



p9 Ems Valley u3a party



p17 Beer Festival



p11 Emsworth Show

Government says NO to Council reorganisation

On 7 September the government made a surprise announcement which has put the whole process of local government reform on hold.

It was back in December 2024 that the government published its English Devolution White Paper which sought to abolish the two tier system of local government. This would be replaced with Unitary authorities which would deliver all council services to areas with a population of around 500,000.

Throughout 2025 and most of this year local authorities worked together to put forward reorganisation proposals to central government. In Hampshire the county would be split up into four Unitary authorities with Havant, Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth coming together as South East Hants Unitary Council. Elections for the new body were due to be held in May 2027.

However, not everyone was happy with the new proposals and Hampshire CC were mounting a legal challenge. It now appears that following legal advice the current process had to be stopped. Challenges in places including Essex, Hampshire and Suffolk questioned matters such as whether ministers had:

- adequately explained why they rejected alternative proposals
- taken relevant financial and service-delivery evidence into account
- remained within the statutory powers available to the Secretary of State when modifying proposals and boundaries

This U-turn means that elections for a third of the seats at Havant BC will be held in May 2027. In West Sussex there was no agreement on Council reorganisation. Elections for all seats at Chichester DC will now take place in May 2027.

The totally separate process of devolution and the creation of Mayoral Authorities is not affected by this change of direction. Elections for the Solent Mayoral Authority (Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight) were scheduled to take place in May 2028. However, the Solent Mayoral authority has now asked for the elections to be brought forward to May 2027.

Emsworth enjoying the early Autumn sunshine



Emsworth Parish Council decision to be reviewed

On 23 July, Havant Borough Council announced it had formally voted to create Emsworth Parish Council, following the Community Governance Review (CGR) and strong public support. The decision was based on clear evidence that both statutory tests were met: Emsworth has a strong and distinct community identity, and residents demonstrated the capacity to deliver effective, convenient local governance.

However, on 23 September the Leader of HBC stated that the decision to create new parish councils must now be reconsidered by Full Council. This follows the Government's announcement that it will not proceed with Local Government Reform in Hampshire. Does this change the strong evidence presented during the CGR?

See page 4



ERF Public meetings

What Has Community Energy Ever Done For Us?

Thursday 19 November, 7 pm;
Emsworth Community Centre.

Speaker: Mark Holliday of Havant Community Energy.

(see P 13 for more details)

This meeting replaces the meeting on 19 October, advertised in the last edition of The Ems, which has been cancelled.



S Bugharyan

Celebrating a New Chapter for Emsworth Town

7 pm to 9 pm Thursday 10 December,

Emsworth Community Centre (followed by wine and cheese)

Subject to final ratification by Havant Borough Full Council, Emsworth is set to have its very own Parish Council – a milestone in strengthening local democracy and giving residents a stronger voice in shaping our community's future.

Join us for a relaxed and celebratory evening as we mark this important moment for Emsworth. There will be plenty of conversation and a hands-on workshop exploring the exciting activities, powers and opportunities a parish council can bring – from community projects and youth initiatives to heritage, environment, events and local services. Wine and cheese will be served.

This is a really important event – the start of a new chapter.

Whether you're curious, enthusiastic, have ideas and energy to bring, this is a chance to start working together on how a parish council can help Emsworth thrive – and how residents can get engaged and shape its future from day one.

Come and be part of the conversation. Emsworth's next chapter starts with all of us.

Development

Say Nay To the Horsefield!

Havant Borough Council's proposed Local Plan allocates 90 houses on the Horsefield - not just a 'green field' but a protected field in the Chichester Harbour National Landscape (previously known as the AONB) located south of Havant Road, opposite The Ropemaker.



The public consultation for the Local Plan, Building a Better Future, closed on Wednesday 9 September and has been submitted to the Government Planning Inspector, who will decide whether it meets the legal compliance and soundness tests. If the Inspector decides the Local Plan meets these tests it will be adopted by HBC for future planning decisions.

<https://www.savethehorsefield.co.uk/>

The argument about the Horsefield is as follows:

The allocation of Land South of Havant Road (Horsefield) under Allocation Policy 3 is unsound. That is because it is not consistent with national policy and it is not effective. The site is located entirely within Chichester Harbour National Landscape. Paragraph 190 of the 2024 NPPF states that 'When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest.' The proposed allocation is major development as defined by footnote 67 of the NPPF because it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the national landscape was designated. The proposed allocation is also major development as defined by the GDPO.

It is understood that the tests of exceptional circumstances and public interest are matters for the planning application stage. However, at the plan making stage there should be a reasonable level of certainty that these tests can be met. Otherwise, it is not known if the allocation is deliverable. No mention is made in the supporting text of the Policy to exceptional circumstances and public interest. Without a robust consideration of these matters at the plan making states this allocation cannot be considered effective as there is no certainty that it can meet the tests set out in paragraph 190 of the NPPF at the application stage.

The site is located entirely within Chichester Harbour National Landscape..and should be refused for major development



Local Plan progresses as new milestone reached

Havant Borough Council has reached a new milestone in securing a new Local Plan for the Borough. Full Council approved the Building a Better Future Plan for submission to the Secretary of State for public consultation at its meeting on Wednesday, 15 July 2026. The Building a Better Future Plan – the new Local Plan for the Borough - will guide the development of new homes, employment premises and infrastructure such as community facilities, schools and shops up to 2043. This final consultation focused on the legal compliance and soundness of the plan. It ran from Monday 20 July until Wednesday 9 September for stakeholders to add their comments on the legal compliance and/or soundness of the plan. Soundness of the Plan is whether it is justified, effective, positively prepared and consistent with national policy. The Plan has taken on board public feedback received through previous rounds of consultation in 2022 and 2025. This is the version of the Plan that the council considers to be 'sound' and this is now the final consultation before the Plan is submitted for examination by an independent inspector appointed by the Government. The council has shown how an up-to-date Local Plan can bring tangible benefits to communities where new development takes place. At Hampshire Farm, for example, £825,000 has been invested in transport infrastructure, including highways works, at: www.havant.gov.uk/localplan



The ERF made submissions, focusing on Emsworth issues, especially on land allocation for housing in Emsworth and the environmental and highways impact of the proposals for housing at Long Copse Lane and south of the A259 on the Horsefield.

Southleigh

On the front page of The Ems, Summer 2026, we announced that Bloor had submitted a planning application to HBC for the Southleigh development. Application APP/26/00324 is to build 1,800 homes in the Southleigh area of St Faiths ward.

The full details: Outline planning application - with all matters reserved except for means of vehicular access to the public highway and associated highway improvements - for the demolition of existing buildings; the erection of new residential dwellings (C3); a Local Centre (comprising local retail (E(a)), financial and professional services (E(c)(i), E(c)(ii), E(c)(iii)), restaurants, cafés, and drinking establishments (E(b) and Sui Generis), hot food takeaways (Sui Generis), medical services (E(e)), offices (E(g)(ii)) and community facilities ((E(d)), E(f), F2(b), F2(c))); a Primary School (F1(a)); early years provision (E(f)); informal and formal public open space including community park; community food-growing space; Active Travel routes; drainage infrastructure; utilities infrastructure; and all other associated and necessary infrastructure. The application is supported by over 140 reports, plans, surveys etc.



As The Ems went to press around 1000 objections had been received from local residents.

Development

Long Copse Lane: the vote, and what happens next

Words and photo by The Save Long Copse Lane Group

In July, Havant Borough Council resolved to submit its Building a Better Future Plan for examination, including around 325 homes on greenfield land north of Long Copse Lane. An amendment asking Cabinet to reconsider it was lost on a tied vote, settled by the Mayor's casting vote.

The site is in the Plan because the Council must show where the borough's housing requirement will be met. Councillors faced a hard choice: without an adopted plan, speculative applications are harder to refuse anywhere. Our case is that Long Copse Lane should never have been that answer, and the evidence does not support it.

The reasons are not sentimental. Access is by narrow lanes that cannot safely carry the traffic 325 homes would bring. The sewerage network is at its limits, and what it cannot hold reaches the harbour. The land adjoins Southleigh Forest and ancient woodland, has protected trees on three boundaries, sits in the setting of the South

Downs National Park, and holds the bats and deer residents see daily. The Plan resolves none of it.

The Plan puts no homes here before 2032/33: a site delivering nothing for a decade answers nothing of today's need. It is no comfort to residents, though. An application can come at any time, and timetables change.

An allocation is not planning permission. The Plan now goes to an independent Inspector to test whether it is sound and lawful. We and others made representations before the September deadline and asked to be heard; that is where the allocation can still be removed.

If an application comes forward there will be a further opportunity to object, and objections do count when they are specific and numerous.

Please watch the Council's planning pages, and keep in touch through savelong-copselane.org.uk.

Access is by narrow lanes that cannot safely carry the traffic 325 homes would bring.



Planning applications

Double glazing firms withdraws

APP/25/00697 for change of use of 24 Palmers Road from motor vehicle repair to double glazing showroom has been withdrawn. However there is now a new planning application for this site (see below)

Chalk Creative also want to be in Palmers Road

APP/ 26/00269 Unit 1, 24 Palmers Road. Change of use from motor-trade purposes (Sui Generis) to storage (Use Class B8) and a joinery workshop (Use Class B2). The proposal includes the demolition of existing dilapidated lean-to outbuildings and the construction of a new enclosed storage building and a covered storage area. This is a large unit at the back of Palmers Road and was last used by A D Williams auto repairs. Chalk Creative are a construction company with offices in West St, Emsworth.

Landscaping firm wants to move to Palmers Road

Havant based Stone Green Landscapes have submitted APP/26/00471 for a change of use of Unit 1 Palmers Road from B2 to B8 (Warehouse and distribution) Unit 1 has been empty for some while and was last used for motorcycle repairs. The 1,314 unit was recently offered to rent at £1,083 per month.

Swimming school gets approval

APP/25/01029 Swim Maison, who operate a small Endless Pool for swimming instruction at Unit 2, 24 Palmers Road, have had their application for change of use from Class E (commercial) to Class F (Community) approved.

Furniture factory to be demolished

Chichester DC have received application 26/01399 to demolish all buildings at the

former Morgan Furniture site, Clovelly Road, Southbourne. Morgan Furniture went into voluntary liquidation in October 2025 after trading for 33 years.

13 new houses for Westbourne

CDC has received application 26/01533/ FUL for land adjacent to Foxbury Lane, Westbourne for the erection of 13 dwellings (including affordable housing), new access, open space and habitat creation. The developer is Fareham based Briarsgate Homes. Westbourne Parish Council are not objecting to the development. The site is on the corner of Foxbury Lane and Cemetery Lane.

Appeals Long Copse appeal dismissed

The Planning Inspector has dismissed AP-0369, an appeal against the refusal to build 5 houses at Oklahoma, 4 Long Copse Lane. The original application APP/24/00987 was refused by HBC in May 2025.

Fiscal House appeal

The owners of Fiscal House, Havant Road have appealed (AP-0383) on the grounds of non-determination of the application APP/26/00006. The application was to provide studio space for the attached new gym and storage space for the yard, along with associated works.

Under consideration,

Havant BC

At the time of going to press the following significant planning applications were still to be considered by HBC:

- APP/24/01010. Construction of industrial estate at Interbridges East (Land to the east of the railway station). Following the submission of a new Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) the Environment Agency no longer objects to this development.

Chichester DC

- 25/03010 110 new dwellings at land to the north of Gosden Green, Main Road, Southbourne
- 26/00630/OUT for 92 dwellings on the south side of Cooks Lane

EXPERTS AT SELLING HOMES IN AND AROUND EMSWORTH

Borland & Borland Multi-Award-Winning Independent Estate Agents in Emsworth

9a High Street Emsworth Hampshire PO10 7AQ

BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS 2025

GOLD WINNER

30 YEARS OF AWARD WINNING ESTATE AGENCY

Specialists in Emsworth, Westbourne & the surrounding villages

Professional Photos, Aerial Photos, Floorplans

Wide Range of Properties Available to View – Accompanied Viewings

www.borlandandborland.co.uk

Contact us now for a VIEWING or FREE VALUATION! Call 01243 377655 or email property@borlandandborland.co.uk

Borland & Borland

Independent Estate Agent

50° 50' 40.2" N 0° 56' 14.7" W

Emsworth Heating Ltd

www.emsworthheating.co.uk

01243 950694

**Boiler changes
Upgrades
Servicing
Repairs**

**Open 7 days a week
24 hour emergency response
Book via our website or by phone**

**0% interest free credit available
Zero Deposit options**

Town Council

Councillors Vote for an Emsworth Parish Council – What Happens Next?

Words by Dwywnwen Stepien, Chair, ERF

Havant Borough Councillors voted on 22 July 2026 to create new parish councils for Emsworth and Hayling Island, following the Community Governance Review (CGR) carried out earlier this year. The CGR gathered extensive feedback from residents, organisations and stakeholders, and the findings showed strong and consistent support for establishing a parish council in Emsworth.

The key arguments for the parish council which were supported by residents during the consultation:

- **A stronger local voice:** A parish council can speak directly on local issues and ensure Emsworth's views are represented to borough, county and any future unitary authorities.
- **Protection for Emsworth's identity and heritage:** A parish council can help safeguard the town's distinct character, support conservation initiatives, promote local traditions and sponsor community events.
- **Improved local facilities and services:** A parish council can coordinate with community groups and volunteers to deliver smallscale improvements using Emsworth's own social capital.
- **Greater accountability:** Parish councillors, who are not politically affiliated, can act solely for the benefit of Emsworth residents without split allegiances.
- **Access to funding:** A parish council can apply for grants, build partnerships and invest directly in projects that benefit residents – securing resources that might otherwise be unavailable.

The proposal agreed in July was for a single parish council covering the whole of Emsworth, with 15 councillors and elections planned for May 2027.

Naturally, some concerns were raised by residents, and these will need to be addressed as the parish council is formed.

However, the overall consultation demonstrated a clear appetite for more local control and a stronger community voice.

Impact of the Pause to Local Government Reorganisation.

Since the July decision, the Government has paused the planned Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) due to concerns about the timetable and implementation process. Plans for a new South East Hampshire Unitary Authority, originally expected in 2028, have therefore been put on hold. Local government reform is still widely regarded as necessary to improve financial sustainability and strengthen public service delivery. What is now being reconsidered is not the principle of reform, but how and when it should be implemented.



M Botham

In response, Havant Borough Council has decided to revisit its earlier decision on creating parish councils for Emsworth and Hayling Island. Councillors will be asked to consider whether the delay to LGR affects the case for establishing these parish councils, or whether the original July decision should stand.

The Forum's Position

The Emsworth Residents Forum argues that the CGR and LGR should be treated

as separate processes. In its view, a delay to wider local government reform does not affect the identity or interests of the Emsworth community, nor its ability to efficiently and effectively manage a parish council – the two legal tests required. The view expressed by residents wanting a strong local voice remain valid regardless of whether the principal authority is a borough or a unitary council. The pause in the LGR roll-out therefore does not change the case for a parish council.

The Forum therefore requests that an Emsworth Parish Council should still be established in 2027, as originally agreed. Early establishment would allow time to build experience, develop priorities and strengthen community engagement before any future structural changes take place. Councillors are expected to hold the second vote on the creation of parish councils for Emsworth and Hayling Island in October or November. The forum believes there is no legitimate reason to change the original decision which was based on a statutory and legal process. A meeting is planned for 10 December 2026 to ensure Emsworth residents can be fully involved in the New Chapter for Emsworth.

A Visit to Bishop's Waltham: Inspiration for Emsworth's Future Parish Council

A group of Emsworth residents recently visited Bishop's Waltham Parish Council to meet councillors and staff – and what an inspiring visit it was. There were councillors coming and going, residents ringing through and a clear sense of community involvement. If we could bottle that atmosphere and bring it to Emsworth when our own parish council is established, we would be off to a fantastic start.

Bishop's Waltham is well known for its active, hands on approach to supporting village life. It has achieved a lot:

- developed a register of local volunteers with specific skills and helping them make improvements
- created a Town Team to help support and invigorate the town centre and local businesses
- set up a team of Community Support Officers
- set up and coordinated a Community Speedwatch scheme
- organised community events such as a community picnics

The parish council also manages a whole range of facilities including play areas, sports fields, allotments, street furniture, public toilets, car parks and busy community halls. It is a beautifully maintained village, full of planters all through the high street. A really attractive place with a vibe not dissimilar to Emsworth.

Bishops Waltham Parish Council has been very successful in bringing in additional funding. The council applies for grants, supports charities and invests in projects that strengthen wellbeing, tourism and village identity.

We all thought that there was much to learn from parish councils like Bishops Waltham and many of the ideas such as a Town Team that could be built on in Emsworth. With the ability to raise funds and apply for grants, Emsworth's will be able to deliver new projects that celebrate our town's character and support residents – ensuring decisions are made locally. And it is great to have the support of our many parish council neighbours across Hampshire and West Sussex. We will not be alone but treading a successful path of community engagement and empowerment.



Visit Hampshire



Erika Biddlecombe

Independent Celebrant for
Funerals, Memorials and Celebrations Of Life

*A local Celebrant
caring for local families
with a tailor made ceremony*

Contact Erika today on
07947 833401
info@erikabcelebrant.co.uk
www.erikabcelebrant.co.uk





Lillywhite

PROFESSIONAL LIMITED

Complete car care under one roof

Motor repairs

- Servicing
- MOT testing
- Electronic diagnostics
- Tyres and exhausts

Bodywork repairs

- Full bodyshop facilities
- Mitsubishi & SAAB approved
- Insurance and private work
- Free loan car

Tel. 01243 372336
www.lillywhitegarage.co.uk





Counci News / Local Government Reform

COUNCIL NEWS

Local Government reform on hold

Plans for a major shake-up of local government are on hold, after the government announced on 7 September a review in light of new legal advice. Proposals to merge smaller councils to form larger authorities in Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have been withdrawn. Meanwhile, plans for 14 other areas will also be reviewed and paused. The government confirmed local elections in May 2027 would go ahead on existing council boundaries.

