

Issue THREE 2010

Emsworth On The Map

It was with some trepidation that we agreed to stage an exhibition based on our collection of antique maps and prints. We settled on the idea of explaining why the exhibits were important to us so that these stories, as much as the exhibits, would be central to the exhibition. Thus "Maps, Prints and Stories" became our title.

It cost little, and is worth not much more than that, but when one discovers that the Great Bedford Level was the birthplace of the Flat Earth Society in the 19th century, the map takes on a greater significance. When it then connects with a lighter moment that has run through one's working life the association is complete.



We chose items from our collection that were not necessarily the most valuable, but which held value for us. The map of the Great Bedford Level is a good example of this. An unintended recurring theme is Britain's conflicts with Europe and particularly with France.

This underlies three sections of the exhibition.



The war with Napoleon is directly the subject of the exhibited cartoons and caricatures, and it eventually drove Britain to the colonisation of Australia. Conflict with Europe also lies behind the unease created by Lambarde's publication of the map of the beacons of Kent in 1596.

We hope those who visited enjoyed the exhibition. Perhaps it might spark an interest, but we will be pleased if it simply raised a smile.

Clive Pugh and Wendy Bright

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Dates for your diary

** indicates exhibition in the museum David Rudkin Room

31st July – 30th August **Early Local Railways by Margaret Rogers

30th August Emsworth Horticultural Show

4th – 26th September **Chidham / 800th Anniversary of St. Mary's Church, Chidham

2nd – 31st October **100th Anniversary of the Girl Guide movement

14th October "Images of Iran" Video talk by Adrian Fox in the Lumley Room.

Emsworth Community Centre

4th November "Pubs and Breweries of Havant and Emsworth from mid 17th Century

onwards" an illustrated talk by Steve Jones in the Lumley Room.

Emsworth Community Centre

December Stewards' Christmas Tea party

Museum is open on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Monday (30th August) from 10.30a.m. until 4.30p.m. Sundays from 2.30p.m. until 4.30p.m.

Fridays in August from 2.30p.m. until 4.30p.m.

ADMISSION FREE - we are always very grateful for financial donations to help with running the museum

TALKS

Two talks on very different subjects have been arranged for the autumn.

14th October "Images of Iran". Adrian Fox is giving a video talk on his recent cultural tour of Iran where he visited several important centres – Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan and Yazd and was able to have some interaction with the people.

4th November "Pubs and Breweries of Havant and Emsworth from the mid 17th Century onwards". Steve Jones was a researcher at Havant Museum until last year and now works at the Hampshire Records Office in Winchester. His talk will include information and pictures of pub and brewery buildings in Havant and Emsworth that have survived and the many changes that have taken place over the years. He will refer to Havant's unique water supply and the effect this had on the business of producing beer locally.

These talks will be held in the Lumley Room, Church Path Community Centre starting at 7.30p.m. Admission – Members £1.00 non Members £2.00 Everyone welcome. telephone 01243 373780.

Dorothy Bone

Admin's Alcove

The weather seems to form an integral part of my little reports these days. Who would have thought that that really cold winter would lead to the wonderful weather we have enjoyed. I am sure you have all either been out and about revelling in it or, like me, hiding under a shady bush in the garden keeping cool with a glass of wine and a good book.

However, this weather is not good for Museums. Firstly, who wants to be wandering around in a hot little room, when there are miles of sandy beaches and harbour walks to be enjoying. Secondly, the thermometers and hygrometers placed strategically around the museum show that the main room is overheating significantly, and also getting too humid. This will eventually allow moulds and algae to grow, so we need more ventilation. I know – the stewards have been telling us this for some time – but now we have actual facts and figures. These figures were taken to the Borough Council, our landlords, recently and they have agreed that they will try and make sure we have two windows that will open in the main room in order to keep the temperature and humidity down. How long this will take, I am not sure, but I know most of the officials in the maintenance offices there and they will do their best. However, we do have to appreciate that we are fairly low priority and will be quite a way down the list. Still -watch this space.

The hot weather has meant that our visitor figures are down this year so far, which is such a shame for all those who have put on really interesting exhibitions for us to see. Clive and Wendy have really produced a beautiful exhibition of early maps and prints which has attracted previously uninterested people, and I have been asked about it a lot at the recent market. Margaret's is the next exhibition to be held and this will be the August exhibition about early railways in the Emsworth area. Again we have had quite a few enquiries, so I hope these people will visit.

