

Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

Reg. Charity No 294965

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Emsworth Museum

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Issue April 2009

St George celebrations Emsworth Museum opens with a 'bang'



Sergeant Major Garry Collins, 47th Regiment, shows highlights to museum administrator Linda Newell

The first special exhibition "Baker Barracks - Thorney Island" (11th - 26th April) has been arranged by Officers and other ranks of the 47th Regiment Royal Artillery. The display includes artefacts from each of the Batteries of the Regiment and also picture board descriptions of the present overseas and U.K. peacetime roles and information about how the Service families have become involved in local charity and fund raising events in the town.

The exhibition has been planned to coincide with a number of community events being held during the week that includes St. George's Day. The day itself (Thursday 23rd April) is being celebrated in Emsworth with a Military Parade and ceremony in St. Peter's Square - **details of the 170 (Imjin) Battery and the Battle of the River Imjin is on page 5.**

From 21st - 26th April there will be a variety of events including illustrated talks, and a display of paintings and artefacts about the Women's Land Army. On Saturday 25th April there will be Majorettes, Morris dancers, street theatre and Emsworth's version of the Last Night of the Proms. **Pick up a leaflet to get the full programme.**

Dorothy Bone

Dates for your diary

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 11th April | Emsworth Museum re-opened after the winter break with most of the displays in the Main Room re-designed and re-arranged. |
| | The exhibitions listed below marked with **** are in the David Rudkin Room. |
| 11th - 26th April | **** "Baker Barracks - Thorney Island" by 47th Regiment R.A. |
| 2nd - 31st May | **** "Emsworth Art Trail Artists" |
| 6th - 28th June | **** "100th Anniversary of Opening of Washington Road Primary School" |
| 18th June | Annual Treasure Hunt starting from the museum at 7.00p.m. |
| ☒ | |
| 4th - 26th July | **** "90th Anniversary of the start of Emsworth Horticultural Society" by the Society |
| 1st - 31st August | **** "The History of Ss. Thomas - Emsworth" by Father Grufferty |
| 31st August | Emsworth Horticultural Show |
| 5th - 27th September | **** "More than Words - a Wander through the world of Pop-ups and Illustrated Books" by Carol Waldron (Bookends) |
| 19th September | Open Day at Glenwood School, Washington Road |
| 25th September - 4th October | Havant Borough Literary Festival |
| 3rd October - 1st November | **** "Earth, Air and Water" a Photograph and Art Exhibition by Chichester Harbour Conservancy |
| 22nd October | "The Rise and Fall of Emsworth Oysters" Talk by John Tweddell in the Mountford Rooms, Church Path Community Centre, Emsworth at 7.30p.m. Admission Members £1.00 Non Members £2.00 |
| 25th October | Oyster Trail walk organised for Chichester Harbour Conservancy by John Tweddell. |

Emsworth Museum is open on Saturdays and Bank Holidays from 10.30a.m. until 4.30p.m. and on Sundays from 2.30p.m. until 4.30p.m. The museum will also be open on Thursday 23rd April to celebrate St. George's Day. Admission is free. Donations are welcome.

The May exhibition "**Emsworth May Days Art**" is from 2nd - 31st May. Emsworth's May Days Art Trail, organised by Havant Borough Council, is on 2nd and 3rd of May. This is the weekend when Emsworth artists open their studios (or display in local halls) and invite visitors to look at their work.

Many of these artists (painters, jewellery makers, wood carvers and sculptors) are displaying samples of their art in the museum for the whole of the month of May.

Washington Road Primary School was opened to the first pupils in 1909 and from 6th - 28th June the museum will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with an exhibition of pictures, photographs and memorabilia. If you were a pupil at the school come along and see if you can recognise yourself or your friends in the pictures. We hope that visitors will identify many of the young people and so add to the records we have in the archive.

The July exhibition "90th Anniversary of the Start of Emsworth Horticultural Society" is from 4th - 26th July. When it

was formed in 1919 (soon after the end of WWI) it was known as the Emsworth and District Allotments and Gardens Association.

The Annual Treasure Hunt will take place on Thursday 18th June starting from the museum at 7.00p.m. Come along and enjoy a walk around Emsworth, test your powers of observation and learn new facts about this lovely old town.

The entry fee of £1.00 per person includes tea and biscuits when you return to have your answers checked.

Admin's Alcove

By the time you read this the Museum will be open for the summer season, and I must say I have enjoyed the winter months – getting to know some of the archives better and finding new things to display. I am sure you will be happy to know that very few of the old favourites have been put away, but we have found ways of bringing out some of the little used items.

