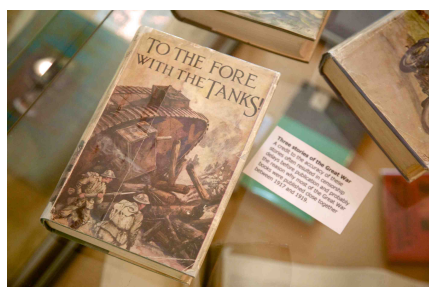


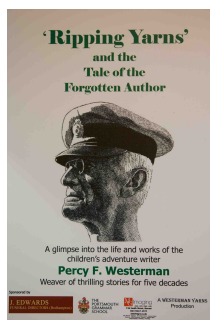
### SIMPLY SPIFFING

April 5th saw the opening of the museum after its annual winter closure. Fittingly in this WW1 centenary year the first exhibition, put on by Nigel Gossop, is on the works of Percy Westerman who wrote "ripping yarns" for boys from that era.

Nigel Gossop had read Westerman



in his youth but rediscovered him when he learnt of his connection with Portsmouth. In his words "This is the first time 'The Westerman Yarns' have been able to stage a complete exhibition celebrating the life and works of the prolific writer of children's adventure stories. The exhibition reflects his fifty year story telling career, illustrating how his love of the history and geography of our area influenced and shaped his writing. With more than 170 books covering Sea Scout yarns, historical tales, Great War



*Tony Stimson, Nigel Gossop and James Priory*

and Second World War stories and many more adventures, all published between 1908 and 1959, we have included a few titles from across the years. It is fascinating to see how the decades are reflected in the book cover artwork."

The exhibition was opened by James Priory, Headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School. He spoke of Percy Westerman's time at the school in 1890 when he was 14.



His hopes of a career on the sea were cut short when it was discovered that he was shortsighted. Instead he became one of the most influential children's writers of his generation and is now part of the

literary heritage of Portsmouth. Fifty years after leaving school he swept back and donated a collection of his works which are still kept in the School's Library. The Portsmouth Grammar School are very proud of Westerman's connection with the school and James Priory mooted the idea of perhaps having a Westerman Prize in future. He has hopes that the



exhibition at Emsworth Museum will ensure that Westerman's legacy lives on.

Come along to the museum this month and discover Westerman for yourself. The settings of most of his books were within this locality and include references to Emsworth. Some of his works are now available online so if you fancy a ripping yarn why not get out your Kindle or tablet...

**Our colour pages are sponsored by Steven Borland of Borland & Borland the local estate agents.**

# Dates for your diary

All MONTHLY EXHIBITIONS are held in the museum's David Rudkin Room.

TALKS are held in the Mountford Rooms, Church Path Community Centre at 7.30p.m.

At present admission charges are - Members £1.50 Non Members £3.00

April 5th	Museum Re-opens
April 5th - 23rd	Exhibition - "Ripping Yarns and the Tale of the Forgotten Author" Nigel Glossop's display about Percy F. Westerman
April 26th ) - May 18th )	Exhibition by Aspire Group and Ken Briffett (Art Trail - April 26th / 27th and May 3rd/4th/5th)
May 13th	Coffee Morning at 3 Swan Close
May 24th ) - June 22nd )	Exhibition - "D.Day for Emsworth and its People"
May 27th	Walk led by Linda Newell starting from Emsworth Museum
June 18th	Treasure Hunt
June 24th	Walk led by Linda Newell starting from Emsworth Museum
June 28th ) - July 27th )	Exhibition - Photographic record by Bernard Gudge J.D.Foster – Emsworth Ship Builder, Oyster and Timber Merchant
July 29th	Walk led by Linda Newell starting from Emsworth Museum
August 1st ) - 25th )	Exhibition "The Men of Emsworth who went to War 1914 - 1918"
August 25th	Emsworth Show
August 26th	Walk led by Linda Newell starting from Emsworth Museum
August 29th - ) September 28th )	Exhibition - "90th Anniversary of H.H. Treagust (Butchers)"
September 30th	Walk led by Linda Newell starting from Emsworth Museum
October 4th ) - 26th )	Exhibition "The Emsworth Improvement Scheme 1961 - 1962"
October 20th	"Stories from the Royal Train" illustrated talk by Graeme Payne
November 24th	"Emsworth in WWI" illustrated talk by Linda Newell
December	Stewards Christmas Tea party

## Museum Opening Times

Emsworth Museum will be open from Saturday 5th April until 26th October on Saturdays and Bank Holidays (including Good Friday) from 10.30am until 4.30pm and on Sundays from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

In addition it will be open on St George's Day (23rd April) from 10.00am until 2.00pm, on the 5 days of the Art Trail (26th / 27th April and 3rd / 4th / 5th May) from 10.30am until 4.30pm on 6th June from 10.30am until 4.30pm and all Fridays in August from 2.30pm until 4.30pm.