Havant BC and Hampshire CC

Havant Borough Council acknowledges the Government's announcement to withdraw its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decision for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight pending a review of the programme. The council is awaiting clarification from the Government on the next steps for local authorities in Hampshire. The scheduled elections in May 2027 will now be for Havant Borough Council rather than to the shadow authority. Leader of Havant Borough Council, Councillor Gillian Harris, said: "We've worked hard to



The scheduled elections in May 2027 will now be for Havant Borough Council rather than to the shadow authority

represent the best interests of Havant in the LGR process and achieve the best outcome for residents in our borough. "Whilst this announcement does cause uncertainty, we will continue to work closely with local authority colleagues in Hampshire to ensure we are as ready as we can be to respond positively when the Government shares the results of its review." This means that elections for one third of seats at HBC will be held in May 2027. The Emsworth seat currently held by Cllr Reuben Mychaleckyj (Green Party) will be up for election. Prior to the government's U-turn it was envisaged that there would be elections for a new shadow SE Hants Unitary authority in May 2027. No elections for Hampshire CC are scheduled until 2029.

Local Government reform in Sussex



Decisions taken in 14 areas - including East Sussex and Brighton & Hove - are being reviewed and paused, alongside the two areas where Government had not yet made a final decision (West Sussex and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough). The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will now take place using the existing council boundaries, rather than electing the new shadow unitary councils originally envisaged under the LGR timetable. No date has yet been given for completion of the review. This means that in May 2027 elections will take place for all 36 seats at Chichester District Council (CDC). Lib-Dems currently hold 24 of the 36 seats. Full elections for all 66 seats at West Sussex CC were held in May 2026 (postponed from 2025). No elections are scheduled for WSCC until May 2029.

The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will now take place using the existing council boundaries

Mayoral election to be brought forward to May 2027?

Words by Jason Lewis, BBC Local Democracy Reporting Service

The Government has received a formal request to bring forward the region's first mayoral election from May 2028 to May 2027. Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) has written to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) requesting that ministers reconsider the election timetable. A HSCCA spokeswoman said the May 2028 mayoral election date was originally based on council mergers through local government reorganisation (LGR) taking place first. However, the LGR timetable changed earlier this month when communities secretary Angela Rayner withdrew the government's approval decision for Hampshire's restructure after receiving fresh legal advice. The government said council elections will go ahead in May 2027 on current boundaries. The HSCCA spokeswoman told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: "That changes the context. If LGR is no longer happening on the original timetable, HSCCA believes there is a clear case for holding the mayoral election in May 2027 instead. Mayoral candidates for the Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats have previously backed bringing the election forward. Holding a stand alone mayoral election in 2028 is estimated to cost between £6 million and £7 million."

Moore's Traditional Funeral Directors



We care for each family as we would for our own

Serving Our Local Community
We can help arrange all funeral services, from a non-attendance to a truly bespoke funeral.

All at very competitive prices yet maintaining a fully professional, caring service to our families.

302-304 Main Road, Southbourne | Tel: 01243 374644
11 North Street, Havant | Tel: 02392 175462
5 Hambledon Parade, Waterlooville | Tel: 02392 641366
info@mooresfd.co.uk | www.mooresfd.co.uk

Have your say on the future of local taxi licensing

Havant Borough Council is inviting residents, businesses and the taxi and private hire trade to share their views on proposed updates to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. The proposed changes seek to align our policy with updated national guidance and best practice, as well as with our neighbouring authorities. These proposals include:

- Introduction of regular mandatory safeguarding and disability awareness training for taxi drivers
- Introduction of drug screening for taxi drivers
- Increased minimum period to 2 years for licence holders to have held a driving licence

The changes are aimed at ensuring taxi users feel safe and secure while those in the taxi trade are equipped to operate in a protected manner. To view the proposed changes and have your say on the updated policy, visit www.havant.gov.uk/taxi.

The consultation is open until midnight on Monday 19 October 2026. Not online? Not a problem. Paper copies of the survey are available to collect from your local library or community centre, or from the council offices at The Public Service Plaza. You can also request a paper copy by calling 023 9244 6019.



News from our Councillors

Green Party

Cllr Grainne Rason, HBC & HCC

My new role as a Hampshire County councillor has a benefit for the community. I have a £5000 grant to help local residents with projects. Anyone can approach me with their project so long as it aims to give communities the best chance to thrive, keep people healthy and independent, keep people safe or provide innovative services. Grants are for amounts between £100 and £1000. I encourage applicants to submit a round figure if possible as any amount less than £100 at the end cannot be allocated. The scheme is open until the end of February.

To date, I have been able to give grants to Strong and Steady; Echoes of the Earth and to EcoArt Fest in Havant. I have just learnt the grant bid to Harbour Oysters has also been accepted. Congratulations to all groups. There is still money left so if you have a project, have a look at Hampshire County Council's website under County Councillor Grant Scheme and get in touch.

I was very pleased to be able to once again volunteer to help at Emsworth Horticultural show. Once again, I must congratulate all the volunteers and organisers. In my opinion the entries this year were really outstanding.

As we know, Hampshire is responsible for roads so I was very grateful that the cabinet



lead came to Havant and Emsworth this summer to see for himself our many issues here and in Havant with congestion, and the challenges of increasing traffic and new housing developments on our roads. This will be very helpful going forward.

The river Ems is one of the world's rare chalk streams and I am bringing a motion to Havant Borough full council this November to recognise the 'Rights of Rivers'. This year's River Ems survey showed there were still trout and eels there but the future looks poor unless we switch to focusing on real sustainability and have rivers flow as they should.

The EcoArt Fest was a great success and I saw quite a few Emsworth residents who had made the journey into Havant to learn more about Havant Community Energy. This group want to use renewable energy to benefit the community to lower residents' bills and make us more self-sufficient.

Finally, I am going to take this opportunity to remind residents that there is a Community toolkit for flooding on Hampshire's website and 13-20 October is Flood Action week. This year's El Niño is definitely disrupting the climate and makes flooding more likely. Resilience and adaptation are how we can prevent harm as much as possible.

The river Ems is one of the world's rare chalk streams.



Cllr Charles Robert, HBC

I have on several occasions heard myself say, "You are better off having a Local Plan as it offers more control". I've now had to have a rethink because the last minute inclusion of the Havant Road 'Horsefield' into the Local Plan was a complete disgrace and an insult to Emsworth residents, the Chichester Harbour community, and to the environment in general.

Voting for the site's removal from the Plan would have too much impact and change it significantly. Instead, there was a vote to send the Local Plan back for review. I hoped we would win that vote, and the Administration would see sense, take out the Horsefield and then offer up the revised Plan. The vote went to the wire and was lost due to the Mayor having a second casting vote.

I am moving on, indeed moving country, so my seat will at some point become available. I urge you when prospective councillors come knocking on your door that you vet them



most carefully to check they really do have your best interests at heart and that they are not just seeking to become elected. Emsworth still has many really amazing places that need protection. To those of you who haven't given up hope and who continue to work to secure all that Emsworth has to offer, I take my hat off to you.

Havant Green Party would like to thank Chas Robert for his excellent service to residents of Emsworth and the borough particularly on planning, licensing, the Climate and Environmental panel and on the recent Surfers against Sewage paddle out. We wish him well in his new location. Havant Green Party are requesting that Havant Borough Council hold a by-election election, to ensure Emsworth residents have full representation on the council.

(Cllr Grainne Rason)

Emsworth still has many really amazing places that need protection.

Cllr Reuben Mychaleckyj, HBC

Politics today is more fractured than ever. The moderate middle ground has dissolved, leaving us with a cultural landscape where the right and left have been pushed toward ideological extremes. Families find themselves sitting at silent dinner tables, and communities that once leaned on each other now fracture over hyper-partisan flashpoints.

Algorithm-driven feeds and outrage-focused media profit from our outrage, feeding us continuous streams of culture-war distractions. We spend endless hours arguing over sensationalised controversies that rarely impact our day-to-day lives—whether we can pay our rent, afford healthcare, or count on clean water. While we fight over online outrage, we hand over our collective agency. We have forgotten a fundamental truth: the working majority holds the ultimate power.



The genuine, organised power of a unified community is what the ruling establishment truly fears. And when we look at who benefits from this permanent state of distraction, the answer is clear: the billionaires. A divided public is an easily controlled public. When our neighbours are framed as our enemies, we fail to notice the consolidation of immense wealth, the erosion of labour rights, and the corporate capture of our public resources.

Let's ditch the terms far right and far left—I really do hate them. Their only job is to keep us divided.

When we see a social post with something we don't agree with, or people arguing in the comments section, let's not side with one or the other; let's try to remind people that we are stronger together. In the words of Maxi Jazz, "We come one".



We Fix Computers

Windows

Apple

Desktop Tablet Internet WiFi



emscom.co.uk

Unit 12d, The Wren Centre, Emsworth. PO10 7SU

01243 887757

JOIN THE ERF

Just £5 per adult

You can join the Emsworth Residents Forum online by going to:

<https://membermojo.co.uk/erf>

Community

RNLI

Words by Vivien Alexander, RNLI Branch Secretary, Emsworth and Havant

The RNLI Emsworth Quay Sale on Saturday 1 August 2026 was a great success. The Emsworth and Havant Branch raised £1799.74 on the day. Additionally a further £488.40 was raised from selling RNLI Souvenirs. Thank you to the many members of the public for your very generous contributions. We were very pleased to be able to welcome Hayling Island Lifeboat to the event and enjoy the company of four members of their Crew - Jack Anson, Coxswain; Janet Denman; Axel Koelemij and Georgia McKenzie.

Just a few special mentions, to our amazing volunteers: Angie and Oliver who have taken over the souvenirs from Rona Musker after many years of dedicated service; Barbara Rice with her nearly new stall; Selena Gaunt with



her jewellery; William on the tombola, Martyn on boat jumble and finally Karen and her amazing team who make the teas, coffee and cakes. A special thank you to Chris Hallam and all his team, especially Sandra Swaine for her 30 years of dedicated service as a volunteer for the RNLI (see below). We are also very appreciative for the support of Emsworth Sailing Club, Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club and Sailboat Deliveries, Emsworth, for their assistance with boat jumble. The support of Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club providing us with the use of their lovely facilities is always very much appreciated.

Coffee Morning Saturday 21 November 2026

We will be holding a Coffee Morning Saturday 21 November 2026 at Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club. The event will run from 9.45 am to 1pm. There will be stalls including RNLI Souvenirs, boat jumble, home produce, nearly new and a tombola. Coffee, tea and cake will be available from 9.45am to 11.45am. We would be delighted to welcome you.



RNLI 30 Year Service Medal Presentation

Chris Hallam, Chairman of Emsworth and Havant RNLI Fundraising Branch, presented a 30 year RNLI service medal to Sandie Swaine at our annual Quay Sale on Saturday 1 August. Sandie did not know she going to be presented with the medal, which made the event more of a special surprise. Afterwards she said, "It is amazing, looking back, how quickly 30 years has passed".

If you would like more information or to join us with our fundraising, please contact:
Charlotte_Magan@rnli.org.uk

Emsworth Good Neighbours

Words by Sue Ingram, Chair

Emsworth Good Neighbours congratulates the Good Neighbours Network on its Golden Jubilee as we too celebrate a milestone – our pearl anniversary of 30 years. We began as 'Good Neighbourly needs in Emsworth', becoming part of the GNN in 1996. We were given a grant of £100 from the Warblington Guild of Friends and £200 from East Havant and West Leigh groups which had disbanded. In 1998 the minutes state 'not as busy as expected' but by 2002 it appears there were 161 'drives', 24 parcel collections, 2 library book errands and 7 handyman tasks. Since then our group has expanded to the happy busy group we are today, with 50 volunteers and 170 clients, offering medical transport mostly to Portsmouth and Chichester hospitals but also to Guildford and Worthing on occasions. Befriending lonely and isolated people either by visiting regularly or telephone calls is an important part of our ministry, as is shopping. Many of our volunteers continued to help during the Covid epidemic even before vaccinations were offered, and we were pleased to help our local GNN groups who were unable to continue during this time. Recently one of our volunteers was invited to a client's 100th birthday party. We have several centenarians as clients; the oldest is 105. Emsworth is a good place to live.

www.emsworthgoodneighbours.com
Part of the Good Neighbours Network GNN

Young carers say thank you

Words by Vicki King on behalf of the Southbourne Lions



Southbourne Lions were delighted to receive an invitation from the Young Carers at Bourne Community College for them to show off their College facilities and to provide us with afternoon tea as a thank you.

Several young carers enthusiastically showed us all round the College and we were very impressed with the quality of the classroom environment, studious behaviour of all the pupils and the friendly staff - and to top it all we were treated to cups of tea and delicious scones made by the pupils in their very impressive catering department.

Southbourne Lions, through generous donations from our local community, have been able to provide an annual visit to the pantomime at Chichester Festival Theatre and an annual activities day at The Christian Youth Enterprise. The Lions Club members

are always ready to organise these trips as they bring so much pleasure to such a worthy group of young people who are constantly helping their loved ones at home.

Local MP Alan Mak meets local church leaders and thanks them for their work in the community

Alan Mak has met local church leaders from across the Havant Constituency and thanked them for their work in the community. The meeting in Emsworth, organised by the Evangelical Alliance, included representatives from Emsworth Baptist Church, Beacon Church in Havant, Church of the Good

Shepherd in Crookhorn and The Bridge Church on Hayling.

Mr Mak praised the churches for playing an important role in their communities, providing support such as food banks to help those in need. He said they also acted as a valuable focal point for residents of all ages, providing activities ranging from holiday clubs to coffee mornings and lunch clubs. Mr Mak added: "This was a chance to thank local church leaders, listen to their views and pledge my continued support. As a Christian, I'm keen to help churches and their members in the community. Church leaders and volunteers do great work helping residents, organising events and contributing to local life."

Mr Mak praised the churches for providing services such as food banks, holiday clubs and coffee mornings



Community

Local MP Alan Mak continues campaign for Banking Hub in Emsworth

Local MP Alan Mak is continuing his campaign for a Banking Hub in Emsworth.

He spoke in Parliament during a debate on the need for face-to-face banking in rural and coastal areas. Mr Mak said: "The last Conservative Government legislated to protect access to cash, but I think we now all recognise the need to legislate for access to face-to-face banking."

After several years of campaigning by Mr Mak with the support of residents, a new Banking Hub in Havant is now open for business. It means people in Havant and the surrounding area have access to a range of services from major banks including Barclays, Lloyds, Halifax and NatWest. The new shared Banking Hub provides a counter service for deposits, withdrawals and paying utility bills.

There is also a community banker service where customers are able to speak face-to-face with their own bank about more complex matters on the day their bank is in the Hub. Mr Mak is proposing a new law to expand Britain's network of Banking Hubs so that customers have more access to face-to-face banking services.

His In-Person Banking Services Bill would help areas such as Emsworth, where there are no physical bank branches left, to get their own Banking Hubs.

Under current rules, communities are often deemed to have sufficient banking provision if



Alan Mak visiting a temporary Banking Hub

there is access to cash, for example if there's a Post Office or cash machine within one kilometre of the local high street. His aim is to ensure every town or village with a population over 10,000 is eligible for face-to-face banking services via a Banking Hub.

Havant Banking Hub, 39 Market Parade, Havant. Opening hours; 9 am -5 pm Monday to Friday

Editor. Emsworth had three banks up until 2014. Barclays and Lloyds closed in 2014. Nat West closed in 2017.

Another close shave for Emsworth Memorial Garden

Words by Sarah Sanderson

In 2024 the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden came close to ceasing to exist, due to a lack of gardeners, and an article in The Ems proved crucial in finding new ones. This year's Remembrance Service was about to be the last, as we needed both a new Treasurer and Secretary, and I had prepared an article

appealing for help for this issue. We have been very lucky to now have Rob Turner as our new Treasurer, and Phoebe Eberle as our new Secretary, both people who do an enormous amount for the community anyway. The Memorial Garden will be able to continue.



Juliet Walker

Remembrance Day
The annual Remembrance Day service will take place at Emsworth Memorial Garden (corner of Emsworth Recreation Ground, Horndean Road, Emsworth) on Wednesday 11 November at 1050.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OF WARBLINGTON WITH EMSWORTH

Deep Sea Divers Holiday Club

Around 75 children joined us at St James' School at the end of the summer holidays for Deep Sea Divers holiday club, an underwater adventure filled with Bible stories, fun activities and games. Next year's holiday club will be Kingdom Builders, bringing the usual mix of fun, games and activities, with the addition of Lego. More info to follow.



Dates for your diaries

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November
• St James' Church – an all-age Remembrance service at 10 am followed by an afternoon service at 2.45pm with uniformed organisations.
• St Thomas à Becket Church – a Remembrance service, starting at 10.55am.

Christmas at St James' Church
• Christingle Service, Sunday 6 December, 10am. A joyful celebration for all ages as we celebrate Jesus coming as the light for our world.
• Carol Service by Candlelight, Sunday 13 December, 6.30pm. A beautiful evening of choral music and Christmas readings.
• Crib Services, Christmas Eve, 4.30pm & 6.30pm. Bring the family along at 4.30pm for a fun, interactive retelling of the nativity story, or join us for a quieter, more reflective version at 6.30pm.
• Midnight Communion, Christmas Eve, 11.30pm. Traditionally a time for Christians to rejoice and welcome the birth of Jesus.
• Christmas Day Celebration, 10am.

Christmas at St Thomas à Becket Church
• Carol Services, Sunday 20 December. Join us for services at 11 am and 6.30 pm, perfect for getting into the Christmas spirit. The evening service is candlelit.
• 'Midnight' Communion, Christmas Eve, 9 pm. A first Communion of Christmas, but at an earlier time for those who prefer not to be out too late.
• Christmas Day Celebration, 11 am.

Alpha course
The churches in Emsworth, Westbourne and Southbourne are inviting you to try Alpha early in the New Year. Meet new people and explore the Christian faith together. Alpha is for anyone who is curious – no judgement and no pressure. Choose from evening sessions in The Pastoral Centre, Emsworth, or daytime sessions (with childcare creche available) at The Meeting Place in Westbourne. Please email alphaemsworth@gmail.com for further details.

For full info on everything that's happening in the parish, please visit:
www.warblington-withemsworth.org



Remembrance Sunday parade and service on 8 November 2026



Juliet Walker

1:30 pm Assemble at Emsworth Baptist car Park.