I have always felt that P.G. Wodehouse seemed to dominate the displays, and yet he was only in Emsworth for 10 years. I know he had an enormous influence on making people aware of the name of Emsworth once he had left by using the various names of the people and places around Emsworth, but I still feel that there are many people as worthy of places in the Museum as he. Therefore, I have confined him to his own little room, where everything is available relating to him. It can be used as a study area, or just as a total Wodehouse experience for the visitor.

I have also made a little area for last year's oyster exhibition. It was so successful and people are still asking to see it, that I have made it a permanent part of the main room. Also I am hoping that we will find a publisher to put all the information into a book. There is so much that it does need lots of visits, or a chance to read about it at home. Oysters always seem to bring the crowds in whenever there is an event linked to them. Perhaps it is the ghoul in us that wants to know about the sewers, typhoid and death that holds the fascination!

There are also new displays in the main room of textiles and some of the implements used by Tony Yoward and the other pharmacists and chemists in Emsworth. The layout is also slightly different, which has allowed the light to filter through more easily, so hopefully people will be able to see and read all the labels and stay longer.

The first exhibition is already in place as I write (5th April) and we had a very successful press day with Sgt Major Garry Collins. Frances Sweeney came to do a piece for The News, and we are

always grateful to her for her continued support. She is always there for us. Also, Tony Smith from Angel Radio did an interview with Garry, which we will have a copy of for our archives. Malcolm Wells from The News also attended, together with Adrian and his video camera and John with the digital, and I expect you will find a photo of Garry somewhere in this issue.

Also in other parts of the letter you will find something about our new project, where we are going to be seeking Lottery Funding for a large project, and the case of what came through the window!



A little area for last year's successful oyster exhibition

St. George's Day is upon us and the events in the Square mean that we will have an extra open day on Thursday 23rd April, and we will also share a stall at the St. George's Day Festival Market on Sunday 26th. If any of you would like to get involved in helping at this event, the more the merrier and please do turn up in the South Street Car Park any time between 10.30am and 4.00pm.

Chris Treagust has been working very hard in the reception area building our new desk. This is in the same wood as the souvenir cabinets, so makes the reception look very smart. The Stewards at their open day gave it their vote of support. We have also purchased two chairs in memory of Rena

Boutell and Celia Regan-Simpkin. These will eventually have plaques on them so that all can see. One of them will be used by the steward sitting at the reception desk and the other will be for anyone working at the computer in the archive room.

Our Chairman this year has produced a new banner for us to hang out of the window, so that people can see us from a distance, and our local Member of Parliament will have performed our opening ceremony for us, so hopefully we are all GO for 2009. Please do come and see what has been going on.

Linda.



New displays in the main room of textiles

Museum opened for 2009 Season



David Willetts MP opened the refurbished Emsworth Museum at 10.30 am on Easter Saturday.



New Season - New Look

*Top left: New museum 'open' banner
Left: P.J.Woodhouse gets his own room
Above: Time for your medicine*



50/50 club draw at AGM

Membership cards

Members paying by Standing Order will already have received their membership cards with the January newsletter. Members who have paid by other means should find their cards with this mailing. Please make sure that you do not discard them with the envelope.

50/50 Club

You will be pleased to know that the 50/50 Club has now raised £282 towards the £480 required for the new lighting in the Museum.

In the January newsletter I promised to enclose an application form. However, the extra thickness of the envelope would have added over 50% to the postage. This mailing is not so thick and so I have now taken the opportunity to enclose an application form which should be used by prospective new members of the Club.

Front page story:

170 (Imjin) Battery and the Battle of the River Imjin

Over the years the 25/170 (Imjin) Battery has served in many parts of the world - including India, France, Cyprus, Germany, Korea, Northern Ireland and Iraq.

The following description is taken from information provided by an Officer from the 47th Regiment.

"In December 1950 the 170 Anti-Tank Battery was sent to Korea as part of 29 Infantry Brigade. During the spring of 1951, along an historic invasion route, three Divisions of the 63rd Chinese Communist Army mounted an attack on Seoul. The 29th Brigade had prepared its position astride this route and overlooking the Imjin River. A troop of the 170 Independent Mortar Battery was allocated to each of the three forward battalions. Supporting the Gloucestershire Regiment was C Troop. The remainder of the Brigade (the Northumberland Fusiliers, The Royal Ulster Rifles and the Belgian capital Battalion) was deployed to the east of the Gloucester Regiment. The Brigade frontage of about 12,000m contained gaping holes through which the enemy were subsequently to infiltrate in their thousands.