Members are welcome to visit the museum for research on most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2.00pm until 4.00pm EXCEPT the first Tuesday of each alternate month (4th March, 6th May, 1st July, 2nd September and 4th November). From time to time groups and organisations arrange to visit on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon or events are planned on these days.

If you would like to be sure that the museum will be open, please telephone or email me.

ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM IS FREE We are always grateful for financial donations to help with the expenses of running the museum.

Dorothy 01243 373780  
dorothybone@btinternet.com

## Admin's Alcove

With only three more editions of Admin's Alcove to write, I am finding it more difficult to be original.

We are already into Spring and the Museum opens to the public again. The winter has been quite intense with decorating the main room this year. All the exhibits had to be moved to allow Bob and his team access to the walls to decorate them. I do feel that this creamy colour is warmer and lighter, so the main room will feel lighter and more airy. While Bob has been working his magic I have been trying to think how to display the artefacts in a way that people think they are all new(!) so will want to see them all again.

During the summer months I hope we will find time to dismantle the

dress cabinet, so that we have more room to display the clothing on our two new 'members'. We have been able to obtain mannequins to display the Lewis wedding dress and Sir Richard Thomas' uniform as Black Rod.

This winter has seen both Joyce Baldwin and Linda Gentles giving up their roles in the Museum. Both of them were of enormous help to me on Thursdays, when they beavered away in the Museum helping to sort out the information into an easy reference system. They also ran the stewards' rota, so that we always had volunteers and key holders to make sure the Museum was staffed to welcome the public. My heartfelt thanks to them both for all their help, their time and their friendship.

When I was preparing my first draft of this article I was going to say that I was waiting with bated breath to hear about our bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to improve the information displays for the oyster history of Emsworth. Now, with my final draft, I can throw my hat in the air and tell you that we have just heard that the application has been successful. We have been awarded £28,000 to work with a local film company and local primary schools to make a film about the industry and redesign the oyster section of the Museum. By the time we get round to the July newsletter we should nearly have finished spending all the money, and I will be able to give you the full story.

Linda Newell

## Hutchins Watch on the Square is Over

Many Emsworthians felt sad to see the notices "Closing Down Sale" in the windows of a familiar shop, number 28 on the High Street in Emsworth.



L&M Hutchins outfitters shop overlooked the Square and occupied part of a late eighteenth century Grade II listed building.

As Ayling & Sons it was a drapers shop. Later it became Corbins selling clothes and shoes and Mr Leonard Hutchins worked there and became the manager. Then in 1977 Leonard



and his wife Marjorie bought the building and continued to trade as outfitters. In 2010 Mr and Mrs Hutchins died within a week of each other at the age of ninety. Their daughter Marlene took over the business but having worked there since the age of seven she felt the time had come to retire.

Emsworth Museum has a very long wish list and on it was a pair of male and female mannequins, the idea being to use these to display Black Rod's uniform and an Edwardian

wedding dress. After the Museum made enquiries about the shop fittings, Marlene Barton (pictured on the right below) very generously



donated two full figure vintage mannequins to the Museum.

We are extremely grateful to Marlene and wish her a happy and healthy retirement in the knowledge that two old friends, impressively dressed and located nearby, will soon be ready to welcome visitors.

Wendy Bright



## Message from your Chairman

My thanks to all those members who supported their committee by attending the AGM on 17 March 2014. The good news for those who haven't heard it already – we have signed the Lease for the premises over the Fire Station which we use for the Museum. All being well, this gives us a home for the next twenty years. Once again I must express our heartfelt gratitude to our landlord, Havant Borough Council, for the support they give us in providing this home for the Museum at a peppercorn rent. With

this support, we are able to maintain the valuable and much appreciated cultural asset this “gem of a Museum” as Dr Margaret Rule put it last year, provides in the Borough.

The other good news is that a number of new volunteers have offered their services as Stewards for the new season. My thanks to all those concerned; their efforts will be much appreciated. Nevertheless, we always need more Stewards and if there are other members out there who are willing to volunteer, please would they contact Dorothy Bone as soon as possible. They will be very

welcome as new Stewards.

