Country Market: Formerly the WI Market, 10 a.m. –11.30 a.m. each Thursday at Baptist Church Hall, North Street, for home-made savouries/cakes, vegetables, preserves and craft items. New producers welcome.

Children’s and Youth Groups

Babies, Biscuits and Banter: Suitable for babies and young toddlers, Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m.-11 a.m. in St James’ Church office. Contact: 01243 372428.

Boys’ Brigade: Meets at New Life Christian Church, Thorney Road, Emsworth PO10 8BN. 6 p.m. –7.15 p.m Mondays in term time, for boys aged 5-11 yrs. Contact: The captain 0776 690 0428, Church Office 01243 373566 or email boysbrigade@nlccuk.org.

Girls’ Brigade (1st): Tuesdays 5.45 - 7.15 p.m. for ages 4-10 yrs and 7.00 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. for ages 10-18 yrs. Emsworth Baptist Church Hall, North Street. Contact: Eleanor Day 01243 270 2380

Girls’ Brigade (3rd): Meets at New Life Christian Church, Thorney Road, Emsworth PO10 8BN. 6 p.m. – 7.15 p.m Monday in term time, for girls aged 5-11 yrs. Contact: the Captain 0790 603 4252, Church Office 01243 373566 or email girlsbrigade@nlccuk.org.

Girls Guiding UK: Rainbows (ages 5-10 yrs), Brownies (ages 7-10 yrs), Guides (ages 10-15 yrs), senior (15+). See website: www.girlsguidinghantseast.org.uk

Melana: Dance classes for young people up to 20 years, pre-school ‘music and movement’ classes and adult tap dancing at Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Louise Chandler 07717 327200.

Mumbaba: Music classes for babies and toddlers 10 a.m. on Wednesdays (during term time) Emsworth Sports and Social Club. 43 Havant Road, Emsworth. Admission £3.50 per family. Contact: Chris Spode 07941 197 033

Parents & Toddlers Group: Tuesdays, 9.30 a.m. –11.30 a.m. (term time only), New Life Christian Church, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8BN. 01243 373566 or email toddlers@nlccuk.org.

Peek a Boo Moves: Dance sessions for 1-3 year olds (Friday, 10.15 a.m.-11.15 a.m), £4 drop-in, £3.50 pre-book, at Emsworth Community Centre, North Street. Contact: Jo Cone 07947 374222.

Scouts: Livingstone Cub Pack, Beaver Section, Drake Cub Pack, Explorers, Scout Troop, all meet at the Scout Hut, Conigar Road. Email: membership@emsworth-scouts.org.uk

Churches and Religious Groups

Baptist Church: North Street, Emsworth. Contact: 01243 375506

Good News Travelling Library (Books and cards): 10 a.m. –11.30 a.m. on Friday 2 Nov 2018, Friday 1 Feb 2019, and Friday 1 March, 2019. Waterside United Reform Church, Bath Road, Emsworth.

Methodist Church/Pastoral Centre: The Square, Emsworth. Contact: 01243 373773.

New Life Christian Church: Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8BN. Main contact: 01243 373566. Meetings for Senior Citizens 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m. first Wednesday of month. Contact and help with transport: 01243 371647.

St James’ Church (CofE): The Rectory, Church Path. Contact: 01243 372428.

St Thomas’ Church (Roman Catholic): 24 New Brighton Road. Contact: 02392 484520.

St Thomas a Becket (CofE): Church Lane, Warblingdon. Contact: 01243 372428.

Waterside United Reformed Church: Bath Road, Emsworth. Contact: 01243 375557.

Westbourne Bell-Ringers, Westbourne Church, Westbourne Road, Westbourne. Practice Mon 7 - 9 p.m. Service ringing on Sundays. Contact Tower Captain Peter Wilkinson. Email: westbourne@SCACR.org or Jason Crouch 07802 474899
Hampshire Constabulary Beat Services: Surgery first Wednesday of each month, Pastures Field, St Peters Square. Tel: 101 (non-emergency calls).

Havant Friends of the Earth: Contact: Patricia Williamson 01243 378560.

Havant Rotary Club: Meets every Monday at 6 p.m. at Bear Hotel, East Street, Havant. Contact: Ian Swinton 01243 251776.