1:45 pm Move off and form up by Lillywhites Garage (bottom of Queen Street)

2:15 pm Parade moves off, order given by Parade Marshall, follow route to arrive at St James'

2:35 pm Parade halts outside Church Hall

2:45 pm Church Service in St James' Church

3:35 pm Parade forms up outside St James' Hall to return back to Palmers Road.

In attendance in the parade: Horndean Marching Band, The Army, Uniformed groups, Scouts, Guides etc

Ems Valley u3a 20th anniversary event

Words by Rod Lipscombe, photos by Juliet Walker

On a very warm afternoon on 3 July members of Ems Valley u3a (University of the Third Age) gathered at the Friends Community Garden in Emsworth to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the organisation. It was designed as a very informal event and members were able to drop in at any stage during the afternoon. Those attending included founding members, as well as those who have joined in the succeeding years.

There was a very short ceremony and, after a few words of welcome, members were invited to raise their glasses as a toast of "Happy Birthday" was proposed by Chairman Rod Lipscombe. The Chairman then cut the celebration cake, slices of which were then offered in addition to cup-cakes. All those attending agreed it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Ems Valley u3a, which serves Emsworth and the surrounding area, has had a very successful 20 years and now has over 500 members who are able to participate in the 50 interest groups to learn and have fun together. Additionally, there is a monthly meeting where guest speakers present a wide range of topics.

Like all u3as across the country, Ems Valley u3a is run by members, for members. Whilst most members no longer work full time there is no age limit for membership.



Above: Chairman, Rod and Vice-Chairman, Andrea
Below: Guests included John Gains, one of the founder members



Ems Valley u3a welcomes new members. To find out more, including how to join, see the web page <https://emsvalley.u3asite.uk/>



Award Winning Care

Trusted care and companionship in the comfort of YOUR home

Services Include

- Personal care
- Companionship
- Dementia care
- Overnight care
- Medication support
- 24/7 Live-in care

Call 02393 878777 for a **FREE** care assessment



www.rightathome.co.uk/havant





CHIROPRACTIC MASSAGE THERAPY SPORTS THERAPY OSTEOPATHY TALKING THERAPY

01243 956 986
contact@tidalhealth.co.uk
www.tidalhealth.co.uk
2 Palmer's Road, Emsworth, PO10 7DL



Community

Emsworth Artists Summer Exhibition

Words by Jan Copsey

The Emsworth Artists had another successful Exhibition this summer with well over 800 visitors and sales enabling us to donate a similar amount as last year to the Community Centre. Our internal Competitions voted for by our visitors were as follows:

The Sydney Stokes Award for the favourite Exhibit

- 1st Sue Long with *Memories*
- 2nd Nadia Day with *Sailing Club Fun*
- 3rd Rachel Parham with *Otter Pup*
- joint 4th was Jan Copsey with *Sweare Deep to the Bridge* and Jack Davies with *Lion Criminal Scene*

The Mountford Watercolour Award

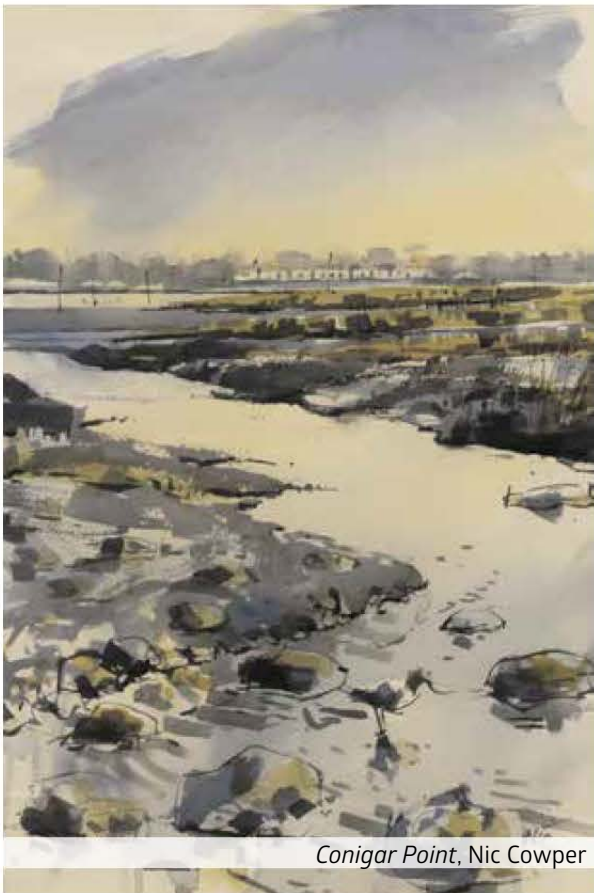
- 1st Nic Cowper with *Conigar Point*
- 2nd Dave Evans with *Eileen takes the lead*
- 3rd Angela Loader with *Sunset over Walderton*
- joint 4th was Jan Copsey *Sunset over Portchester* and Marian Forster with *Windy day on Emsworth Foreshore*



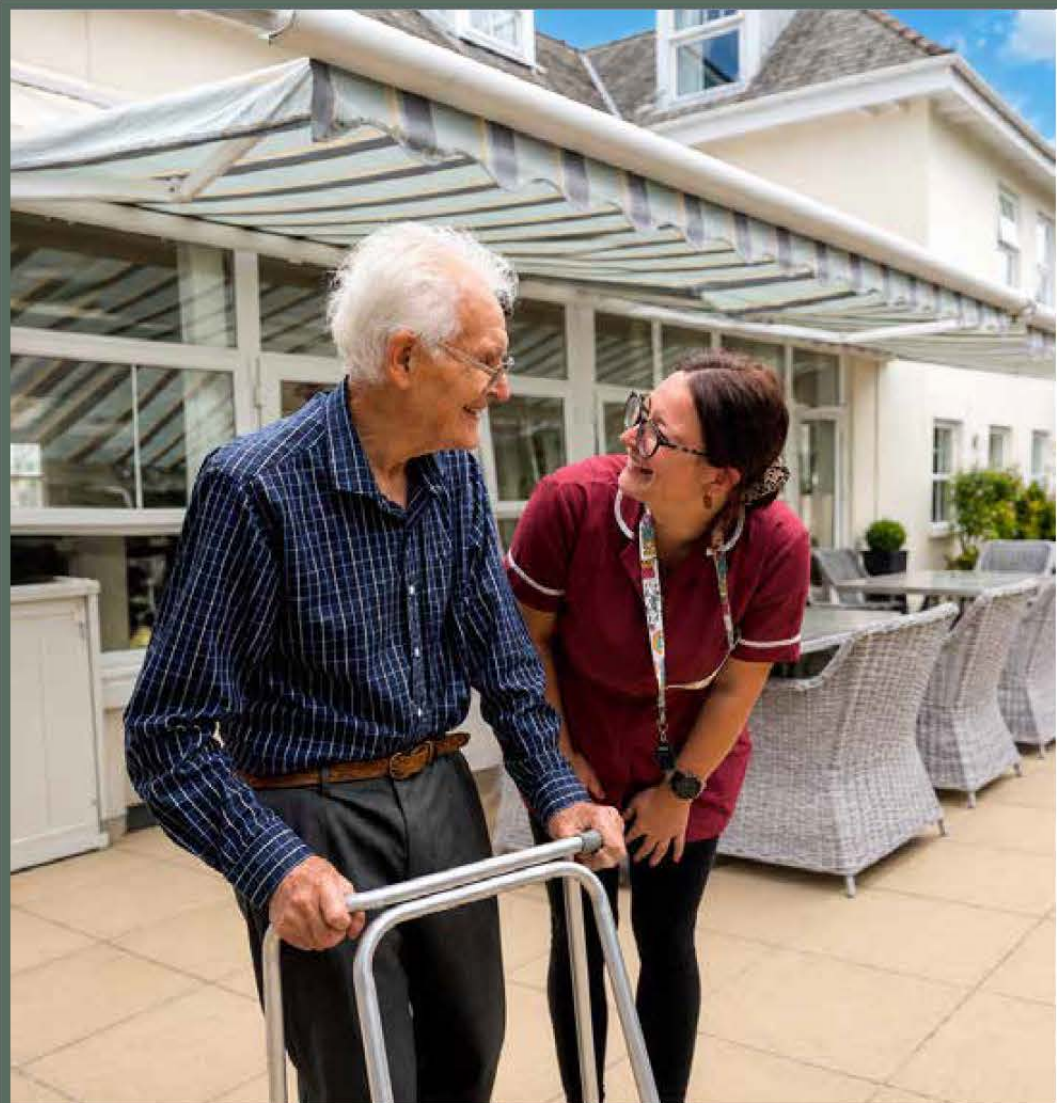
Memories, Sue Long



Carol Price and Marian Forster



Conigar Point, Nic Cowper



Quality Care and Comfort This Autumn

At Springfield Care, we provide exceptional, person-centred care across our welcoming homes in Springfield, Prinsted and our Independent Living Lodges.

As autumn arrives, residents can enjoy comfortable living spaces, time outdoors in our beautiful gardens and nutritious home-cooked meals, freshly prepared with care. Our dedicated team is always on hand to provide the individual support, companionship and reassurance each resident needs.

With a warm, homely atmosphere and a genuine focus on wellbeing, we help residents feel comfortable, cared for and at home every day.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ♥ Person centred & respite care | ♥ Comfortable living spaces |
| ♥ Residential & assisted living lodges | ♥ Varied activities programme |
| ♥ Landscaped gardens | ♥ Nutritious home cooked food |

Call or visit today to learn more about our Springfield and Prinsted Care Homes

Springfield: 01243 372 445 Prinsted: 01243 372 024



www.springfieldcare.co.uk



Emsworth Show

Words by Sarah Walker, EHS Show Chair. Photographs by Juliet Walker

What an amazing show we all enjoyed on August Bank Holiday at the One Church grounds. A huge thank you to all our visitors, stallholders, entertainers, food traders and exhibitors. The show relies on our small army of dedicated volunteers, all 200 of them, and of course without them, the show simply wouldn't happen. Thankfully the sun eventually shone, and one small passing shower didn't spoil a great British summer's day out for everyone involved.

Dywn Stepien, Chair of Emsworth Residents Forum, opened the show this year, and visitors soon got to enjoy the main arena acts, from the Mighty Smith to Melana Dance and the wonderful Touch & Go agility show. There was something for everyone, with live music, the ever-popular Mary Poppins Dog Competition and plenty of entertainment for the children including Punch and Judy.

At the heart of the show as always is the Emsworth Horticultural Marquee. Even with the drought conditions experienced this summer we had an amazing 850 exhibits, 300 more than last year. Thank you to everyone who entered - the community excelled themselves this year. The 2700 visitors who enjoyed the Marquee had the wonderful experience of seeing the usual high-quality produce, flowers, crafts and baked goods we have all come to expect at the Emsworth Show.



It was so good to see our community, and their pets, out in force. Thank you once again to everyone who came along, lent a hand and made the day what it was.



Environment

Fields of dreams appeal success:
Two new sites acquired and over
£0.5 million raised

The Chichester Harbour Trust is delighted to announce the successful completion of the Fields of Dreams appeal, raising over £525,000 to protect two special sites within the Chichester Harbour National Landscape. The two sites are at Chidham and Birdham and purchase by the Trust ensures their permanent protection for the benefit of nature and the environment, and for the benefit of local communities and all Harbour visitors.

It was no mean feat to raise such a significant sum in under six months, working against tight deadlines to secure the purchase of the two properties, which together cover five acres of land, and bring the total area protected by the Trust to 380 acres across 17 individual sites. This land will now be safeguarded forever, providing peace of mind for local people that the sites will be cared for and kept both for nature and for local people and visitors to enjoy in perpetuity.

The first site is a 1.3-acre former flower nursery in Chidham, previously known as Alpha/Harbour Nurseries in Chidham Lane. The site is currently covered in disused glasshouses and storage structures, which will be cleared and restored to create a

small community nature reserve and orchard. It is hoped that a wildlife haven will be created, encouraging farmland birds and butterflies, with wheelchair-friendly access for all to enjoy the experience. In addition, the site's remote location will provide the opportunity to enjoy the dark skies with the stargazing opportunities it brings.

The second site is the Church Field at Birdham, a 3.2-acre community site in the centre of Birdham village. The land was secured by a group of residents 13 years ago to protect it for the village, and the meadows and woodland are enjoyed by the local community, including the church and scouts groups. The 'Triangle' wildlife area is important for water voles – a critically endangered species – as well as numerous bird and insect species.

The Chichester Harbour Trust received contributions from nine grant-making bodies and 24 individual donors to achieve our goal of securing these sites.

More information can be found on the Trust's website about how to help support future work by making a donation: www.chichesterharbourtrust.org.uk

A small community nature reserve and orchard where wildlife can flourish will replace the disused glasshouses on the 1.3 acre Harbour Nurseries site at Chidham



Brian Bracher @Compass Aerial Photography

Local Sailing Club Achieves National
Platinum Environmental Award

Words by Caroline Fisk

Emsworth Sailing Club is delighted to announce that its 2026 Junior Regatta has been awarded Platinum Clean Regattas accreditation through the Sailors for the Sea programme, the highest level of recognition for environmentally responsible sailing events. The achievement is particularly significant because the Club was advised that Bronze would be a realistic target for a first application. Instead, the Club exceeded expectations by achieving the programme's highest level of accreditation on its first submission.

The Clean Regattas programme recognises sailing events that reduce their environmental impact through practical measures such as eliminating single-use plastics, improving recycling and waste management, protecting local waters and wildlife, encouraging sustainable travel and promoting environmental awareness among participants.

Located within the nationally protected landscape of Chichester Harbour, Emsworth



Sailing Club is committed to safeguarding the unique environment in which it sails. The Platinum award reflects months of planning and collaboration led by the Club's Environment Working Group, with representatives from across the Club working together to embed sustainability into every aspect of the Junior Regatta. The Club also recognises the outstanding support of its members, volunteers, competitors, parents and visitors. From bringing reusable water bottles and reducing waste to supporting recycling initiatives and respecting the harbour's wildlife, everyone played an important part in achieving the accreditation.

The Club views this award as an important milestone rather than a final destination. Environmental sustainability will continue to be embedded across future events as Emsworth Sailing Club works to protect the waters, wildlife and landscapes that make sailing in Chichester Harbour so special.

Summer 2026 was the UK's hottest on record

Figures for the months of June, July and August show that the average mean temperature - which includes day and overnight temperatures - was 16.5C, the warmest on record in a dataset going back to 1884. It follows a spring and summer of persistent heat with five widespread heatwaves and 40 days of temperatures above 30°C, smashing the previous record of 34 days.

Will we look back on the summer of 2026 with the same nostalgia that many of us older people attach to the glorious summer of 1976? In 1976 there were 15 consecutive days from 23 June to 7 July that temperatures reached 32.2°C (90°F) somewhere in the United

Kingdom. There was very little rain with drought conditions in many parts of the UK.

The summer of 2026 was notable for blue skies, the almost complete lack of rain from mid-June until late August and very high temperatures. We enjoyed a Mediterranean summer with temperatures of at least 25°C recorded most days from late June until late August.

Late June was particularly hot with temperatures of 34°C recorded at the Met Office weather station at Thorney Island. This was just a little below the highest temperature recorded locally since 1959 which was 34.9°C in August 2003.

EMSWORTH BUILDERS

Established 1977

General builders carrying out work in and around Emsworth and surrounding areas

Extensions | loft conversions renovations | alterations



TRUST MARK



Build Assure

01243 371989

0777 860 3250

enquiries@emsworthbuilders.co.uk

28 High Street, Emsworth PO10 7AW



Emsworth Deli

EST. 1999

LOCALLY OWNED FINE FOODS & DRINKS DELICATESSEN

We have a wide selection of quality products that we're sure you'll just love. Stop by to have a browse

Takeaway Food & Drink

Selection of Wines & Gins

Store Cupboard Essentials

Gift Hampers

Food Platters

1a West Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DU T. 01243 389181

www.emsworthdeli.co.uk info@emsworthdeli.co.uk

P.J.BALDRY

Your Local Roofing Specialist

Established 1988

Complete Roofing Services



Tiled / Slate roof renewal.

Flat roof renewal, leadwork.

Chimney repair & repointing.

UPVC Soffits, Facias & Gutters.

Slipped or broken Tiles / Slates.

Velux Roof Lights.

Gutter cleaning.

Moss removal.

42 Horndean Road,

Emsworth. 01243 372253

Environment

Hampshire Farm Meadows footbridge replacement works set to begin



Works are set to begin at Hampshire Farm Meadows to replace three ageing timber footbridges. The £78,000 project, funded through the Community

Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 developer contributions, will replace the bridges that have reached the end of their life. Works began on 21 September and will take approximately four weeks to complete. To help minimise disruption, only one bridge will be closed at any one time, ensuring that two bridges remain open throughout the project. As a result, no diversion routes will be required and access across Hampshire Farm Meadows will be maintained during the works. The bridges provide important links throughout the wider open space, helping residents and visitors enjoy the natural environment and recreational opportunities available around the meadows. The existing bridges were originally installed around nine years ago as part of the neighbouring development, before Havant Borough Council adopted the site in 2017.

Travellers invaded Southleigh Recreation Ground

On Friday 7 August a large number of travellers occupied Southleigh Recreation Ground. Around 20 caravans and mobile homes plus cars and vans illegally camped there until the evening of Tuesday 11 August. It is believed that HBC incurred substantial legal costs in getting a court order to evict them. It is difficult to secure this site as Norse SE need access to mow the grass. This was the first time we have had such an incursion in Emsworth since July 2019 when travellers stayed at Hampshire Farm Meadows for a few days. (Ed. The Portsmouth News reported that there were 50 caravans. I counted around 20)

ERF public meeting: What has community energy ever done for us?

7 p.m., Thursday 19 November, Emsworth Community Centre.

Speaker: Mark Holliday of Havant Community Energy.