We have some exciting and interesting exhibitions planned for the Rudkin Room this season, mostly with a strong Emsworth connection. I hope all members both local to the Emsworth area and from far and wide, will visit the Museum to see these exhibitions. I wish you all a culturally enjoyable and rewarding season supporting the Museum and its work. The Trust is extremely grateful for your support in keeping the Museum going.

Tony Stimson. Chairman

## AGM

The 39th AGM of Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust was held on 17th March and the minutes will be distributed with the Emsworth Echo in November. Reports were presented by the Chairman, Treasurer and committee members and the recommendations and appointments on the agenda for the meeting were unanimously agreed.

After a short break Adrian Fox showed a very interesting video of



*A priest of the Orthodox Ethiopian church showing his ornate crosses, particular to certain areas of the country*

his recent travels in Ethiopia.

Adrian's film focused on his tour of the north of Ethiopia mainly from Addis Ababa to the Tigray province.

There he and his wife Josette saw the rock hewn churches and visited castles. In Axum, centre of Christianity of Ethiopia, they saw the church where they purport to have the Ark of the Covenant brought there some 3000 years ago by the first King, Menelik. King Menelik was the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. It was a challenging experience that most of us wouldn't consider undertaking. Thank you Adrian for an enjoyable conclusion to the evening's business.

## EXHIBITION PREVIEW

The first exhibition for 2014 is “Ripping Yarns and the Tale of the Forgotten Author” and I hope that you find time to see this colourful and interesting display.

The next three exhibitions are:-

**April 26th - May 18th Art Trail Artists.** Ken Briffett will be displaying examples of his wood turning skills and joins with the Aspire Group whose paintings, textile art, photographs, wet felt items and stone carvings including lettering on stone will also be on show

**May 24th - June 22nd “D. Day for Emsworth and its People”.** This exhibition will show visitors what life was like in 1944 and how the build up and preparations for the D. Day landings affected the local residents of Emsworth. The display will include details of the role of women in the war effort and the local war production. It will also

describe the effects of rationing, movement controls etc. using memories of local residents and people involved in the events of D. Day. We are very pleased that two local veterans who took part in the D. Day landings hope to attend the opening of the exhibition.

**June 28th - July 27th “J.D. Foster - Ship Builder, Oyster and Timber Merchant”.** Using images and documents from his personal collection Bernie Gudge will show the history of J.D. Foster's oyster, timber and ship building businesses and their importance to the people of Emsworth. Pictures on display will include J. D Foster overseeing work in the timber yard, the portrait celebrating his 80th birthday and his funeral procession. Court records published in the County Press newspaper in the early 1900s will also be available.

Dorothy Bone

## TALKS

### The Strange Coincidence that Led to WWI

Philip Robinson, an exceptional local historian, presented this excellent talk on the 20th January to an audience of 75 people. This was a most appropriate talk in this year



*Phillip Robinson left and Tony Stimson right*

of the 100th Anniversary of the start of WWI. Philip told us a remarkable story of the background and events and consequences of 28th June 1914, the historic day when Archduke Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were murdered. The originality and depth of his research was evident from his presentation of a spellbinding love story with a tragic ending. The talk was illustrated by the many photographs of actual locations in

Sarajevo taken when he visited the area. We are indebted to Philip for donating his fee to the Trust.

### The Hidden Canal

A digital slide show on 24th February attracted an exceptional audience of 97 people. It traced a journey along the hidden canal that was constructed in the nineteenth century to go from Portsmouth to Arundel. Michael Edwards, retired local photographer and cyclist showed maps of the route followed by colourful photographs of the



remains of the disused canal. Debenhams in Portsmouth was the starting point and detective work traced the route across Portsea

Island crossing the sea through Hayling Wade Way then past Emsworth to Birdham and on to Arundel. This fascinating presentation elicited more questions on the history and the connection with the patron Lord Egremont. The London to Portsmouth canal was intended to be a secure inland canal route for military materiel without carrying vessels having to venture through the English Channel. It was completed in 1823 but closed in 1847.

The popularity of these talks has led to a move to offer advance sale tickets to members of the Trust in the future.

### Forthcoming Talks 2014

Monday 20th October  
Stories from The Royal Train by  
Graeme Payne

Monday 24th November  
Emsworth Men who Went to War  
(1914-1918) by Linda Newell

Wendy Bright

## Come Walk With Me



Just a gentle reminder that I will be leading the local history walks again this summer. The general walks will be held on the last Tuesday of the month from April to September, starting at 6.00pm from outside the Museum and lasting for about 1.5 hours.