On 22nd April 1951, on a warm day with a touch of spring in the air, the Battle of the Imjin began. Throughout the first night



the Battalion and C Troop held its positions against seemingly overwhelming odds of ten to one. During the next two days, in the course of bitter fighting, they were forced to withdraw from the forward positions onto the hills overlooking Solma-Ri (the site of the Gloucestershire Regiment Memorial). By the evening of 24th April the exhausted survivors, occupying a small position on the hilltop, were completely surrounded. Ammunition was low and all attempts to relieve them had failed. That night they held the hill against further repeated attacks. Finally on the morning of the 25th they made their last stand before attempting to break out through the encircling Chinese. Lacking ammunition most were captured in the Chinese

dominated countryside. Their actions delayed the advance of the Chinese for three days providing time for the United Nations Forces to re-group and block the Chinese advance on Seoul.

C Troop 170 Independent Motor Battery Royal Artillery fought so gallantly alongside the 1st Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment near the village of Solma-Ri that it received the Presidential Citation from the President of the United States. In 1954 the honour title "Imjin" was granted by her Majesty the Queen for the Battery's part in the Battle of the Imjin River. All members of the Battery wear the citation ribbon.

Dorothy Bone

Existing members who want to increase their holding should discuss this with me (01243 375740) so that their holdings can be synchronised.

Where do you think you live?

You might think that your postal address, as preferred by the Royal Mail, will tell you where your house is, i.e. it will be an indication of where you live or how to get there. However, it's not so simple as that. In fact the 28 million preferred addresses kept by the Royal Mail are merely delivery instructions to the postal workers,. Often they take no account of parish, county or even national boundaries.

The preferred addresses usually take the form:

Flat Number*
House Name*
House Number, Street Name
POST TOWN
Post Code

* if relevant

Post codes were introduced in the UK between 1959 and 1974 and, with your house name or number, should uniquely define your address. Before then, there could be considerable confusion. For example NEWPORT could be any one of 7 towns: the post towns in Dyfed, the Isle of Wight, Gwent and Shropshire, and 3 other non-post towns.

The first 3 characters of the Post Code define the Post Town (e.g. PO10 for EMSWORTH) the next figure gives the district and the final two characters the postman's 'walk' - but there are some differences in London and for the Giro Bank which, from its Post Code should be in Glasgow, but isn't. The addition of Street Name and Post Town to the address is not strictly necessary but it provides a useful backup and helps the delivery man who may not know all the 'walks' from just the last two characters. Altogether, there are about 1500 Post

Towns and an average of 15 houses for each postman's walk.

So, as far as the Royal Mail is concerned, there is no such place as Westbourne (near Emsworth) or, for that matter, Southbourne, Prinsted or the Hermitage and none of these locations should appear on the envelope - they are all covered by EMSWORTH. This is because Emsworth is the nearest Post Town to each of these places and the sorting office at Emsworth is the final destination before your letters are delivered to your house.

As the Membership Secretary, I try to use the preferred address as this should cause least delay. Even so, I do realise that some members will have strong feelings about this and, if you let me know, I will use the address most acceptable to you.

Peter Morse



Pot Shot at the Museum

A meeting was arranged in the Museum to discuss the Emsworth Art Trail, so I arrived nice and early to make sure we had the chairs out. I thought I was quite observant, but I walked in and out of the office several times before I noticed glass on my nice new office chair! Looking around slightly aghast, I saw a hole in one of the small upper windows of the office. A nice round cricket ball sized hole, which had showered the whole office in glass. Not only the office, but through the internal window into the reception area, and I also found glass under the little table in the archive room. The glass was



very old and had flaked, so had flown everywhere. Therefore, while the meeting was going on, I was moving all sorts of things and getting on my hands and knees to clear it all up. The cleaner was too big to get into all the little corners, so I did do some housework that night.

We contact Tim Lawman at Havant Borough Council, who is our contact with our landlords, and he arranged for one of his workmen to come in and replace it. He even offered to help clear up the mess he had made, which I thought was very good of him.

We have no idea what it was that hit the window, and from the size of the hole we assumed that something had come through, but who knows. We have found nothing that could be the culprit, but I may find something someday.