Havant Community Energy is developing a

project to install solar panels on the former landfill at Broadmarsh that could power over 1,000 homes, as well as pursuing solar panel installation and energy efficiency measures for Havant community centres. The talk will cover these projects as well as the future of community energy and what this might look like in Emsworth. Want to know more about heat networks, virtual power plants, geothermal energy, long term storage and resilience? All these are possible in Emsworth in conjunction with the usual rooftop solar, wind and biomass. The emphasis is on the community coming together to develop their own heat and power. Mark Holliday is currently studying for an MSc in the economics and policy of energy and the environment at UCL. Along with 600 other groups in the UK, Havant Community Energy aims to develop renewable power and heat in the community and to use the benefit from this for social, economic or environmental purposes. This meeting replaces the meeting on 19 October, advertised in the last edition of The Ems, which has been cancelled.

Cost of Havant Thicket Reservoir soars to more than £800 million



Increased funding would expand the Havant Thicket Reservoir to support water supplies for over half a million people. The cost of building the reservoir will more than double to over £800million because of the controversial water recycling project and ground works issues, it has been revealed. Ofwat is set to approve plans to increase the funding for the project by around an

extra £500m. A large portion of the increase - £125 million - is as a result of the plans to add recycled waste water to it via a new treatment centre which would be created at Budds Farm in Havant. Challenging conditions of the ground has also led to the need for a major redesign of the project, with an extra £186 million needed for a new embankment design. This is because it was not safe to proceed with the original design as a result of unforeseen shear surfaces and sand formations.

Ofwat has published a draft decision outlining increased funding to around £823 million, compared with the original allowance of £339 million. A public consultation on this has now been launched, with the site proposed to be in use in 2034, five years later than originally planned. Portsmouth Water is building the facility primarily for Southern Water's Hampshire customers. Ofwat has said that the expanded plans would 'unlock a more than fivefold increase in the scheme's potential water supply capacity' compared to early designs for the scheme allowing up to around 111 megalitres of water to be supplied each day instead of the originally proposed 21 megalitres.

Emsworth Eco Fair – Saturday 17 October

Hosted by Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club and Emsworth Sailing Club. Join us for a fun and inspiring day celebrating our local environment and the community initiatives helping to protect it.

When: Saturday 17 October, 10am to 1pm

Where: Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club and Emsworth Sailing Club

This free, family-friendly event will feature:

- Interactive stalls and displays
- Environmental information and advice
- Local conservation and community projects
- Activities for children and adults
- Access to both sailing clubs
- Refreshments

Whether you are passionate about environmental issues or simply curious to learn more about local projects, there will be something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming residents and visitors alike for a morning of learning, sharing ideas, and celebrating Emsworth's unique natural environment.

SOLENT SPARKY

NEIL - 07895 825580

ELECTRICIAN

Based in Emsworth,
Serving Hants & W.Sussex
Qualified, Insured & Reliable

Electrical Upgrades,
Board Changes,
Rewires & Alterations
Repairs & Safety
Certificates (EICR)

Additional Sockets
Inc. Outdoor,
Amendments
and Testing

Indoor & Garden
Lighting,
Modern/Contemporary
Vintage & Retro,
Switches & Dimmers

get a bespoke free quote!
www.solentsparky.co.uk
solentsparky@outlook.com

KPS Services Ltd

General Handyman

07980 543157

keith@kpsservicesltd.co.uk

Find us on Facebook

Free no obligation quotes

- Handyman Services
- Painting & Decorating
- Gardening Services
- Property Maintenance
- Patio & Paving Installation
- PVC Cleaning
- Jet Pressure Washing
- Gutter Cleaning & Repairs
- Patio Cleaning & Repairs
- Shed Building
- Flat Pack Furniture Assembly
- Facia & Soffits
- Fence Repairs & Installation
- and much more

Hollybank House

Emsworth

Weddings, Funerals

Private events

Bed & Breakfast

info@hollybankhouse.com

01243 377866

EVERYONE WELCOME FREE ENTRY

Emsworth Eco Fair

Celebrating 5 Years

Connecting the community for a greener Emsworth

Saturday 17 October 2026
10am to 1pm

Hosted by Emsworth Slipper
& Emsworth Sailing Clubs

Learn about local action for change
Meet your local environmental groups
Enjoy activities for all ages

Environment

New Season Brings New Opportunities for Harbour Oysters

Words by Lottie Johns, Harbour Oysters

As summer draws to a close, marine conservation group Harbour Oysters is gearing up for another busy season of oyster restoration, monitoring and community engagement.

An exciting 2025-26 season saw the installation of ~26,000 oysters in local waters. These oysters filter around 4 million litres of seawater every day and over the summer months they will have been breeding, repopulating the once abundant (and famous!) wild stocks which, in turn, will help to restore our local marine environments.

They are also celebrating the launch of a new operations 'hub' at Emsworth Yacht Harbour. The unit will help the group's expanding installation programme, while also building public awareness and understanding of marine conservation, local biodiversity and Emsworth's historic connection to the oyster industry. Harbour Oysters thanks Emsworth Residents Forum for their help funding the signage, which will increase awareness within the Emsworth community of the ecological importance of native oysters and their role in local maritime heritage.

As Harbour Oysters prepares to begin its 2026-27 season of restoration work, the organisation has also announced an important new chapter with the launch of Harbour Oysters UK CIC, a Community Interest Company designed to expand its environmental and community-focused projects. Alongside its ongoing conservation efforts, Harbour Oysters says the new CIC will allow it to work with a broader range of partners and deliver projects that require a different approach to its existing business model.

"Our oysters will stay the same. Our commitment to improving our coastal environment will stay the same. What's changing is our ability to deliver more projects," the organisation said. While Harbour Oysters



The unit will help build public awareness and understanding of marine conservation



Volunteer oyster-scrubbing events, which form an important part of the project's biosecurity process, will begin again in November



Ltd will continue its work with marine operators, promoting nature-based solutions and supporting the developing blue economy, the CIC will focus on delivering community and environmental initiatives that create lasting local benefits.

The launch comes as the organisation prepares a busy autumn and winter programme. Volunteer oyster-scrubbing events, which form an important part of the project's biosecurity process, will begin again in November, while work experience opportunities, educational talks, school visits and community events are also planned.

This new season will see the team both excitingly install new sites and also return to existing oyster restoration sites to carry out essential maintenance and monitoring work, including assessing how their oysters have coped with the unusually warm summer conditions. Now with sites reaching from Portsmouth to Sussex Bay, they say 'the world is your oyster' and with the new season underway and a new Community Interest Company in place, for Harbour Oysters it really is!

The real Winter Fuel letter - and the fake text

By Stephen Pollard, Silverpost

Every autumn the Winter Fuel Payment brings two things: a real letter through the door, and fake texts on the phone.



HMRC do not text or email you for bank details

For most people the payment is automatic. You do not apply and you do not confirm anything. A letter arrives in October or November telling you how much you will get and which account it will go into, and the money follows in November or December.

The fake text looks something like this: "DWP: Your Winter Fuel Payment of £300 is ready. Confirm your bank details at the link by Friday or the payment will be cancelled." It is urgent, it has a link, and it wants your bank details. HMRC received more than 25,000 reports of Winter Fuel Payment scams in twelve months, and says it will never text or email you asking for bank details or a repayment.

Some people will get genuine post from HMRC about the payment being taken back through their tax code. That is real. What HMRC will not do is text or email you for bank details.

If a text arrives:

- Do not tap the link and do not reply.
- Forward it to 7726, or to 60599 if it claims to be from HMRC, then delete it.
- If you are unsure, ring the Winter Fuel Payment Centre yourself on 0800 731 0160. Never use a number given in the message.
- If you think you have given away bank details, ring 159 to reach your bank straight away.

I built Silverpost for my own parents, so they could check things for themselves without feeling a burden, and so I would know when a scammer tried it on. You send any suspicious text, email or letter to a WhatsApp number - 0330 223 8242 - and get a plain English answer. The first month is free, then £7.99 a month or £79 a year. An iPhone app is on its way. silverpost.co.uk

I.T. SOLUTIONS FOR HOMES AND BUSINESSES



rascom.it
sales • service • support

- Repairs and upgrades
- Desktop and laptop sales
- Home visits and remote support
- System healthchecks
- Data recovery
- Windows and Apple support
- Selection of stock always available
- No confusing jargon!



5% DISCOUNT ON ALL HARDWARE SALES*
QUOTE 'THE-EMS' WHEN ORDERING

Free diagnostics

No-fix, no-fee service

Call us today on: 01243 374585

Email: support@rascom-it.co.uk Visit www.rascom-it.co.uk

Units: B5-B6 The Wren Centre, Westbourne Road, Emsworth, PO10 7SU

Hawthorn

Electrics





Your local approved electricians for electrical installation and maintenance work you can trust. Free estimates & quotations, fully qualified and insured engineers.

We can also offer free local delivery of a range of electrical items that can be viewed and ordered via our online web shop

www.HawthornShop.co.uk





www.electricalworks.co.uk

www.HawthornShop.co.uk



01243 372988

Community Centre

Emsworth Community Centre

The Regular Activities

We are back to business as usual. The Assembly room is looking great after its restoration post fire damage. We had a very well attended grand opening and it is now out for hire again with lots of interest. We are now hiring for wedding receptions and special occasions, at a budget price.

We have four rooms ready for hire, so If you fancy starting a new activity or want to extend an existing activity please get in touch:

www.emsworthcommunitycentre
Info@emsouthcommunitycentre.org.uk or 01243 373805. Office hours 10:00 -14:00, Mon – Fri. We are located behind the Fire Station on North Street, through the public car park into Emsworth Community Centre's private carpark (limited parking).

AGM
Thurs 29 Oct, 7 pm; everyone is welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards and time to discuss all the issues; this will be in the galley café.

Pre - Christmas Craft Fair
31 Oct; 10am start
We have a wide variety of stalls. The

Men's Shed and The Hole in the Wall Pottery will also be exhibiting and the Art Group will be showing their work throughout the weekend. Entrance is free. We are also keeping it in the community by hiring a local business offering a refreshment kiosk, which will be in the carpark.

Seasonal Quiz night
20 November. This is always a favourite. There is a raffle with all the stores in Emsworth contributing towards the prizes. Quiz tickets sell fast, so get yours quickly, either online or from the centre office. There is no bar; please bring your own drink and nibbles.

Macmillan Coffee morning
20 Oct; 10 am.
Our Yearly Macmillan Coffee morning is taking place in our Galley Café.



The Centre Cinema, Films for a Fiver (including a drink and biscuit)
Tuner 12 October (15) 107 mins
The Devil wears Prada 2 26 October (12a) 119mins
Midwinter Break 9 November (12a) 90mins
Rose of Nevada 23 November (PG13) 114mins
Our Community Cinema is at the heart of our social activity programme. Showings are 3:30 and 7:30 always on a Monday but not regular dates. Tickets available online and in the Centre office.

We also have the Forget me not Cinema for people living with Dementia and their carers on the last Friday of the month; 1.30pm. £5 per ticket (carers free); free refreshments for all.
The King and I 30 October
My Fair Lady 27 November
Love Actually 18 December



Emsworth Art Group member fights illness



Adrian Weston, Emsworth Art Group

After a long illness Adrian Weston, one of the stalwart members of the Emsworth Art Group, has returned to continue his painting. Adrian had a serious stroke just after Christmas, followed by another one the next day. He was seriously ill, but treated superbly at Queen Alexandra Hospital, he says. He is now getting back to normal, holding a paint brush and will soon be producing more paintings. He says that he fought hard to recover and never gave up. His message to anyone in a similar position is 'Don't give in'.

Winter Exhibition
The next big event for the group will be their Winter Exhibition on Saturday 31 October - Sunday 1 November, in Emsworth Community Centre. It is always popular with visitors and the members enjoy the busy weekend displaying their recent work. The group meets every Wednesday morning throughout the year, from 9.15 to 11.15 at Emsworth Community Centre. It is very a popular group and has a short waiting list for new members. If you would like to see them at work, come along any Wednesday morning to chat about joining.

If you wish to be put on the waiting list contact the secretary, Trevor Smith: atrevorsmith@gmail.com.



For a free initial consultation call:
01243 432 430

Looking after individuals, companies and trustees for over 30 years.
Providing professional Independent Advice on:

Mortgages¹
(and Equity Release)²

Life Assurance

Pensions and Investments

Estate Planning³

It is important to note that the value of investments can fall as well as rise. You may not get back what you put in.

- Risk Warnings**
- 1. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your Mortgage
 - 2. This is a Lifetime Mortgage. To understand the features and risks, ask for a personalised illustration.
 - 3. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate Estate Planning.

Wemsfest

Wemsfest Updates

Words by Mark Ringwood

Disappointed but future bodes well

Although Emsworth was unsuccessful in its bid to be shortlisted for UK Town of Culture 2028 the team behind it now have a blueprint for 'Emsworth 800' which will celebrate 800 years since a settlement was first established in the Emsworth area.

Bid co-ordinator Mark Ringwood said, "We always knew it would be a tough ask to compete against what amounted to more than 400 entries nationwide but the very fact we entered has stood us in good stead for a year-long programme of activities in 2028. That so many organisations and individuals supported the bid means that we have a very strong foundation to create many memorable events which will involve all areas in, and ages of, our community. Early in 2027 we will start to bring these strands together."

Ticket sales buoyant for Wemsfest autumn season and beyond

The WemsFest autumn programme is bucking the disappointing national trend for poor ticket sales. Featuring 17 events encompassing 8 different venues the programme features musicians from the British Isles, Gambia, Mali, Spain, USA, Canada, and the Caribbean.

USA band Tophouse sold-out their Westbourne show on 14 November through word of mouth within 3 days of going on sale. Popular regulars Fairport Convention (27/10) rub shoulders with fellow folk musicians Imar (3/11), Blazin' Fiddles (17/11), Rioghnach Connolly & Honeyfeet (20/11), and The Unthanks (13/12). Anglo-Chilean group Quimantu use their Chidham show to launch their new album (24/10). Quebecois trio Genticorum make their WemsFest debut (28/11), and three different sets of African Artists help commemorate Black History Month in October – Musa Mboob & Xam Xam



Fairport Convention

(9/10), Habib Koite, and Sura Susso (31/10). The former will also be undertaking schools workshops.

Looking ahead to 2027, the 5th Emsworth Blues Festival takes place on Friday 15 & Saturday 16 January. The two mainstays of Steeleye Span – Maddy Prior & Peter Knight perform on 19 February – and Michael Weston King (whose granddaughter was murdered in the Southport dance class killings) makes an emotional return for a performance with his wife Lou Dagleish (13/2).

https://www.wemsfest.com



Habib Koite



Imar

Cllr Tracie Bangert CDC and WSCC

Tracie visits WSCC Fire and Rescue training centre



Left to right: Tracie Bangert, Deputy Fire Chief Sabrina Pennington-Down, with other fire officers

I was given a tour, along with other WSCC Cabinet Members, of Platinum House which is the training centre for the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, situated in Horsham. The visit, on 18 August, came during a prolonged spell of warm, dry weather that has seen fire and rescue services across the nation respond to a record-breaking number of wildfires. We were given a tour which provided us with the opportunity to see first-hand the facilities, equipment and training used to prepare firefighters for a wide range of emergency situations.

We learnt about the capabilities of the station's state-of-the-art live fire training building. The facility incorporates different training environments that immerse firefighters in realistic operational scenarios in a safe and controlled setting. It includes a cold smoke training tower, an immersive incident command suite and a road traffic collision training area. Platinum House cost £23.9m to build, was opened in 2023 and is one of the most advanced training centres in the UK. We were also given the chance to experience the aerial ladder platform, gaining a unique view of the site, although as I suffer from vertigo I had to decline this experience!

The tour highlighted the crucial role Platinum House plays in supporting operational readiness and helping fire and rescue personnel develop and maintain the skills needed to respond effectively when emergencies occur, ensuring the service remains ready to protect residents when they need it most. We welcomed the opportunity to speak with firefighters and staff throughout the visit, asking questions and learning more about the challenges and achievements of the service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Fire and Rescue Service for everything they do to keep us safe.



M REED & Co.
Tree Service

All aspects of Tree Surgery Undertaken
Council Approved & Fully Insured
For professional advice and
Free Estimates contact:

Michael Reed
Wade Fazackarley
14 Willow Gardens
Westbourne, Emsworth
Hants, PO10 8TX
01243 376906 / 07921 558004



Lloyds Tree Surgery
ALL ASPECTS OF TREE SURGERY UNDERTAKEN

HEDGE AND TREE CUTTING SERVICE

NPTC Certified Insured Free Estimates
Domestic & Commercial work carried out

CALL LLOYD FOWLER
01243 389168 or 07711 653401
45 Breach Avenue, Southbourne, Emsworth
www.lloydstreesurgery.com

Tree Felling
Hedge Cutting
Crown Reductions
Trees with T.P.O's
Stump Grinding
Crown Lifting
Pollarding

FRESH MILK
FARM-PASTEURISED
AND BOTTLED
DELIVERED LOCALLY

S.H.YOUNG & SON LTD

WARBLINGTON CASTLE FARM
(Havant) 023 9248 3374

ALSO SKIMMED AND
STERILISED MILK, CREAM,
EGGS, POTATOES ETC

Beer Festival

The 10th Emsworth Beer, Cider and Wine Festival

Words and photos by Suzy Gardiner

On Friday 25 September the newly restored Assembly Room at Emsworth Community Centre was transformed with 30 firkins and two 40 litre kegs of beer and cider as the centre once more played host to the 10th Emsworth Beer, Cider and Wine Festival.

The mood was upbeat as people gathered to sample beer and cider from all over the country. Mark, its organiser, continued to offer another truly inspired choice of ales ranging from the older style favourites such as Bristol Beer Factory's *Fortitude* – a lovingly made old-style session bitter, to Castle Rock's (Nottingham) *Elsie Mo* – a bittersweet premium Golden Ale with hints of orange, strawberry, grass, and cedar, with a long dry finish. One of the most popular Hereford ciders – Snails Bank Cider Company's *Banoffee Pie*, was available alongside SeaCider Company's *White Peach*, to name but a few. In excess of two thousand pints were pulled during the weekend at this ever popular community event.

Sadly the usual vintners - Bush Wines - were not able to attend this time, however Portal, Dingwall and Norris provided their own supply of wines for the gathering crowds and hot food was available from Fat Jacks.