It is a gentle ramble around Emsworth, stopping about 2 times to comment about parts of Emsworth's

history that fascinates me – no long lists of dates or boring bits (I hope!) If members wish to pre-book places for themselves and their guests the price is £2.00 per person. The best way to book would be to phone the Museum on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00pm or ring me on my home number 01243 371608. (e-mail is also available – [envr@btinternet.com](mailto:envr@btinternet.com)) For all people paying on the night, without pre-booking, the price is £3.00. The lesson is, if you want the members' rate please remember to book in advance.

Dates are : 27th May, 24th June, 29th July, 26th August and 30th September.

Another small reminder – that this is the last summer I will be leading these walks for the Museum. I hope The Trust would like to continue with them, but obviously one or more volunteers will be needed. If any of you feel this is something you would like to contribute to the Museum's work with the public, I would be only too happy to help you devise your own walk.

Linda Newell





## COME AND JOIN US

We are very lucky to live in an area with such beautiful scenery and an interesting historical past. Two events organised for the summer take full advantage of this – don't miss out – put the dates in your diary now.

Dorothy Bone

### COFFEE MORNING ON TUESDAY 13th MAY

10.30am – 12.30pm

Bob Duncan is again kindly hosting a coffee morning at his home, 3 Swan Close (off King Street). We hope you can come.



Non members are also invited – so bring your friends and neighbours. If you came last year you will know that Bob has a lovely garden overlooking the sea which makes this a beautiful place to meet up with acquaintances and relax whilst enjoying the outstanding view.



This event is to raise funds for the continuing improvement of the facilities and displays in Emsworth Museum – advance booking is not required, admission is by donation and we will be very grateful for your support.



WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE

Whether you have recently moved to the area, or have lived here for many years, if you take part in this annual event you are sure to learn some new facts about Emsworth.

The Treasure Hunt starts from inside Emsworth Museum at 7.00pm. The route will take you on a circular walk, mainly along familiar streets, arriving back at the museum for a well deserved cup of tea or coffee and biscuits whilst you wait for your answers to be checked.

The cost is £1.00 per person payable on the evening. Come along, bring your friends, and prove how good you are at observing the things around you.

## A “Greener” Museum

A one day course at Sea City Museum in Southampton proved invaluable in guiding Emsworth Museum towards reaching an Accreditation Standard required by the Arts Council. It was organised by the South East Museum Development Programme and presented by the Sustainable Business Partnership (a not for profit group). Emsworth Museum was the only museum represented with charitable status and run by volunteers.

Titled “Utilise” this course was concerned with energy, water and waste and how their use is under the Museum's control and may be reduced through better monitoring and management. It may be shown

that low or no cost actions can result in immediate savings. Environmental sense makes economic sense.

Emsworth Museum was fortunate to be offered a free on site visit in January by Rowan Wallis one of the course leaders.



Rowan Wallis

This practical look at the premises, lighting, electricity and water meters etc resulted in Rowan providing a bespoke sustainability report highlighting potential measures that could be taken to reduce energy



Ashley Pugh Rowan Wallis and Bob Duncan

consumption and environmental impact.

Over the next few months the Committee intend to look at grant applications to fund some of the recommendations particularly for conservation and sustainability eg considering changes to LED lighting, recycling and UV film on windows. Resulting changes to current practice will be communicated to members as we make progress..

Wendy Bright

## ARTHUR RULE 1922 - 2014

In 1975 when Emsworth Maritime Trust (later to become Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust) was set up Arthur Rule was appointed its first Vice-Chairman. He held the position for about a year until the group was established and more local people became involved in the organisation. Margaret Rule was appointed President of the Trust in 1994 and Arthur joined her from time to time when she visited Emsworth Museum.

*The following information has been taken from a brief biography by Nick Rule -*

*Arthur and Margaret's son.*

Arthur was born in July 1922 in Hackney – thus being born within the sound of bow bells he was a true cockney. He originally wanted a career as a vet but after a year working on a farm he returned to London and got a job as a Laboratory technician with the International Chemical Company (later to become Wyeths). In 1941 he joined the RAF serving mainly in Egypt and Greece. After the war he returned to I.C.C. in London where he met Margaret and they were married in 1949. Arthur and Margaret came to live in Chichester

when Wyeths moved to Havant and in 1957 they purchased the almost derelict Watermill at Westbourne which they slowly repaired and it became their home. Arthur retired from Wyeths in 1987 and in 1993 they moved to Bracklesham Bay where he continued to advise the Emsworth Fisherman's Federation, supported Margaret in her projects in Malta, Guernsey and Cape Verde and of course his life long hobby of collecting tools and traps.