Hewitt’s, 35 South Street, Emsworth. Community café and hall for hire. Tel: 01243 213600.

Mothers’ Union: Contact: Margaret Cornick (secretary) 01243 378044.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Emsworth Branch: Contact: Liz Spencer 0785 210836 Email: lizjeannespencer@gmail.com. New members welcome.

University of the Third Age, Emsworth U3A. Over 30 subject groups that meet monthly. See website for details. www.ems3ua.org.uk. General meeting at St James Church Hall, Church Path. 2 p.m. 4th Thursday of month, except August & December. Contact: Gill Polgren Tel: 01243 389983 email: gill.polgren@gmail.com.

University of the Third Age, Emsworth U3A. Over 40 subject groups that meet monthly. See website for details: http://www.emsval-leya3a.org.uk/index.html. General meeting at St James Church Hall, Church Path. 2 p.m. 4th Thursday of month, except August & December. Contact: Hazel Willard 01243 379877.


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Health Organisations

Alzheimer’s Society Memory Café: Support group for carers of people with dementia. Meets 10 a.m.-12 noon, fourth Tuesday of month (except December), Masonic Hall, Waterloo Road, Havant. Contact: 02392 892035.

ArthritisFirst. Exercise Classes for anyone with mobility problems. Run by a Chartered Physiotherapist with 30 years’ experience. All ages and abilities welcome. Classes at the Community Centre, Emsworth: Mondays 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesdays 9.50 a.m. – 10.50 a.m. and 11 a.m. – 12 noon. Classes are also held in Havant and Chichester. Contact Juliette 07974 238787/02392 413885. www.arthritisfirst.co.uk

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Sliper Mill Pond Preservation Association: Protects and conserves the wildlife and natural environment of Sliper Pond for the benefit and quiet enjoyment of the public. Contact: Chair, Nick Madina 01243 377749, Email: info@smupa.org.uk

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Community Contacts

Please notify the editor if you wish details of your group to be added to this page (Voluntary, church, charitable, community, not-for-profit groups only).

Please notify editor if your group entry needs to be amended.

David Harris, Editor, email: editor.theems@outlook.com
NEWS FROM OUR MP

Progress made on future of Victoria Cottage Hospital

While Parliament has been on recess, I have been working hard over summer to secure the future of the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital (EVCH).

That has included travelling to Westminster during the summer recess - I am pleased that my efforts have been successful: the EVCH has been taken off the market for sale.

That first success was followed-up by a key meeting I organised in September at the Emsworth Baptist Church, attended by all of the key stakeholders including the NHS CCG; NHS Property Services, the owners of the building; the Emsworth Medical Practice; Havant Borough Council, local councillors, and Emsworth community group representatives.

It was decided that the doctors and the CCG will work together to come up with a fresh proposal to use the Victoria Cottage Hospital site and continue to engage with all of the key stakeholders including the Emsworth Baptist Church, attended a key meeting I organised in September at the Emsworth Baptist Church, attended by all of the key stakeholders including the NHS CCG; NHS Property Services, the owners of the building; the Emsworth Medical Practice; Havant Borough Council, local councillors, and Emsworth community group representatives.

It was decided that the doctors and the CCG will work together to come up with a fresh proposal to use the Victoria Cottage Hospital site and continue to engage with all of the key stakeholders including the Emsworth Baptist Church, attended a key meeting I organised in September at the Emsworth Baptist Church, attended by all of the key stakeholders including the NHS CCG; NHS Property Services, the owners of the building; the Emsworth Medical Practice; Havant Borough Council, local councillors, and Emsworth community group representatives.

I was able to see the resurfacing in action when I met with Highways England to highlight the concerns drivers had with potholes on the road. I’m pleased that following my pressure, and support from residents, resurfacing has been taking place on the A27 between the Emsworth junction and Chichester.

Included regular meetings with Highways England to highlight the concerns drivers had with potholes on the road. I’m pleased that following my pressure, and support from residents, resurfacing has been taking place on the A27 between the Emsworth junction and Chichester.

Don’t forget you can also take action on potholes by reporting any that you see to your local council. Visit gov.uk/report-pothole to find out more.

Alan Mak MP
Member of Parliament for Havant