Linda Newell

Video archives to be accessible in the Museum

Most of the members are aware of our excellent library of audio tapes which are a valuable asset to our history records. Perhaps what is not so well known is that we have a substantial library of video recordings going back over 30 years. These sound and vision recordings are in a variety of formats, VHS, DVC Hi8 etc , which made it difficult to access them for the general public. Now Linda has done a deal with the Wessex sound and Film Archives who will gradually convert all of these to DVDs. Then we can sort and index for all to view on our large TV or the PC.

Various people donated VHS tapes over the years which covered important local events like the removal of the Ark in the Emsworth channel. Since 1995, a video team - John Cave, Eddie Lewis, Don Van't Riet, myself and latterly Donald Wells have recorded many of the more important events in the town. Some to mention, Ian Carmichael and the Wodehouse plaque on Threepwood, the new cross on St James' with canon David Partridge, arrival of the new Fire Engine, lifeboat days and Food festivals, Sir Peter Blake and Strahan Soames discussing an exhibition and many more. I hope that apart from their historical value, that you will enjoy them yourselves.

Adrian Fox

Holiday to Bristol

Thank you to those of you who indicated that you were interested in joining in with the holiday that was arranged to Bristol at the beginning of June. Unfortunately, out of a membership of over 400 people we were only able to persuade 26 to commit to the dates, and even then 3 of those had to drop out for various reasons. We do have to have a firm number of 30 to hold these events, and therefore I very regretfully had to cancel and return the deposit cheques.

I have said to those who showed interest that I will look at a holiday for next May/June (2010) and give you the details in the November newsletter. This should give you some time to sort your dates out and plan your activities. However, if we cannot run this next holiday successfully the committee will assume that the requirements of our members have changed and we will look for other ways of socialising.

Linda Newell

Oyster talk sell out

Tickets for the recent 'Rise and fall of Emsworth Oysters' sold out two weeks before the event. Although thirty tickets were kept in reserve for members at the door - over twenty had to be turned away on the night. We apologise if you were disappointed, however the good news is that we are

repeating the talk during a special **Emsworth Seafood Week** in October. Using the community interest in our maritime heritage, the Trust is spearheading this new food event in the town with most cafes, pubs, hotels and restaurants taking part. Full details will be available in the next newsletter.

Bruce Doxat-Pratt

our 88-year old Trustee reminisces

An interview with Frances Sweeney, the local correspondent of 'The News'

EMSWORTH: The final reunion of the 849 Squadron Pilots, Observers and Telegraphist Air Gunners who served during WWII was held in London towards the end of last year. Among those attending was Emsworth resident Bruce V. Doxat-Pratt who was born on St Valentine's Day 1921, hence the initial V in his name. From the age of nine he was a chorister at Westminster Abbey where King George V and Queen Mary were regular visitors. He sang at many royal occasions and weddings such as that of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina. Bruce was a Tenor Choral Scholar at King's College, Cambridge and commenced B.A. degree studies in Mathematics but after a short time he left King's to start Naval training in Portsmouth and flying training in Trinidad. Bruce said, 'I was an Observer in 825 Swordfish Squadron flying from the old Ark Royal on Malta Convoys, before she was torpedoed and sank in 1941. I then went on flying service in the Far East, Ceylon after the fall of Singapore in 1942, to crash landing in the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro, to the Madagascar campaign, against Vichy French bases for the German Indian Ocean Fleet, and from Tanganyika to the formation of 849 Squadron and work-up in the U.S.A. on Avenger torpedo bombers. I continued flying until the end of the



Left to Right: Cathy Sachs, Bruce V. Doxat-Pratt and Dorothy Bone.

war when I returned to Cambridge to resume my studies.' In 1944 Bruce married Joan Metcalfe in Cambridge graduating in 1948 to start a new life with a wife and child. After two years teaching he returned to the Navy until 1969 and in 1970 he became Director of Studies at Wolsey Hall Oxford until he retired to Emsworth in 1983. In 2000 he met Prince Charles at St James' Palace following the unveiling of the Fleet Air Arm Memorial. Only three survivors of the original founder members of 849 Squadron attended the 65th anniversary of its formation in 1943: John Brown and Dickie Richardson

(Telegraphist Air Gunner) and Bruce Doxat-Pratt (Observer) with other surviving members of the squadron who joined it through 1944/5. Cathy Sachs, Bruce's daughter who lives outside Washington D.C, flew home to join her father for the reunion which was also attended by Bruce's friend Dorothy Bone. Before she returned to America Cathy said, 'It was very moving and emotional. This was the first reunion I had been to though Dorothy has attended them all. There was a real sense of time and history and I am so proud of dad.' The 849 Squadron is still in operation but now with helicopters.