Dorothy Bone

*Chairman Tony Stimson and Dorothy Bone represented the Trust at Arthur's funeral on 14th March.*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Thank you to those members who paid so promptly this year. It makes the life of the Membership Secretary so much easier. All members who have renewed their subscription for 2014 at the new rate will by now have received their membership cards with this or the previous Newsletter or by post.

Not paid yet, or still thinking of doing so? With the increase in subscriptions and the ever increasing cost of

living we can quite understand the reluctance of those few members who have yet to re-join. However, we do rely on our members for their support of the Museum which was recently described as a Jewel in the Crown of Emsworth. Should you decide not to re-join I would be very pleased to hear from you, if only to make sure that we don't bother you any further.

Peter Morse. Membership Secretary

## Norfolk Holiday – 4 days in September from 8th to 11th

Instead of the advertised schedule on the second day we are now making a longer visit to the North Norfolk Railway, followed by lunch and free time in Cromer. Then we have a boat trip on the Broads, starting from Horning. We think that this will be more enjoyable than the original schedule and hope that it meets with approval.

We still have a couple of places left for latecomers – please phone Peter Morse (01243 697582, peter.morse@talktalk.net).

## NEWSLETTER

You will see from the items within this edition that we have a few members who regularly contribute articles to the newsletter. Would you like to write an article for the next edition which will come out in July? We would welcome your views on exhibitions or talks or any other aspect relating to the museum. Please contact me if you would like to contribute an article or have a letter published..

Marguerita Taplin. 01243 374105. margueritataplin@yahoo.co.uk

## Emsworth Show

Following the Emsworth Horticultural Show in 2013 the committee of the Emsworth Horticultural Society agreed a very generous donation to the Trust from their surplus income. This is the second amount that we have received from them and we are extremely grateful for their assistance.

Every year we take a stall at the show to promote the museum's facilities and displays and to recruit new members. Please telephone 01243 378091 or email dorothybone@btinternet.com if you would be willing to help on the stall on 25th August this year.

Dorothy Bone



## PRIDE OF EMSWORTH



Emsworth Museum recently acquired a badge of a “BROTHER” of the “PRIDE OF EMSWORTH”. This was from Lodge 5774 of the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (MUIOOF) and dated 1890. An eagle-eyed member had

discovered the badge was for sale on ebay. When alerted, the decision to purchase was made by the EM&HT Committee with a speed of response worthy of practiced “Snap” players. As a result the badge was secured within two days of it being spotted.

A Friendly Society was established in Emsworth as long ago as 1763, and existed for more than two hundred years. By the end of the nineteenth century there were at least seven such societies functioning in the town and its locality, among them being the Oddfellows and the Ancient order of Foresters. The badge is therefore part of a story that covers quite a long period of history of the town. Currently the immediate information surrounding the badge is being sought but it is already apparent that here lies a rich seam of material to occupy local historians for some little while.

The badge itself was intended for ceremonial and celebrational use, as its extremely decorative appearance

might indicate. The reverse however repeats the same gold lettering, now on a black background. This allowed the function of the badge to change dramatically to enable the wearer to mark sombre occasions such as deaths and their anniversaries, and funerals. The cost of the acquisition has been met by the Trust’s 50/50 Club, and the Trust is most grateful to those members who contribute generously to this valuable fund-raising activity.

A Clive Pugh

*Have you considered becoming a member of the 50/50 Club or increasing the number of shares you already hold? Shares still only cost £6.00 each for a year’s membership but, in view of the increased cost of administration since the Club started in 1989, we ask new members to purchase a minimum of two shares. Existing members may, of course, increase their allocation by single shares. An entry form can be obtained from the 50/50 Club Organiser, Peter Morse (01243 697582, [peter.morse@talktalk.net](mailto:peter.morse@talktalk.net)).*

**BOB THE BUILDER** Pictured here are a few of Bob Duncan's band of volunteers who helped decorate the museum's Main Display Room over winter..



Margaret Rogers



Bob Duncan



Maureen Barrett



Redecorated Main Display Room



The views expressed by contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the General Committee.

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If you would like to provide a news article or illustrations for the newsletter, please send this to the editor, Marguerita Taplin [margueritaplin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margueritaplin@yahoo.co.uk) (disk or email preferred to hard copy)

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