Once again, the event benefitted from some excellent musical accompaniment. Saturday would not have been complete without the midday foot thumping tunes from the



Southampton Ukelele Jam team. With sunny skies, the musicians were once more able to gather outside the community centre and play to a wide audience. Spinnaker Shanty then entertained the crowds in the evening.

The Gaskell family were happily in residence once more, to celebrate 9 years of the festival. Alan and Moira - with a choice of Rooster's (Harrogate) *Easy Going Assassin* and Titanic's (Burslem) *Cherry Porter* - heard of the event

in 2017 and have been regulars ever since. Pictured with the wider family, for Fay the event always coincides with her birthday celebration. For others 2026 was their first visit but will definitely not be their last.

Utilising one of the community hall rooms, friends from Portsmouth and Fareham Cribbage Clubs joined together to sample the fine assortment of ales whilst competing at cards. The space and layout of the community

centre, including the small walled garden, lends itself perfectly to this annual celebration.

The challenge to put on an event like this could not be more difficult in current economic times but Mark and his team yet again proved themselves more than able and provided Emsworth with another golden hit for the community. Ongoing thanks to Mark for this and all the other events which he creates through WemsFest.

A² **andrew & andrew**
solicitors
FOR TRUST. FOR ADVICE. FOR LIFE.

EMSWORTH
51 High Street, Emsworth,
PO10 7AN
Tel: 01243 680 800


PORTSMOUTH
Atlantic House,
114 Kingston Crescent,
Portsmouth, PO2 8AL
Tel: 023 9267 5555


WICKHAM
11 The Square,
Wickham, Fareham,
Hampshire, PO17 5JQ
Tel: 01329 623 322

www.a2solicitors.co.uk

Business News

The Changing Fortunes of Charity Shops

Words and photos by Jane Gregory



B McChaffie

Emsworth now has four charity shops: the Rowans Hospice Charity Shop, St Wilfrid's Hospice Charity Shop, the British Red Cross Shop and Sue Ryder. A fifth, Revitalise, closed permanently since we last reported on Emsworth's charity shops 12 years ago; the charity shut down all its operations in 2024, citing 'insurmountable financial challenges'. How have the remaining charity shops fared since then?

In earlier years many people would regularly take their old clothes to a charity shop; it gave them a sense that they were 'doing good', while preventing the clothes simply going into landfill. It was also assumed that some of the donated clothes went to low income countries, where they would be welcomed as fashion items by the grateful inhabitants.

However, new perspectives suggest differently. Cheap imported clothes can flood the market in developing nations, destroying local textile industries and traditional tailoring jobs; and when clothing is imported that is not fit for sale it adds to the pressure on local landfill – this is especially the case for fast fashion items made from synthetic plastic fibres, which do not break down easily in the earth.

At home, shopping habits have changed. The growth in online shopping has had a considerable impact, and customers do not visit high street shops (including charity shops) as often as they did. Rather than donating their clothes to charity, many people now choose to make some money from them by selling them on sites such as Vinted, DePop, eBay and Facebook Marketplace. Most charity shops have responded to this by setting up their own online shops, as well as selling via dedicated Vinted and eBay marketplaces.

So, what has not changed, and what are the positives? The value of volunteering remains as important as ever; those who work in the shops benefit from the social interaction with other volunteers and customers, and from the sense of providing a worthwhile service to the community. Wearing second-hand clothing is now fashionable, especially with young people, and the trend for upcycling has revived the popularity of sewing and craft skills. Charity shops in towns such as Emsworth can be a source of good reads and unexpected fashion finds; the Rowans shop prides itself on its well-stocked book room, which has DVDs and vinyl records as well as books, and (as noted on their website), 'hats for special occasions can always be found'.

As the Rowans manager explains, these days hospice shops are businesses, with a weekly budget to meet and a strict vetting process for all items. We might assume that local people donate clothing and other items which are then sold in the same shop, but that's always not the case; donations to the Rowans shop go to a central warehouse in Farlington, from where the manager orders what she knows will sell in her shop. The racks of clothing are organised not by size but by colour coordination, and moved around according to the season; for example, dresses are customers' favourite buys in summer. The manager and several of her staff have backgrounds in retail. Good quality toys are popular, and one of the shop windows is given over to a bright display that appeals to children.

By contrast, the stock at the Sue Ryder shop consists primarily of what comes through the door. They also receive stock from a central supplier, such as the current 'Memorial' range that includes tribute plaques, graveside flowerpots and vases, and indoor candles. Unlike some other charity shops, the shop accepts kitchen appliances, TVs and music players – a karaoke machine was donated recently, and sold quickly. The manager, who is a qualified PAT tester, advises that electrical items must be clean and be fitted with the correct plugs.

In the past, unsellable clothing could still generate some income through 'ragging'; but rag prices have fallen considerably in recent years, and the manager urges people to exercise care in what items they donate – it is obviously dispiriting for staff to have to deal with clothing that is dirty and in horrible condition, with rips and tears. Other Sue Ryder shops operate a 'Perfectly Imperfect' range, which can be sold at lower prices, but this has not appealed to customers in Emsworth, where stock generally does not sell if it is seen as too cheap (although a sale rail has proved successful). The manager and two store supervisors are paid, and there are twenty volunteers, but the manager is keen for more volunteers to apply – even those who can only offer a couple of hours a week. He urges anyone interested to come in and give it a try.

Our Local Charity Shops



Charity shops the positives:

- They are a source of good reads and unexpected fashion finds
- Wearing second-hand clothing is now fashionable, especially with young people
- Those who work in the shops benefit from a sense of providing a worthwhile service to the community

The manager at St Wilfrid's Hospice echoes the comments that donations are now generally of poorer quality. She and the volunteers sort everything on site, and only the best quality items are put out for sale. In particular, they are always very glad to receive good quality handbags, shoes and jewellery, as these are guaranteed to sell well. As with all the charity shops, people are discouraged from leaving their donations on the doorstep when the shop is closed, due to the risk of rain damage and (even worse) unwelcome attentions by dogs, which would result in the whole bag having to be thrown away. Leaving bags on the step is in fact illegal, as it is classed as fly tipping – and the bags can cause a safety hazard by blocking the pavement.

Stock is rotated by moving unsold items to a clearance rail, or if they do not sell from there, to the warehouse in Terminus Road; electrical items are also sent there for PAT testing. As with the Rowans, the manager selects additional stock from the warehouse on the basis of what she knows will sell. Customers are actively encouraged to drop in to the warehouse to see what is on sale.

As with the Rowans shop, many customers choose to donate to St Wilfrid's because they have relatives who have spent time in the hospice. There is a regular clientele of customers, and the shop is well supported by the community. The manager comments on the happy atmosphere among the volunteers that results from knowing that they make a positive difference to Emsworth, and they work together more as friends than colleagues. And finally, a reminder always to gift aid donations; the extra income represents a significant boost to the charity shops' vital work.

Business News

Charter Cutting Company Celebrates Double National Award Success



An Emsworth hair salon is celebrating an incredible year after receiving two award recognitions. Charter Cutting Company was placed 21st in the UK for Best Salon Team at the UK Hair and Beauty Awards 2026, after being shortlisted from thousands of entries nationwide. The team has even more reason to celebrate after also being announced as Best Luxury Salon of the Year in Hampshire at the Prestige Business Awards. For owner Danielle, the achievements are particularly special. She began working at Charter Cutting Company nearly 20 years ago as a young apprentice, progressing through the salon before purchasing the business nearly two years ago. Since taking ownership, Danielle has continued to take the long-established Emsworth salon from strength to strength alongside her amazing and talented team of eight, while keeping the friendly, welcoming atmosphere that has made Charter such a special part of the local community.

Danielle said: "I couldn't be prouder. I've grown up in this salon, so to now own it and see our team recognised nationally is incredibly special. These awards belong to every member of our team, who put so much into making Charter what it is. We also want to say the biggest thank you to our wonderful, loyal clients. Some have been coming to Charter for many years and have supported us through every chapter. Their loyalty, recommendations and continued support mean more to us than they'll ever know. We genuinely wouldn't be where we are today without them."

With two national achievements to celebrate, it's an exciting new chapter for Danielle and the Charter Cutting Company team as they continue to make their mark from the heart of Emsworth.

Postcode Publications

The Ems has learnt of the death of David Guest (1940 -2026) who founded the Postcode newspaper in 2011. The bi-monthly free paper was widely distributed throughout the Borough of Havant. The final edition of the paper, No 84 July/Aug 2026, announced that it was ceasing publication due to the death of its founder. David Guest served as a Conservative councillor at Havant BC for many years and had been Cabinet member for Planning.

Commercial property

- Unit 9, Palmers Road is being offered for £1,625 per month. This is a 2,977 sq ft unit previously occupied by BFES, a commercial catering equipment firm who have relocated to Portchester. [Holloway Iliffe and Mitchell]
- Gosden Green Storage, Main Road, Southbourne are offering three secure yards to rent. The yards are: 1,058 sq ft; 1,311 sq ft and 10,000 sq ft. [Manhire]
- 26 North St has been sold. This small ground floor retail unit was occupied this year by Chalk River popup clothes shop. It had previously been a tattooists for many years.
- The adjacent shop, 28 North St, is also empty having been vacated by Jonathan Ditton barbers who have moved the barber to the first floor of their 22 North St shop. No 28 is not currently being marketed



Emsworth Loves Local Christmas Charity Market

Saturday 28 November, 10 am–3 pm; Emsworth Methodist Church, St Peter's Square, PO10 7AQ

Emsworth Loves Local is bringing you a special Christmas Mega Market in aid of Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital. With more than 20 local independent businesses taking part, visitors can discover unique handmade gifts, treats and Christmas inspiration, while supporting small businesses in our local community. There will be refreshments, fun activities for children and our popular pre-loved puzzle stall.

Our traders have generously donated gifts to create a fabulous Christmas hamper. Raffle tickets will be available to buy in the square on market days in the run-up to Christmas. Look out for Charlotte wearing a big red heart. Come along, shop locally and help raise funds for Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital – supporting local businesses and local wildlife at the same time. Free Entry. Dogs Welcome. Follow Emsworth Loves Local on Facebook and Instagram for market news and www.emsworthloveslocal.uk

60 Years of Tiers

Ray Tier was a professional golf caddy from a well-established Emsworth family.

When he retired from golf, he and his wife, Josie, took over the greengrocer's shop in Emsworth High Street and built the business. Ray retired in 2006 and died in 2023. Since the introduction of the bypass and the new A27, the High Street has less traffic and is a pleasanter environment in which to shop. The business is still in the family - masterminded by Ray's daughter Sarah Long, her family and a dedicated team. Since Emsworth's florist closed, their flower business has grown.



Springfield Care

This autumn, we are celebrating 30 years of Springfield Care. Since our humble beginnings, Springfield and Prinsted Care Homes have proudly provided compassionate, high-quality care in comfortable and welcoming surroundings.

This special milestone is a celebration of the dedicated people who make our homes what they are. From our experienced care and activities teams to our talented chefs and support staff, everyone plays a part in creating a warm, friendly environment where residents feel at home. We are proud to have served our local community for three decades, building lasting relationships with residents and their families.

Residents enjoy comfortable living spaces, landscaped gardens, freshly prepared home-cooked meals and a varied programme of engaging activities. Above all, each resident receives individual care tailored to their needs and preferences, always delivered with kindness, dignity and respect. As we celebrate 30 years, we thank our residents, families, staff and local community for being part of our journey.

Farmers' Market

The market is held on the third Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm in the Square. The dates for the next few months are: 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 19 Dec.

Facts and figures

Legal minimum wage for over-21s is £12.71 per hour, for 18 to 20-year-olds £10.85. The rate for those under 18 is £8 per hour.

Unemployment figures (Aug 2026)

Borough of Havant	2,445 (3.3%)
Emsworth	100 (1.8%)
Chichester DC area	2,365 (3.2%)
UK	1,692,000 (4.9%)

Inflation rate

The official consumer price inflation rate as calculated by ONS is 3.1%

In Feb 2021 it stood at 0.4%. www.ons.gov.uk

Editor: Are you looking for work?

The Ems would be keen to hear of the experience of local people trying to find employment. Perhaps you are a young person trying to get on the job ladder or an older person trying to get back into work.

Please contact: editor.theems@outlook.com



M Gauthier



Culture

Dream with a Difference

Words by Jane Gregory

Chichester Festival Theatre's new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* promises to be intriguingly different – while still maintaining the magic of Shakespeare's best-loved comedy.

In Justin Audibert and Hannah Joss's version set in 1990s Sussex, Athens becomes Chichester, and the magical forest is transposed to the South Downs – a wild place where transformations can take place, while fairies cause chaos and confusion for the hapless mortals. Theseus becomes a Conservative MP and Egeus a Chief Constable; Oberon and Titania are aristocratic landowners, and Shakespeare's 'rude mechanicals' are represented by the Young Conservatives, including over-enthusiastic new member Bottom.

Bottom is played by comedian and satirist Munya Chawawa. Born in Derby, he spent his childhood in Zimbabwe, then returned with his family to live in Norfolk. He is known for his development and portrayal of characters such as posh drill rapper 'Unknown P' and the chef 'Jonny Oliver'.

The cast of familiar faces and newcomers includes Eve Ponsonby as Titania; known for her role as Mary Woodville in TV mini-series *The White Queen*, she recently played Ophelia in last year's production of *Hamlet* at Chichester's Minerva Theatre. Her Oberon is played by David Sturzaker, who starred

as Gareth Southgate in the UK tour of *Dear England*.

Shane David-Joseph (*The Thursday Murder Club*) is Puck, the fairy servant of Oberon, who carries out his master's orders but makes a mistake that leads to pain and confusion for the young lovers in the forest ('Lord, what fools these mortals be!') But since this is a comedy not a tragedy, all is resolved by the end of the scene; 'Jack shall have Jill... and all shall be well.'

Replacing the rest of the fairies are 'The Ravers', an ensemble of young singers, dancers and actors who promise to bring a new and energetic take on the supporting cast. Among them are Scarlett Guilfoyle, who audiences may remember from the Youth Theatre's *Cinderella*; Hattie Musgrove and Phoebe Tyler, who studied Dance Performance at the University of Chichester; and Riley Woodford, who appeared in the Rolling Stones inspired *Redlands* at CFT and also in last year's *Lord of the Flies*.

A Midsummer Night's Dream is at the Chichester Festival Theatre until 17 October.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Seamus Ryan/Bob King Creative

Tom Gregory with The Dust and Mischief Band at The Spring

Words by Jane Gregory

Tom Gregory and the band return to The Spring on Thursday 17 December to start the season with a suitably festive concert. Featuring carols, wassails and winter songs, as well as lively folk tunes, the show will include guest dancers and musicians.

Tom provides the vocals for the band, and is often tapping, rattling or thumping something as he sings. He'll be accompanied by fiddle player Chris Nichols, box player Danny Harmer and guitarists Aidan Hampson and Chris Taylor.

Tom has a reputation for his engaging performances and deep, hearty vocals; he has been a professional drummer and educator for over twenty years and is also much in demand locally as a caller for barn dances and ceilidhs.

Like Tom, Chris Nichols is a passionate teacher; he directs the FolkActive Youth Ensemble, who play at local events such as Winchester Mayfest. Chris is also a member of the Threepenny Bit folk band. Danny Harmer is

well known in the Hampshire area for his upbeat accordion playing; he also plays with Day of the Rabblement, who are highly regarded in the regional folk scene for their upbeat style, combining thigh-slapping accordion melodies with banjos, mandolins, and violins. Aidan is a full-time music educator and performer, specialising in guitar, ukulele and theory, and plays in several bands in the Southampton area. Chris Taylor is a multi-instrumentalist and music producer.

Come along for an evening of songs you know (or maybe don't know yet), including plenty from the Dust and Mischief Band's upcoming album, *Paid by the Gardener*.

And why the band name? 'Music doesn't have to be glossy; it can be full of dust... and broken things and mischief.' Duke Special (a songwriter Tom especially likes.)

Tickets are available from the Spring Arts and Heritage Centre, or www.thespring.co.uk. Box Office: 023 9247 2700. Email: info@thespring.co.uk

One Hundred Years of Winnie-the-Pooh

Words by Jane Gregory

The Arts Society Chichester Lavant Valley meets on the second Tuesday of every month from October to June, in the Assembly Room in Chichester. They organise a varied programme of lectures and visits; the first lecture for the coming season is on Winnie-the-Pooh.

One hundred years ago, Winnie-the-Pooh was introduced to children of all ages in the four much-loved books created by author A A Milne and illustrator E H Shepard. The character was inspired by a stuffed toy that Milne had bought for his son Christopher Robin in Harrods; he was named Winnie after a bear they had seen at London Zoo, and Pooh after a friend's pet swan. First introduced in *When We Were Very Young* (1924), Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends had their own adventures in *Winnie-the-Pooh* (Oct 1926). *Now We Are Six* followed in 1927 and *The House at Pooh Corner* in 1928, with more poems and stories which introduced Tigger, Kanga and Roo, Piglet, Eeyore and Rabbit, and the game of Poohsticks. The



Hundred Acre Wood, where the stories are set, was inspired by the Five Hundred Acre Wood in Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, and the characters were inspired by Christopher Milne's childhood toys.

Lecturer James Campbell has a BA in History and an MA in the History of Art, and a particular interest in the work of the artist, illustrator and cartoonist E H Shepard (1879–1976).

He has been a Trustee of the E H Shepard Estate since 2010 and was involved in the ground-breaking V&A 2017 exhibition marking the 90th birthday of Winnie-the-Pooh. James's books *Shepard's War* and *The Art of Winnie-the-Pooh* were published in 2015 respectively. He has also recently written a joint biography of A A Milne and E H Shepard.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday 13 October at 2.00pm. Guests are welcome, subject to hall capacity, for a guest fee of £10. It is helpful if visitors check with the membership secretary beforehand, as a named list is required for H&S reasons in the event of emergency. Her email is prim.hoult@gmail.com.



Plastic free refillery in the heart of Emsworth

Cooking and baking staples, loose tea, freshly roasted coffee, handmade chocolates, sweet treats, eco beauty, eco household, eco gifts, on tap olive oils and fresh ground peanut butter.