New Chairs

We have 2 new chairs in the museum - one for the Steward on duty in the Reception area and one for use by Members and visitors using the computer facilities in the Activity Room. They have been purchased using money donated in memory of Rena Boutell and Celia Regan-Simpkin.

These two ladies were very keen Stewards for a number of years from the time that the museum opened in 1988 until ill health forced both of them to retire.

Bottom three items by Dorothy Bone

Annual General Meeting on 5th March

Margaret Rogers (Editor of the Emsworth Echo) was elected to the General Committee.

Pam Clayton resigned from the committee although she will continue to Steward and help in the museum. Chairman Gerry Williams presented her with a bouquet of tulips to thank her for the 20 years she served on the committee: in particular for her fund raising work, organising the Stewards' Rota, recording oral history and as Editor of the Emsworth Echo.

Main Door of Museum

The next time you visit the museum you will see that Contractors working for Havant Borough Council have re-painted the door.

Alan Stewart-Fitzroy cleaned and polished the brass letterbox, door handle and street numbers and has given the notice board to the right of the door a new coat of blue paint. Also the information board on the left of the door has been renewed making the front entrance of the museum bright and cheerful. two more notices need attention but this work will be done later in the year.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Having attended a meeting at Havant Borough Council offices with relation to obtaining lottery funding, I have found a scheme which I think will qualify. I have submitted a preliminary précis for the local committee and they are very keen that we go ahead with this because it is slightly different from some of the other bids coming in. The only caveat is that we need more community participation. This is what we are working on now.

I have long been interested in military history and having had two grandfathers in the 1st World War, who came out physically unscathed, I thought it would be interesting to find out as much as possible about the men of Emsworth who went to war. This will not be about those who died, but will

be those who went to war, and then what happened to them. We know that over 500 men in Emsworth were in uniform some time during 1914 to 1918, so there are a lot to find.

We need to get support from the local people, and to do this we need to take our ideas into the community, which is why we are hoping to drum up support at the St. George's Market on 26th April. Signatures are needed from the general public, and then those who want to assist more closely are asked to say what they can commit to. Also we have to work with other groups, and at the moment Warblington School are showing interest with history and English projects, while a local youth drama group are quite interested to help with some production. I would like

to have support and participation from some of the older peoples' groups in Emsworth, but the local U3A have said they did not think they had enough knowledge to help. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved please put them on to us.

If you know anyone with artefacts that they would be willing to share or lend to us, or information about members of their family who lived in Emsworth at that time we need to hear from them. Tracing 500 men is a big task, and it would also be nice if we could find out something about what it was like for the families they left behind.

Please help in any way you can.
Linda Newell



**Museum Special
Exhibition**

**Emsworth
'May Days' Art
2nd - 31st May**

**MAY
DAYS
ARTS
TRAIL
09**

Museum becomes 'hub' for Emsworth Art Trail

For the first time in its ten year history, the Emsworth element of the Havant Borough Council 'May Days Art Trail' will be centred on the Emsworth Museum. The majority of artists taking part in the weekend will have examples of their work on display in the museum's second special exhibition for the 2009 season.

Painters, jewellery makers, wood carvers and sculptors have agreed to have their work on display during May. This makes it an ideal starting point for anyone joining the trail to help them decide which artists to visit. By seeing examples of their work in one place it provides a great opportunity for everyone to look at the style of each participants work and decide which they must put on their 'must see' itinerary.

Emsworth 'May Days' Art Trail weekend is during Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May (10am - 5pm each day).

The museum exhibition is from 2nd to 31st May 2009. The Hayling Island Weekend is 9/10 May and the rest of the Borough 16/17 May 2009.

And for children ...

The Emsworth Art Trail Children's Art Exhibition is entitled "My Favourite Place in Emsworth". It is a collaboration between Emsworth Library and the Museum and is an initiative to persuade children to use both places. They have to draw, paint or create a picture of Emsworth and submit it to the Library by 9th May. They will be judged and a shortlist will be on display in the Library and then the Museum. Children can be aged 4 - 11 years, and details and the rules are available from the Museum. The prize giving will be at the Museum on Wednesday 27th May.

**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 to the editor,
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Printed by PDC Copyprint of Havant (Tel: 02392 471333)