We look forward to seeing you,
Brad and Kharran

📍 Naked Pantry, Emsworth Square, PO10 7AL
☎ 01243 459477 🌐 naked-pantry.co.uk



Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation

- Relief for Back & Neck Pain
- Treatment for Muscle, Joint & Nerve Issues
- Support for Chronic Pain Conditions
- Post-Surgery & Injury Rehabilitation
- Convenient Home Visit Appointments

Call Karen & Sarah: 07941 213 488
Book Online: www.emsworthphysio.co.uk
Email: emsworthphysio@gmail.com
Sarah: Bourne Leisure Centre
Karen: 29 North Street Dental Clinic

Tribute bands

These are bands which try to emulate big name acts by playing, singing and in some cases even looking like the original performers. They are believed to have started in Australia and are now an established feature of the UK music scene. If you like live music then why not give them a try. There are two reasons why people like them. Firstly, it is pure nostalgia. Many of the original bands are no longer around but you may have bought their records or even saw them perform. You are guaranteed to hear all your favourites. Secondly, it is the musicianship. Tribute bands have very fine musicians many of whom will have played professionally in a variety of acts. The bands are very popular with the baby boomer generation (those born between 1946 -1964). It tends to be people in their 60s and 70 who make up the majority of the audience. They appear regularly at The Spring, Portsmouth Guildhall, Kings Theatre, New Theatre Royal and Fareham Live. There are hundreds of tribute bands with over 30 Abba impersonators, numerous Elvis Presleys and even a Chas & Dave tribute act. The Spring, 56 East St, Havant. Tel: 023 9247 2700 www.thespring.co.uk

A selection of forthcoming tribute bands at The Spring

Carole King's *Tapestry* performed by The Album Era
Saturday 10 October

Singer/songwriter Carole King's 1971 album *Tapestry* was one of the biggest selling records of the 1970s. Classic songs such as *You've Got a Friend*, *So Far Away* and *A Natural Woman* sound as good today as when they were first recorded.

Wall of Floyd

Friday 23 and Saturday 24 October

Pink Floyd tribute bands are always popular with full houses expected on both nights. Expect to hear note perfect renditions of *Dark Side of the Moon* (1973) and *Wish You Were Here* (1975) plus selections from their vast back catalogue.

Ultimate Madnezz

Saturday 12 December (postponed from 8 August)

Madness were one of the biggest bands of the 1980s. They had over 20 consecutive top 20 hits plus many best-selling albums. Songs like *Baggy Trousers*, *Driving my Car* and *Michael Caine* will surely bring a smile to your face.

Review: Oye Santana: A Tribute to the Music of Carlos Santana, The Spring 31 July

Santana came to prominence following their appearance at the Woodstock Festival of 1969. Their blistering performance, captured both on film and the accompanying triple LP, catapulted them into the first division of rock. Their unique, percussion heavy, Latin sound brought them massive success. Santana albums regularly charted throughout the 70s and 80s and their career rebounded in 1999 with the No 1 album *Supernatural* and the hit single *Smooth*.

Oye Santana did a superb job in capturing the polyrhythmic complexity of the music. The line-up of keyboard, bass, drums, percussion, lead guitar and two vocalists meant that a wide range of Santana material could be covered. The star of the show was Carlos look-alike Milan Webb whose plangent guitar style echoed the virtuosity of Carlos himself. All the old favourites were performed: *Dance Sister Dance*, *Evil Ways*, *Black Magic Woman* and *She's Not There*. It was a full house, as usual, at The Spring with the audience enjoying a first rate performance by one of the best tribute bands in the UK.

Fine Art

British Landscapes: A Sense of Place

Pallant House, Chichester (runs until 1 November 2026)

Pallant House is one of the best art galleries outside London and it is only a short bus or train ride from Emsworth. The original house was built in 1712 and opened as an art gallery in 1982 with a new wing added in 2006. In addition to its core collection Pallant House puts on major exhibitions each year. The William Nicholson exhibition which ran from November 2025 until May 2026 was exceptionally good and raised awareness of this very skilful painter who was the father of the better known artist, Ben Nicholson.

British Landscapes: A Sense of Place is a major exhibition which explores how artists from the late 18th century to the end of the 20th century have captured the distinctive character, emotional resonance and enduring 'spirit of place' found in Britain's landscapes. Bringing together works by more than 60 artists, the exhibition traces how painters, printmakers and sculptors responded to the countryside, coastlines, towns and cities of the British Isles – not simply as scenery, but as places shaped by memory, myth, labour, conflict and imagination. From quiet lanes and chalk hills to industrial sites and abstracted coastal forms, *British Landscapes: A Sense of Place* reveals

how landscape has been central to British visual culture and to ideas of national identity. The exhibition traces a lineage from 18th century master Thomas Gainsborough, and the golden age of British watercolour – with works by John Robert Cozens, John Varley and John Sell Cotman – to some of the most evocative landscape art of the 20th century. Artists including Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland, Eric Ravilious, Ivon Hitchens, Barbara Hepworth, Michael Andrews and Wilhelmina Barns-Graham reimagined Britain's fields, coastlines and settlements as sites of psychological intensity, poetic symbolism and modernist experiment.

The book of the exhibition is available at the Pallant House bookshop. *British Landscapes: A Sense of Place* by Simon Martin. £30.

Future exhibitions

Alfred Wallis: 21 Nov 2026 – 11 April 2027
Barbara Hepworth and Greece: 21 November 2026 – 11 April 2027

Pallant House, 9 North Pallant, Chichester. <https://pallant.org.uk/>



China Dogs in a St Ives Window — Christopher Wood



The Cerne Abbas Giant — Eric Ravilious

Emsworth Music Club

This well-established blues focused club meets at Emsworth Sports & Social Club, Havant Road, Emsworth.

The acts they have booked right through until the end of 2027:

Fri 9 October 2026 - J D Harmo

Fri 13 November - James Oliver Band

Fri 11 December - Xander and The Peace Pirates

Fri 08 January 2027 - Eddy Smith and The 507

Fri 12 February - Cadillac Kings

Fri 12 Mar - Debbie Bond & Radiator Rick

Fri 09 April - The Bluescasters

Fri 14 May 27 - The Mighty Howlers

Sat 19 June & Sun 20 June 27 -

Summertime Blues Festival 4

Fri 13 August 27 - TBA

Fri 10 September 27 - TBA

Fri 08 October 27 - The Lightning Threads

Fri 12 November 27 - Rag Mama Rag (TBC)

Fri 10 December 27 - TBA

<https://www.emsworthmusic.club/>

J.P. Roberts
Traditional Decorator
Internal and external re-decoration
Experienced local man with excellent references
High quality finish at competitive prices

01243 378093 07789 977351
justiceroberts@hotmail.co.uk

S.Roberts Upholsterers
Professional upholstery
Contract and domestic - any size work undertaken

We provide a free measuring and quotation service and you can find us on [Checkatrade.com](https://www.checkatrade.com)

Checkatrade.com

Call on 01243 377200 for all your upholstery requirements

www.re-upholster.co.uk

Unit 10, Palmers Road Industrial Estate, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7DH

COMPUTER ASSISTANCE
Home & Business Support
Computer Services
07798 728886

WWW.COUNTRYSIDECOMPUTERS.CO.UK

Remote Services
System Maintenance
Mac/PC & Laptop Repairs

help@mailcc.co.uk

Youth & Schools

SOUTHBOURNE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pupils Go the Extra Mile for Future Hope

Pupils at Southbourne Junior School have shown incredible teamwork, determination and generosity by completing an inspiring fundraising challenge in support of the charity Future Hope, which provides care and education for vulnerable children in India.



Pupils and teachers joined in the Challenge on Wheels to raise funds for children in India

The school's Challenge on Wheels was inspired by Charlie and Daisy, two friends of Junior Duke Ambassador Jess Rowe (world record breaker), who are currently cycling around the world in just 365 days to raise money for Future Hope. Motivated by their remarkable journey, members of the school's Wellbeing Club set themselves the challenge of completing 365 laps of the school field, using a variety of wheeled equipment including a pram and a wheelbarrow! The challenge quickly became a whole-school effort, with pupils and teachers from across the school joining in during lunchtime to add even more laps to the total!

Thanks to the generosity of families and sponsors, the school raised valuable funds for Future Hope, helping to support children living in some of the poorest communities in India by providing safe homes, education and opportunities for a brighter future. The event also reinforced one of the Five Ways to Wellbeing - Give, encouraging children to think about how acts of kindness and generosity can make a real difference to the lives of others.

Junior Duke achievements

We were delighted to welcome our ambassador, world record breaker Jess Rowe, who joined us to recognise the hard work, determination and independence shown by our pupils. A fantastic day of celebration and inspiration for everyone involved.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Mamawu Café for kindly sponsoring the event. It is wonderful to have the support of a local community business, and we are so grateful for their generosity in helping to make the day so special.



ST JAMES' CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

New Head Teacher

Peter Edgington has been appointed Head Teacher following the retirement of Jill Pearce-Haydon. Here is his first article for The Ems.

I didn't go into teaching straight away - my first job was as a researcher on a local radio station. From there I went into desktop publishing and editing where I learned useful computer skills but was stuck in an office. I decided to try work experience in a school and have not looked back since. Both my parents were teachers so I really should have known that it was in the blood.

I spent my first five years as a teacher in south London where I learned a huge amount about working with children and parents from diverse backgrounds. Since then, I have taught in two West Sussex schools and became a Headteacher in 2010. In 2015 I became Headteacher at the school my three children had attended - St Mary's in Bognor Regis - the town where our family have lived for over twenty years.

Having been born and raised in Birmingham, I love

living and working so close to the sea and always try to go for a run along the shore a couple of times a week.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding careers in the world and every day is different.

If you are contemplating a career in teaching, I encourage you to spend some time volunteering in a school before taking the plunge. If you feel passionate about helping every child to succeed, and you believe in lifelong learning, then you may have found your calling.

A Headteacher's job today is very different from the past - inclusion, safeguarding and pupil progress are vital components.

Being positive about change and new challenges is crucial, but so is having a core set of values and beliefs. At St James' compassion, courage and respect are evident throughout the school and I feel very privileged to lead it.



If you are contemplating a career in teaching, I encourage you to spend some time volunteering in a school before taking the plunge. If you feel passionate about helping every child to succeed, and you believe in lifelong learning, then you may have found your calling.

Hello, I'm Julian

I offer friendly companionship and practical help for older people



Covering Emsworth, Chichester, the Witterings, Havant and surrounding areas.

I'm easy-going and empathetic, with over 25 years' experience in hospitality. Making people feel welcome has always been at the heart of what I do. I'd like to offer that same warmth and personal attention to make your life a little better.

Your time. Your choice.

Every visit is shaped around what you enjoy, what is needed, and what would make life a little easier.

How could I help?

- A cup of tea, conversation and regular company
- Shopping, errands and pharmacy collections
- Cooking and preparing meals in your home
- Gardening, cleaning and practical help around the home
- Dog walking and help caring for pets at home

Local references are available.
Let's meet first for a relaxed, no-obligation chat to see if we click.

Feel free to phone me for a chat

07841 419 360

julianlocalhelp@gmail.com

Physio-led Yoga



Yoga is for everyone.

In Physio-led Yoga, poses can be adapted to accommodate individual needs.

Beginner/Intermediate classes at 9:30am every Tuesday at Emsworth Community Centre (term time only)

All class members will be assessed.

It will be a progressive class, booked per half term.

Maximum of 8 people in class

Please contact: Melissa Robinson (Chartered Physiotherapist)

melissa.robinson@astilbe.co.uk

Or text to: 07977 466924

Youth & Schools

YOUTH REPORT Words by Ellie Turnbull ERF lead for Youth

Bourne Young Quilters win a prestigious award

Two years ago Bourne Quilters started a young quilters group and 16 young people between the ages of 6 to 16 turned up. Since then, they have learnt many skills and produced a wide variety of work. At the beginning of 2026 it was decided that they would work together to make a quilt for the Emsworth Summer Quilt show. Each young person would design and make a twelve-inch wonky house block. They chose their material and decided the shape of the house and introduced fun elements such as duck ponds and dogs in the garden. Then they quilted their own block. When this was done, they attached red borders and joined the blocks together in rows.

It was much admired at the Emsworth Quilt Show along with the rest of their work. As the show was closing it was packed up and sent to Birmingham to the Festival of Quilts. It was entered in the under 18 group and it won. The National Judges commented: 'A great team effort with variety and interest in every block, brought together by the red sashing and borders. A real celebration of group work and creativity.'



The award winning quilt is currently on a tour of shows throughout the country

A very proud Karen Lillington and one of the young quilters received the trophy. The quilt is currently on a tour of shows throughout the country and when it returns to Emsworth the Community Centre have kindly agreed to display it permanently.

Bourne Young Quilters are held about twice a term at Emsworth Community Centre, normally on a Sunday afternoon. We do a different project each time and the aim is that everyone goes home with a finished project.

All materials are supplied. Cost £5. Bourne Quilters members support this with 121 help for every young quilter.

There are vacancies in the group so if you are aged 8 to 18 and are interested please contact us for more information - youngquilters@bournequilters.com

Coming Soon Young People day

Are you in school years 6 – 11 and looking for something to do in half term. Come to the next young people day in the Emsworth Community Centre on 28th October 10.00 to 2.00. There will be plenty of physical activities including Nerf wars, Unihoc, table tennis and more. There will also be a painting competition with prizes. This will be judged by a well-known Emsworth artist and hopefully the art work can feature in 2028 art week. Lunch will be Domino's Pizzas followed by fresh fruit which can be dipped in chocolate and there will be a tuck shop. The cost is £4 for everything except the tuck shop.



Please vote for Grow, Cook, Eat with Emsworth Youth using your blue token at Tesco!

We're delighted that our Emsworth Residents Forum project has been shortlisted for a Tesco Fruit & Veg Grant. Every vote shows your support for local young people.

Voting runs August–November. If you're shopping at Tesco Emsworth, Southbourne or Havant Extra, you'll get a blue token at the checkout (one per visit). Just pop it in the voting box for Grow, Cook, Eat with Emsworth Youth.

The project will help local young people plan and prepare healthy meals themselves, grow in confidence and bring generations together through cooking and food. Through hands-on cooking sessions they'll use fresh produce from Emsworth Community Garden wherever possible, with local volunteers sharing their skills and experience.

Thank you for your support!



Gardening and scarecrow building

Emsworth Community Garden opened the garden to a group of young people who learnt important lessons about where their food comes from. They happily dug up potatoes and found out this is where their chips and other potatoes come from. They also picked runner beans and took some of the beans home to plant for next year. They also went to look at the bee hives and found out about honey. It was then time to have some fun building scarecrows. A bale of straw and some old clothes produced some really good results. One of the scarecrows went to Emsworth show a few days later. The morning ended with a pizza lunch which was enjoyed by all.

We hope to have more of these days next year.

EMSWORTH

£4
ENTRY

PAINTING
COMPETITION
WITH PRIZES

NERF WARS

UNIHOC

DODGEBALL

TABLE TENNIS

**YEAR 6
-YEAR 11**

YOUTH DAY

Emsworth Community Centre

PRICE INCLUDES ALL ACTIVITIES,
PIZZA & FRUIT

28

OCTOBER

10AM - 2PM

CONTACT: YOUTH.ERF@GMAIL.COM

Qigong classes



Traditional Chinese exercise for health, fitness and well-being.

*Tuesdays at 2pm or Wednesdays at 9.30am or 11am.
Emsworth Parish Hall, 20A Church Path, PO10 7DP.*

*Visit emsworthqigong.com or contact
Lincoln (Advanced Instructor Tai Chi & Qigong Union for GB)
emsworthqigong@gmail.com*

beginners welcome

Lindsay's Nature Notes

Unusual Discoveries This Year

Words and photographs by Lindsay Jerome

It's amazing what you discover when you read a local rag! I was on holiday in Devon earlier this year and visited a garden centre/cafe in Loddiswell, picked up the Country Gardener paper and was mesmerised by an article entitled *Grow With The Moon's Rhythm*. I had heard of lunar calendars before but I'd never heard of it in connection with gardening or, more specifically, planting.

So, I will share with you the enticing world of lunar garden-ing. It makes sense as the moon has a strong gravitational pull on our planet, so this also affects plants be it with the water in the ground, the sap in their stems and roots, or pure gravity on their growth.
The lunar gardening calendar



New Moon to First Quarter (Waxing Moon) - as the moon increases in size and therefore its impact on Earth, focus on planting crops that pro-duce above ground such as lettuce and cabbage as the gravitational pull supports upward sap flow and leaf growth.



First Quarter to Full Moon - plant fruiting crops like tomatoes and beans. As the moon increases in size and throws more light, it encourages growth above ground.



Full Moon to Last Quarter (Waning Moon) - plant root crops such as car-rots and potatoes as the gravitation-al pull decreases and favours root growth downwards.

Last Quarter to New Moon - a rest period to use for pruning, weeding, composting, rather than planting.

Some will dismiss lunar gardening as nonsense but it has been used for thousands of years by many different civilisations. Today, you can find publications such as *Charles*

The curlew is on the Red Endangered List due to low breeding success as a result of habitat loss

Dowding's Calendar of Vegetable Sowing Dates 2027, and a *Gardening Moon Calendar* on Amazon, with planting charts based on the moon's phases. It stands the test of time - the moon is always with us!

Other discoveries this year for me have been seeing a young adder up close and personal. My partner and I were walking along the SW Coastal Path by Hope Cove, Devon, and I stopped to photograph something when he shouted, "Come and look at this!" in a rather alarmed voice. I went over to him stopped in his tracks by a coiled adder in strike mode just two feet in front of him - terrifying! Luckily, it was all bravado and after a few minutes it slithered away.

We have been treated to curlew sightings both on our trav-els in the Yorkshire Dales, by the causeway to Lindisfarne in Northumberland, and halfway up the River Medina between Cowes and Newport on the Isle of Wight. The curlew is on the Red Endangered List due to low breeding success which is a result of loss of habitat through new farming practices, ex-treme weather flooding, and an increase in their predators. We felt honoured every time we heard or saw curlews - their call is something you never forget.



Adder

My partner shouted, "Come and look at this!" in a rather alarmed voice

This year was also a great year for the Hummingbird Hawk-moths; I saw several feeding on nectar on Harting Down. In my garden, I spotted a curled-over rose leaf and carefully peeked inside to find a pure white tiny spider, its body the size of a pin head, by its nest of eggs. I identified it as a fe-male Flower Crab Spider who will stay by its nest ball until the young hatch out, not moving away and often dying be-fore they hatch. I watched it for a week doing just that and I covered the leaf with another to shade it from the intense sun in our heatwave. Then I went away for a week, but I hope she survived and her babies too.

Lastly, I enjoyed a month and a half of watching the small female hedgehog in my garden being courted by several suit-ors of varying sizes, for three hours at a time – a lot of circling and snuffling of her! Never saw if it was successful as she always led them off into the undergrowth, after first taking them to the cat food I had put on my patio for them. We really thought we would be treated to seeing hoglets this summer as my partner had spent ages making a waterproof, elevated, insulated hedgehog house and she did use it while receiving suitors, but no, she disappeared. After all that excitement we are most disappointed. Maybe next year.

Elizabeth Turner Soft Furnishings

A small, professional soft furnishings business, providing a bespoke service to meet our customers' exact requirements. All of our products are hand-made to a very high standard. We also supply fabric, a range of curtain poles, tracks and other accessories.

Unit 5, Sindles Farm, Aldsworth, Emsworth PO10 8QS

01243 389939
info@elizabethturner.co.uk
www.elizabethturner.co.uk

AQUA

KR JENKINS
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

- Landscaping
- Fencing
- Decking
- Decorating

- Re-pointing
- Roof Repairs
- Drainage
- Brickwork

Supply and Fix or Labour Only
FREE ESTIMATE

KR
JENKINS

023 9247 4271
28 years' experience
Insured
Licensed carrier

Part 31: Singleton – Charlton Circuit and village exploration (3 miles)

Words by Lupo, photographs by Juliet Walker

It's been too hot for weeks; far too hot for dogs to do their usual adventurous walks which made Charlie, Callie and I wonder whether we would ever be able to do our special walk for the paper. My owner was getting twitchy about this too and there was much studying of weather forecasts and scanning of maps to spot shorter routes, then everything aligned on a cooler, breezy morning and off we set.

First we were driven to Singleton – not to the dog-friendly museum, which we have visited before for The Ems, but to the centre of the village, from where we were to walk to the next village, Charlton. We were to take the adventurous route though, involving a wide steep way up and a narrow steep one down, so there were challenges for all of us.

We started along a footpath by the school which led us through a gate into a large golden field; in fact the whole countryside was like this, dry and spiky underpaw in places, but dotted with blue. Had my owner found the elusive Pride of Sussex flowers at last? The answer was no, but her camera went eagerly into action anyway. Callie immediately found an abandoned ball so there was fun and games all the way to the gate at the top. It wasn't a kissing gate, which is something we dogs mastered on our last outing; in fact, it was not just one gate but two, with a wide space between them. We met these double gates several times on our walk and are now experts.

As we climbed ever higher, our owners

became more interested in the view opening up across to Goodwood race course and back to Singleton. It was very quiet until, surprisingly, an electric motorbike passed us, but we met no one else. The rider was helpful when there was uncertainty about the right path to branch eastwards to Charlton, because the finger post had been turned round. If dogs don't know the way we simply follow our noses.

A change of scenery came at the next gates, which took us into Levin Down Nature reserve. We were expecting to meet cattle and ponies, as mentioned on notices which instructed us to be on leads, but we didn't see them, just evidence cows had once been there. It was single file along rough chalky paths, lined with blackberries and yew trees. We were going steeply down when the view opened up again towards Charlton, and we three looked keenly to see if we could spot the pub earmarked for lunch. We like pubs; they are depots of dog biscuits.

Once at the road again it was a short walk into the village. Here there were many old

the whole countryside was like this, dry and spiky underpaw in places, but dotted with blue. Had my owner found the elusive Pride of Sussex flowers at last?



buildings, including one which long ago housed hunt kennels. I fancy I may just have caught the scent of those ancient hounds. Just along the road was The Fox Goes Free – that's another example of an animal we didn't see, since he'd gone too – but it was nevertheless a very nice pub. After our snacks, hand delivered by staff to the garden, we settled down while our owners enjoyed their meal.

Our return route to Singleton was straight through a level field running parallel to the lane. It was meant to be next to the River Lavant too, but the water had gone away for the summer. Before we went to the car we explored the village, including the church, and all of us felt we'd had a very good day out.



(Editor: You can get to Singleton on the 60 bus from Chichester. This service runs every 30 minutes Monday –Saturday and hourly on Sundays.)

Havant Camera Club

A Friendly Club for All Photographers

It has been a busy summer for members of Havant Camera Club, with a series of evening photography meet-ups. The superb weather provided perfect conditions for capturing moody and atmospheric evening images. Members were also out in force at Emsworth Show, where the club had a dedicated stand showcasing members' work. There was plenty of interest throughout the day, and our members also dominated the photography competition, with Jean Brooks winning Best in Show for her beautiful image of beach huts. The new season is now back in full swing. Our

first evening included a fun knockout competition, with members voting for their favourite summer evening photograph. The now-established Challenge Cup was won by Ron De'Ath for his serene image of water-reed reflections, taken during our summer evening at Bosham. There was also plenty of time for members to share their own images and experiences from the summer.

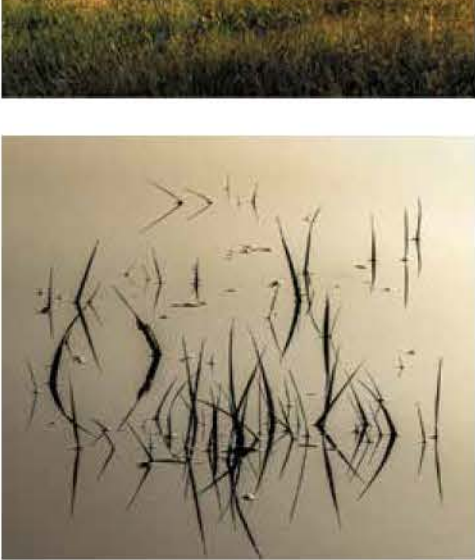
The autumn programme is packed with interesting talks from guest speakers, as well as a range of competitions. Highlights over the

coming months include *The Hidden World of Bugs* on 29 September and *Sussex Street and Landscape Photography* on 13 October.

Havant Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening at Emsworth Community Centre from September through to mid-May. Full details of the programme can be found on our website: <https://havantcameraclub.co.uk/>

Membership is just £65 for the year, and prospective new members are very welcome to visit us for free and see what we're all about.

You don't need expensive equipment – just a keen interest in photography.



Goff & Company

Chartered Accountants



Working with you, not just for you,
to help you understand your finances.

- ☆ **FREE** initial consultation.
- ☆ **FREE** Sage software for 12 months for new clients.

⚠ Making Tax Digital for Income Tax has started. If you need to comply and are not already using compatible software and submitting quarterly updates, please contact us.



For all your accountancy and taxation needs:

- 📞 01243 373992 ✉ enq@goffandcompany.co.uk
- 🌐 www.goffandcompany.co.uk 📍 89 Havant Rd, Emsworth PO10 7LF



Celebrating Emsworth Surgery’s 5th anniversary

Out of all the projects I’ve campaigned for since becoming your MP in 2015, the Emsworth Medical Practice is probably the one I’m most proud of. It’s hard to believe that five years have gone by since it opened its doors to the first patients.

The old, cramped surgery in a Georgian house across the road was no longer fit for purpose. So from Day One I began campaigning alongside local community and health-care partners to deliver a new surgery building on the former Victoria Cottage Hospital site.

I intervened to stop the sale of the building in 2018 by NHS Property Services and then worked closely with GP partners, the NHS and others to secure funding, steer the project and deliver the new surgery. This included meeting the Health Secretary and Health Ministers in Westminster and successfully lobbying for £3.5m of Government funding via NHS England, plus chairing regular local meetings in Emsworth. I also successfully secured an agreement to extend the deadline for NHS funds to be used when this was needed to keep the project alive.

Contractors Mountjoy started on site in January 2020 for what was expected to be a 12-month build. But the Covid-19 pandemic led to delays caused in part by a shortage of building materials and the need for contractors to socially distance whilst working.



Alan Mak at the opening of the Emsworth Medical Practice in 2021

I was delighted to officially open the new surgery in October 2021 and since then this valuable community asset has become the envy of other medical practices.

I’m looking forward to visiting the surgery this month to meet the team and mark the fifth anniversary. I’ve also launched an Emsworth health survey. Let me know your views: www.AlanMak.org.uk/Survey

I’ve always campaigned to protect and improve local NHS services, and another example is Oak Park Community Clinic in Havant. If you live in Emsworth, you’re served by

Oak Park. But vital services such as X-rays and scans were suddenly withdrawn at the end of 2025 without any consultation. Patients were told they would have to travel to St Mary’s Hospital in Portsmouth instead. I raised the issue in Parliament and I’m continuing to call for full diagnostic services to be reinstated because I believe strongly that healthcare provision should be local and accessible. To sign my petition, please go to www.alanmak.org.uk/OakPark

The best ways to stay up to date with the work I’m doing as your local MP all year round are to follow my social media accounts, especially Facebook (www.fb.com/AlanMakHavant), and sign up for my weekly residents’ email community news update.

You can also share your views on local and national issues with me by completing my online survey at www.alanmak.org.uk/survey

Alan Mak MP, Member of Parliament for the Havant Constituency



Would you like to go on a tour of Parliament and meet me for a Q&A session? Please register your interest at www.alanmak.org.uk/Tours

ADVERTISEMENT

YOUR LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

ALAN MAK MP

Serving the residents of Emsworth

A portrait of Alan Mak MP, a man with dark hair, wearing a blue suit and tie, smiling. He is positioned in front of a background featuring the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.

CONTACT ALAN

- Alan Mak MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
- Alan.Mak.MP@Parliament.uk
- AlanMak.org.uk
- [@AlanMakMP](https://twitter.com/AlanMakMP)
- [FB.com/AlanMakHavant](https://www.facebook.com/AlanMakHavant)
- [Instagram.com/AlanMakHavant](https://www.instagram.com/AlanMakHavant)

Sign up for Alan’s weekly residents’ newsletter
AlanMak.org.uk/Newsletter
Follow Alan on Facebook for updates
[FB.com/AlanMakHavant](https://www.facebook.com/AlanMakHavant)

© Alan Mak MP, Member of Parliament for the Havant Constituency. All rights reserved. 2026

Emsworth Museum

Lecture Programme

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Field Marshal the Lord Richards' talk planned for 11 February 2027 has been brought forward to 21 January 2027. If you have already bought a ticket, please go to Bookends in Emsworth and ask to exchange for a new ticket with the correct date. This will avoid confusion later on.

Programme of Talks 2026-2027

The Winter series of talks presented by the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust has just been finalised. All the talks will be in Emsworth Community Centre, apart from Field Marshal Richards' talk (see above) which will be in the Baptist Church. Tickets are now available from Bookend in Emsworth High Street.

Secret Intelligence in the 21st Century Thursday 1 October 2026

Claire Smith is a prominent former British diplomat, extreme negotiator, and intelligence expert who offers crucial insider analysis on the evolution, purpose, and modern limitations of state secrets. Over a 27-year career with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, she navigated international crises, served on the UK Joint Intelligence Committee, and spent eight years on the Cabinet Office's Security Vetting Appeals Panel. Through her current roles as an academic lecturer and public speaker, Smith breaks down the mechanics of secret intelligence in the 21st century.

The War Graves Photographic Project Thursday 5 November 2026. Steve Rogers

The War Graves Photographic Project have undertaken the immense task of recording, archiving and making available to the descendants, images of the graves or memorial listings of every service casualty since the outbreak of the First World

War. The project has an archive of almost 2 million named graves and memorials from images taken by a dedicated band of volunteers from around the world, offering the facility to search for individual casualties and provide them with images. The Project Co-ordinator, Steve Rogers will tell the story of this amazing project and some of the difficulties and issues they faced in getting this far.

Untangling Christmas or a Load of Old Baubles Thursday 3 December 2026 - Nigel Gossop

This talk is a look at just some of the stories behind the many traditions that go towards making our Christmases so memorable, answering curiosities such as, where did the advent calendar with little doors originate from? Why do we eat turkey, when it is a native North American bird? Why are real Yule Logs made of wood and not chocolate?

What is about mistletoe that makes us kiss beneath it? And why did Father Christmas choose to wear a red suit? Find the answers to these questions and many more in this entertaining seasonal talk.



Global Wars and Chaos Thursday 21 January 2027 - Field Marshal The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, GCB. CBE. DSO. DL (re-scheduled from 11 Feb - to be held in the Baptist Church)

Field Marshal Richards is one of the best-known British generals of modern times. He retired in 2013 after over forty years of service in the British Army and a career that had seen him rise from junior officer with 20 Commando to Chief of the Defence Staff, the professional head of the British Armed Forces. This now annual geostrategic talk has become immensely popular and is always a fascinating insight into politics, conflict, the interaction between nations and how it all impacts on the UK.

Behind the Scenes at The Chelsea Flower Show Thursday 4 March 2027

An insightful talk by award-winning landscape contractor and designer Peter Gregory, sharing the immense craftsmanship, logic, and pressure involved in creating world-class show gardens. Drawing from his own hands-on experience building on the empty plots of the Royal Hospital Grounds, Peter takes audiences past the pristine public facades and into the frantic, high-stakes three-week building phase.



Art and the Heart Thursday 1 April 2027

This beautifully illustrated talk from distinguished Consultant Cardiologist Dr Richard Jones FRCP was originally developed to educate medical students and doctors, but has been thoughtfully adapted for a non-medical audience. Dr Jones will help you to learn more about your heart and how to look after it using pictures from famous artists to illustrate and guide us on an enlightening journey.

A Close Shave with Sweeney Todd Thursday 6 May 2027 Fay Sheaffer

Many of us have come to know the macabre story of Sweeney Todd through 20th century stage or screen representations. This talk, however, traces the origins of the story from its first appearance in print as a Victorian 'penny blood' and the changes that have been made to the original text. It also considers what makes themes such as cannibalism and murder so appetising...

Portsmouth Railway Pasts

Emsworth Museum's new exhibition opens on Saturday 12 September, running to Sunday 18 October. It is the result of a collaboration between Portsmouth University and the Havant History Group. The team studied the work records of those who worked on the railways in the Portsmouth area. In many cases, these workers left a footprint in the historical record because they had an accident at work. This exhibition shows the people behind that single moment in time.



SageHouse COMMUNITY
by Dementia SUPPORT



Community Wayfinder Advice Bus

Professional support & advice about dementia

Come and speak to our Community Wayfinder for free support and advice.

Drop in to talk to us about:

- Living with dementia
- Care planning
- Caring for somebody with dementia
- Financial assistance
- Energy advice



Location & Times

Location: Emsworth Baptist Church
Address: North Street, Emsworth PO10 7BY
Time: 10:30am - 1pm

Dates:

- Thursday 20th August
- Thursday 17th September
- Wednesday 14th October

Round Up

How The Friends' grants are being put to work

More than £25,000 in grants announced by The Friends of Emsworth Community Health earlier this year is now supporting a range of projects across the town, from inclusive sport for young people to dementia outreach.

At Glenwood School funding has helped provide adaptable sports equipment, enabling more pupils with different needs to take part in physical activity. The school has introduced equipment for cricket and cornhole, which has proved particularly popular. Staff say the equipment can be adapted to individual pupils, helping to build confidence, encourage teamwork and make sport more inclusive.

Funding is also supporting Sage House's Emsworth Community Outreach project, bringing dementia support closer to people who may find it difficult to travel to the charity's main hub. The outreach sessions are designed to be local and accessible, offering opportunities to meet others facing similar challenges as well as to speak to Sage House's Wayfinders, who



provide guidance on financial and legal matters and support about dementia symptoms. The Community Wayfinder Advice Bus continues to visit Emsworth regularly, with the next visit planned to be at Emsworth Baptist Church, North Street, on Wednesday 14 October from 10.30am to 1pm.

Dr Theo Schofield OBE, Chairman of The Friends, said: "This year's grants reflect the real breadth of health and wellbeing needs across Emsworth – from supporting children and young people to helping people affected by dementia. Through the Emsworth Health Alliance, The Friends is able to respond to priorities identified across the community. It is great to see community health benefiting from support that is shaped by local priorities and delivered close to home."

The Friends also continues to support the garden beside Emsworth Medical Practice, which provides a quiet community space for reflection, small gatherings and wellbeing-focused activities.

Ian Cochrane (writing as Max Holden)

Ian Cochrane is an assiduous Emsworth author who has been writing thrillers and mystery novels under the pseudonym of Max Holden since retiring in 2021.

He spent the 1950s as a military brat in Malaysia, the third son of a post-war Scottish-Austrian romance. When his father was demobbed, his family returned to the icy wastes of Scotland. After graduating in engineering and then working in IT, he eventually found his forte in international product marketing and his love of storytelling. His knowledge of technology, plus his travels and multicultural relations, have been invaluable to his writing. To date, he has written seven books, all published on Amazon in Paperback and eBook formats.

His first series of Political Crime Thrillers features Harry Logan, the wily, skilled ex-government enforcer. *Logan's Rules* is the first in the series, followed by *Kill, or They Die*, *Honourable Killers*, and *Deadly Politics*. He



Emsworth author, Ian Cochrane

has travelled extensively in Sri Lanka. From those experiences, he created a series of Murder Mysteries set in Sri Lanka. Within that series, DI Asoka, the say-it-as-he-sees-it Sri Lankan police officer, was born. *It's Just Murder Visiting the Tropics* was the first in the series, followed by *A Quarrel of Expats*. The third book is due out at the end of 2026.

Ian/Max has also published a standalone procedural crime thriller, *Spectrum*. The main character, Jennifer

Graham, has a unique and rare neurological condition and an insatiable appetite for everything crime and murder. Despite repeated requests to write a follow-up, Ian has been too busy with other writing projects. His latest release is *A Mixed Bag*. This compilation of multi-genre short stories encompasses crime, science fiction, fantasy, and supernatural. To avoid confusion with his Thriller writing, he published this compilation under his own name, Ian Cochrane.

Solent Male Voice Choir

The choir rehearses from 1915 to 2130 on Tuesdays at the Pallant Hall, Havant, PO9 1BE. New singers are always welcome. Our future relies on fresh faces.

We are a very amicable family. The camaraderie is all around you. Upcoming performances, both at St Faith's Church, Havant, are at 1230 Wednesday 14 October (doors 1200) – Free entry – and at 1900 Saturday 5

December – which is a joint Concert with St Edmundsbury MVC from Suffolk, promising an eclectic mix of traditional and modern repertoire in which both choirs perform separately and together.

Further details, ticket prices and so on, nearer the time.

www.solentmalevoicechoir.org



Entertaining Angels by Richard Everett

Funtington Players will return in November to their newly renovated hall in West Ashling with *Entertaining Angels* by Richard Everett, directed by Barbara MacWhirter.

The play was chosen early this year, prior to the announcement of the death of Dame Penelope Keith. In 2006 the much-loved actress starred in the play which opened Jonathan Church's first season as Artistic Director at Chichester Festival Theatre. It proved a smash hit—the first of many during

his 10-year tenure which ushered in a new era and lifted the theatre out of a difficult period. Described as witty, poignant and bittersweet, Dame Penelope called it "a cracking play" and said she had loved playing in it.

The play runs from 24 November ending with a matinee on 28 November.

Tickets are available from 13 October: www.ticketsource.co.uk/funtingtonplayers.

Waterlooville author launches bilingual ten-book saga

Waterlooville-based author M.L. Arden is preparing to launch *Still Here*, the first novel in *The Marta Saga*, on 30 November 2026. The book will be published in English alongside its Polish edition, *Została sama*.

The Marta Saga is planned as a ten-book series following one woman's life across almost two decades. At its heart is Marta, a young Polish woman whose story moves through motherhood, migration, abandonment, difficult choices, loss and the long process of rebuilding a life in Britain. For Arden, writing the series has also meant creating a bridge between two communities. The story will be available to both English-speaking and



Waterlooville author, M.L. Arden

Polish readers, reflecting the experience of building a new life while remaining connected to where you came from.

Still Here is the beginning of that journey. It focuses on the moments when life changes direction unexpectedly and on the quiet strength it can take simply to keep going. The project has already attracted early readers in both the UK and Poland ahead of publication. M.L. Arden lives in the Waterlooville area and is continuing work on the next books in *The Marta Saga* ahead of the first novel's November release.

www.mlardenauthor.com
mlarden.author@gmail.com

Village Voices

Winter Concert

Festive cheer for winter warmth!
Sunday 5th December 2026

Southbourne Village Hall
at 3.00pm

Doors open 2.30pm
Concert starts 3.00pm
Entrance £10.00
Wine, beer and soft drinks available

For tickets please
call: 07827 910298
email: tickets@emsworthvillagevoices.org
visit: Bookends Emsworth (CASH ONLY)
or on the day subject to availability.

Please note: Ticket numbers are strictly limited to 100.
Please purchase in advance to avoid disappointment.

Exit collection for our local charity Heartbeat House -
www.heartbeat.co.uk

www.emsworthvillagevoices.org

Emsworth Art Group
Making Art in the Heart of Emsworth
Emsworth Community Centre

Autumn Art Exhibition & Sale

Saturday 31 October
Sunday 1 November
10am - 4pm

FREE ENTRY

Original Paintings - Cards
Prints and Unframed Originals

Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DD



Letter from the Chair

Words by Dwynwen Stepien,
Chair of the Emsworth Residents Forum

A New Chapter for Emsworth

I'm speaking today as an ordinary resident who cares deeply about Emsworth. Many of us feel exactly the same. We want a town council because it gives local people a real say in what happens here. It's a chance for us to work together properly, without the distractions of politics that sometimes get in the way of genuine community effort. It's about people who love this town, rolling up their sleeves and getting things done.

It is disappointing to have to wait for a further Havant Borough Council vote but none of the arguments have changed. Whether we are working with Havant Borough Council or, in time, a new unitary authority, Emsworth needs a strong, organised voice at the table.

Once the vote is taken, and it is difficult to see how the original decision could be overturned, we can start planning how the town council could help bring in more volunteers and reach people who may feel left out socially or financially.

There will be an opportunity for everyone to take part. And crucially, it gives young people a voice. They deserve to help shape the future of the town they'll inherit, and a town council gives them a clear route to do that.

We already have brilliant groups protecting our environment, caring for our harbours, supporting families and keeping our community spirit alive. A town council wouldn't replace any of them – it would

strengthen them. It would give a clearer structure, more accountability and take on projects that need an official body behind them.

The other good news is that there are grants and additional funding available to town councils. Take the Hampshire County Council Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF). This fund provides financial backing to charities, community groups, and parish councils to help residents build longterm financial stability. It supports individuals facing immediate hardship, such as urgent food or energy needs, and offers separate grants for community assets like food banks and community pantries.

A Town Council would be ideally placed to lead on such work, with the financial expertise, infrastructure and councillor capacity needed to bid for and manage substantial funding. Many individuals and families in Emsworth could benefit from resilience grants, but it requires a strong local body to coordinate and deliver them. This could become an excellent piece of work in 2027, when Emsworth's Town Council emerges.

This next step is a new chapter for Emsworth. It's about giving our town the ability to shape its own destiny rather than waiting for others to decide for us. It's about building a future that reflects our values, our priorities, and our hopes. The Residents Forum will keep listening, supporting, making sure your voices lead the way.



Emsworth Residents Forum

PUBLISHER AND PRINTER
The Ems is owned and published by the Emsworth Residents Forum, c/o Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DD.
The Ems is printed by Mortons Print Ltd, Morton Way, Boston Road Industrial Estate, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 6JR.

COPYRIGHT
Copyright of The Ems as a whole is held by the Emsworth Residents' Forum (ERF). The copyright of all named articles and photographs in The Ems remains with the author/photographer, or with the ERF if no author is identified. Unless otherwise indicated, you may quote from, link to or publish brief excerpts from any article provided that you acknowledge both The Ems and the author as your source. The republishing of any article or large part thereof is prohibited without the express permission of the copyright holder.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWS NETWORK (ICNN)
The Ems is a member of the ICNN, which is part of the School of Journalism, University of Cardiff. ICNN is the UK representative body for the independent community and hyperlocal news sector. They exist to promote the interests of community and hyperlocal publishers and to champion new sustainable forms of local digital and print journalism. Their focus is at the local and hyperlocal level; the place where journalism is most valued, but also most at risk.

BBC LOCAL NEWS PARTNERSHIP
The Ems is an official partner and receives content produced by the BBC Shared Data Unit, BBC News Hub and the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA
ERF website: www.emsworthresidentsforum.org.uk
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/emsworthresidents

Current and back copies of The Ems can be viewed at: <https://archive.org/> Input Emsworth Residents Forum into the search box of this website.

Please note that we have no connection with any other Emsworth websites or social media outlets.

EDITORIAL
Please send letters, press releases and news items to David Harris, Editor: editor.theems@outlook.com; Tel 01243 378215 or by post to the Community Centre address – see above. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material.

COPY AND PUBLICATION DATES		
Edition	Deadline for commissioned articles and advertisements	The Ems is available from
Winter 2027	Wednesday 23 December	Thurs 7 January
Spring 2027	Friday 26 March	Thurs 8 April
Summer 2027	Friday 25 June	Thurs 8 July
Autumn 2027	Friday 24 September	Thurs 7 October

ADVERTISING
For advertising costs and enquiries please contact: editor.theems@outlook.com
Advertisements are accepted in good faith; however, The Ems does not accept liability

for advertisements nor endorses any services promoted in those advertisements. If you have a problem with any advertiser, we recommend you contact them in the first instance. If you do not get a satisfactory response, please email us and we will look into it.

COMPLAINTS
If you have a complaint about any aspect of The Ems please contact the editor. A copy of our complaints procedure can be obtained from our website.

DISTRIBUTION
We endeavour to deliver The Ems to all households in Emsworth, Thorney, Hermitage and Lumley areas. The Ems is also available from Emsworth Library, Emsworth Community Centre, Loretta Café, Tesco and the Co-op. If you do not receive your copy within two weeks of the publication date, as listed above, please email: jandgmil@btinternet.com.

THE EMS TEAM
Editor, Reporter, Photographer, Advertising: David Harris editor.theems@outlook.com
Tel: 01243 378215

Major Event Photographer / Days out with Dogs / Proof reader: Juliet Walker

Sports Correspondent: Suzy Gardiner
sport.theems@gmail.com

Business and Culture Correspondent: Jane Gregory
Design: Ali Beckett www.theacornworkshop.co.uk

ERF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Chair: Dwynwen Stepien (Housing)
Chair.erf@gmail.com
c/o Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth, PO10 7DD.

Secretary: Mike Ridley (Transport)
Secretary.erf@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jill Millar jandgmil@btinternet.com
Mike Bateman (Planning)
mikebateman20@gmail.com
Ellie Turnbull (Youth)
01243 374893 Youth.erf@gmail.com
Dan Grove - (Environment)
Andrew Caple

ERF PUBLIC MEETING DATES
See ERF monthly newsletters for details of future meetings.

We are planning a meeting on 10 December (7-9 pm at Emsworth Community Centre) to bring everyone together. So come along if you are excited by the prospect of a Town Council - bring your ideas and energy. Together, we can make this chapter one of the strongest in Emsworth's story.



JOIN THE ERF Just £5 per adult

You can join the ERA online
by going to:
<https://membermojo.co.uk/erf>

R.C. Decorators

Domestic & Commercial • All work guaranteed
Established 30 Years
Repair Care International
Special Contractor

Wallpapering • Painting
Decorating (internal & external)
General Maintenance
Restoration



01243 372337
07771 628188



Emsworth Travel

We specialise in providing professional advice on a wide range of ATOL protected travel and holiday itineraries. We can match your needs to literally thousands of options or 'tailor-make' your holiday to suit you.

As members of the largest consortium of independent travel agents you can be sure of free and impartial advice. Gill, Sarah, Tim and Sue look forward to helping you arrange your future holiday.

01243 377211
13 High Street, Emsworth
travel@emsworthtravel.co.uk

Holidays • Cruises • Short Breaks • Ski • UK Holidays

Liza Reeves Fabulous Food

Private Caterer For Any Event
Weddings - Parties - Receptions
Dinner Parties - Corporate Events



01243 377454 / 07932 655016
www.lizareeves-catering.com
lizareevesfabulousfood@gmail.com



EMSWORTH COMMUNITY GARDEN

Summer challenges

It has been a challenging summer at Emsworth Community Garden. Prolonged hot weather meant volunteers had to water the garden every day, which helped most crops thrive. Although the sweetcorn and cucumbers struggled, the overall harvest was very successful.

Emsworth Show results
We were delighted to win several prizes at the Emsworth Show on Bank Holiday Monday:

- First prize for cherry tomatoes and sweet peppers
- Second prize for marrows, chilli peppers, and apples
- Third prize for non-white potatoes, runner beans, squash and a display of sunflowers

In total, we won £20 in prize money and raised more than £58 in donations from vegetables grown in the garden and offered at the show. These funds will help support next year's crops.



Garden highlights
Our beehive is now well established and thriving, and we even have a grapevine.

Winter improvements
As winter approaches, we are planning several projects to improve accessibility and storage. These include extending the concrete pathway to make the garden more wheelchair friendly and paving the grass entrance area.

Storage and pathways
A garden shed donated earlier this year by a lady from Hayling Island will be reassembled in the next few weeks. In September, we ordered a truckload of wood chippings—more than 60 wheelbarrows—which a team of volunteers moved from the roadside to the garden in under an hour. These chippings will also be used to improve the pathways.

Come along to grow your own vegetables, help in the garden, or simply enjoy the tranquility and friendly company. To join us, please contact Kathy Parker on WhatsApp at 07415 378564.

The Havant Orchestras – November Concerts

Mozart Masterpieces: Havant Chamber Orchestra
Sunday 22 November 2026, Hayling Island Community Centre, Station Road, 4.30 pm.
Join Havant Chamber Orchestra and our conductor, Robin Browning, for an afternoon devoted to Mozart's brilliance and variety. The concert begins with the exuberant overture to a comic singspiel, before immersing us in the warmth and lyricism of one of Mozart's most beloved works, the *Clarinet Concerto in A Major*, played by our talented soloist, the clarinettist, Rob Blanken. We finish the evening in grand style with Mozart's brilliant '*Linz*' *Symphony no 36*.

Tide and Tempest: Havant Symphony Orchestra
Saturday 28 November 2026. Oaklands School Concert Hall, Stakes Hill Road, Waterloooville, 7.30 pm.
Under the baton of Ben Querishi, the evening begins with Wagner's dramatic *Flying Dutchman Overture* launching us into a world of storms, legend and relentless waves, before Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* paints the sea in all its shifting colours — from eerie stillness to crashing tempest. Then set sail for distant shores with Rimsky-Korsakoff's dazzling *Sheherazade*.

Tickets for both concerts are available to purchase from TicketSource via our website: <https://havantorchestras.org/> or by phone: 0333 666 3366. Seats are going fast so booking early is recommended.

funeralcare.co.uk

We're on hand in your 24/7 hour of need

When a loved one passes away, end-of-life care needs to be dependable, compassionate and ethical. With decades of experience, our trusted funeral services are available whenever you need us on 0800 008 6878.

Caring for local families for generations.

Local to you in: **Bedhampton • Chichester
Cowplain • Emsworth • Hayling • Leigh Park
Waterlooville • Widley**

NAFD

ifso

Rated Excellent

southern coop

The co-operative funeralcare

By Suzy Gardiner, Sports Correspondent
Email: sport.theems@gmail.com

Sports & Recreation

Emsworth Cricket Club

Words by Howard Fountain, Emsworth CC Chair

The 2026 season proved most eventful and challenging. The long hot summer made preparing safe and satisfactory pitches a time-consuming occupation beyond any we have experienced in recent years. Considering the ground at Emsworth Rec was under water until four weeks before the start of the season, it's hard to believe the temperatures and lack of rainfall that dominated since then. However, thanks to the volunteers who have spent hours watering and rolling the wickets, we have been able to produce good pitches throughout.

As far as the teams are concerned, both Saturday men's teams finished in the top half of their respective divisions. The midweek team has been a popular and well-supported outfit enjoying a mixed set of results while the Sunday team continued to play a dozen or so friendlies around some of the prettier village grounds in the county. The ladies section continues to grow with a great deal of effort and dedication making improved performances. Although they didn't win a game this year, several single figure defeats mean they are getting closer to several of their opponents. There were three junior teams running. The U9s had a mixed set of results while the U13s struggled with numbers,

making up their team with a sprinkling of U11s. However, the U11s themselves had an outstanding year winning all their games and finishing top of their league. Huge congratulations to them and thanks to their coaches for their continued time and efforts.

During May, June and July over 70 boys and girls took part in the All Stars and Dynamo programmes introducing youngsters to the game in a fun way. Many thanks to the coaches who volunteered every Saturday to give their time and make it such a fun event for all the children. Throughout the summer a small number of gentlemen of an age, supported by some of the ladies, played walking cricket. Using a softball and plastic bats, it



is a leisurely opportunity to display long ingrained skills in a friendly and extremely sociable situation.

Our big fundraising event for The Ruth Strauss Foundation's Red for Ruth campaign

was held in May. Five six a side mixed teams battled through the day playing a softball version. Over £700 was raised from entry fees, side shows, a bouncy castle, tea and cakes and a pizza van and particularly an extremely well supported raffle.

No club can function properly without the time, energy and commitment of its volunteers and Emsworth Cricket Club is no exception. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to make the difference this year.

If anyone has any interest in contributing to the club, whether as a player, coach or a volunteer to help score, umpire or prepare the ground, please do get in touch with our secretary Nick Webb: nick.webb21@yahoo.co.uk

Young West Sussex Teammates Selected to Represent Team UK at World Championships

Two 11-year-old kickboxers from West Sussex are preparing for the opportunity of a lifetime after being selected to represent Team UK at the ISKA Amateur World Championships in Madrid this November. Freddie May and Theo Collumbell, who both train with ARO Fitness Kick Boxing's Westbourne club, secured their places on the national team following impressive performances at the recent ISKA British Open Championships.

In a proud moment for the club, the two teammates progressed through their division to face each other in the final. Freddie claimed the British Open title and gold medal, while Theo took home the silver medal. Their performances earned them both selection to compete against the world's best young kickboxers later this year. The pair train together several times each week, attending sessions at ARO Fitness Kick Boxing clubs across Hampshire and West Sussex. Their friendly rivalry has helped drive both boys to continually improve, making their all-ARO final a particularly rewarding moment for the club.

Although representing their country is a dream come true, amateur athletes receive little financial support and must raise much of the money required to compete internationally. To help Freddie and Theo fully realise their dream, ARO Fitness Kick Boxing has launched a fundraising campaign with the aim of raising



£5,500. Every contribution, large or small, will help the boys represent their club, their local community and their country on the world stage. The club is also inviting local businesses to support the athletes through sponsorship as they continue their journey to the World Championships.

Anyone wishing to support Freddie and Theo can visit their GoFundMe page Fundraiser by Ollie Smith: Help ARO Fighters Represent Team England in Madrid or contact ARO Fitness Kick Boxing for more information.

ARO Fitness Kick Boxing
Established in 1998, ARO Fitness Kick Boxing is a family-run organisation with 11 clubs across the UK, primarily throughout Hampshire and West Sussex. The club

provides training for children and adults of all abilities, helping students develop confidence, fitness, discipline and respect in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Website: www.arofitnesskickboxing.co.uk
Telephone: 07488 318906



Chair yoga with Miztli
Tuesday mornings from 10.00-11.00: Emsworth Methodist Church

Evening Yoga
Wednesday from 6.00-6.50: The Stride Centre, Daffodil Way, Denvilles, Havant, PO92FA

All are bookable at www.yogawithmiztli.com or via www.getupandgohavant.com
Email yogawithmiztli@gmail.com