Joyce and Linda are still working away in the archive room and finding lots of interesting snippets. They are also learning about the archives and so are able to marry these snippets up to make a viable story, and we hope to eventually make the archives more interesting, because they will be more complete. It is really quite complicated trying to match all these up, and also recording them in an easy way. Once they have noted what they have and where they have put them their notes are handed to me and I have the job of inputting the MODES computer system with all the new locations. Most of the existing locations for our archives that are recorded on the computer system no longer exist. Many locations say Filing Cabinet 4 in Kitchen, and as you all know - we no longer have a kitchen, and there are only 2 filing cabinets! This has made tracing items very difficult, but one day (how many years time?) we will get it sorted.

One serious note is that I have started making enquiries about what will happen to our collection if, for any reason, the Museum has to close. This originally was prompted by an enquiry from a potential donor, who wanted assurance that if the Museum closed the items would not be sold

off to pay debts etc. I have been speaking to Hampshire Museum service and it is hoped that there could be an agreement that the archives could be stored as "The Emsworth Collection" by them in its entirety. I had nebulously assumed that this event would occur because Havant Borough Council wanted to take our lease back and use the building for something else.

However, another scenario is that with an ageing membership, I would be the last one out locking the door. This is not a scare story, but could be the eventual outcome, because we do not have enough members willing to come forward to help, either as a volunteer or as a committee member. I know many of you support us with your subscriptions, and we are very grateful for that financial support, but we do need more hands on board. The committee needs more people to work on the various projects that need to be run by the committee. At the moment we have no-one on the committee to deal with the audio/visual projects, nor to deal with the fund raising events and social events, which are essential to keep us in contact with you all. There are also exhibitions to be arranged, and again there is no-one doing this. If we do not have representatives on the committee for these tasks they could be lost, and I feel the Museum and its Trust would be a sadder organisation without this social interaction.

PLEASE do think about helping in practical terms as well as financial supportive terms. WE DO NEED MORE HELP.

Linda.

Walks Around Emsworth

During the year several groups and organisations visit the museum and some also ask for a guided walk round the town. At the moment we can offer 2 such walks:-

John Tweddell has his "oyster"

walk and Alan and Monica Hurd show visitors the architecture of south Emsworth and talk about the industry of the area. It is very important that we continue to provide this facility and possibly increase the area covered. If you like walking this is an interesting way for you to show visitors some of Emsworth's history whilst at the same time enjoying the sun and sea air. If you would like to help please telephone 01243 373780. Dorothy Bone

Group Walks

These group walks and visits to Emsworth Museum are much appreciated, with many of the visitors indicating that they will return at a later date to look at the displays in more detail. If you are a member of a group and might like a guided historical walk round south Emsworth in 2011 please let me know.

These are two walks that have been organised this year.

On the evening of 11th May Alan and Monica (assisted by Tony Yoward) took 25 members of the Chichester Museum Society on a guided walk round Emsworth starting from the museum. On their return they were given refreshments before spending time looking at the displays in the Main and David Rudkin Rooms. Everyone enjoyed the walk and visit as demonstrated by the generous donation to the Trust made by the leaders of the group.

On Saturday 24th July, a very warm sunny day, a party of 36 Hampshire Field Club members visited Emsworth for a guided walk round the town. Whilst Alan and Monica took some of the party on the walk the remainder looked at the Main Room displays and Clive Pugh gave an interesting talk about his "Maps, Prints and Stories" exhibition.

After approximately an hour and a quarter the first group returned to the museum and (without a break!) Alan and Monica repeated the exercise with the second group.

The visit by this group was extended into the afternoon - after lunch the party walked to Warblington Church. Although the building was not open to visitors because two weddings were taking place during the afternoon the Deputy Warden arranged for notes about the history and architecture of the church to be available for them. As an added attraction Warblington church yard summer teas had started on the previous weekend so the party were able to refresh themselves before the walk back to Emsworth.

Dorothy Bone

Lillywhite's Garage Exhibition

I was particularly pleased and interested to see Mike Lillywhite put on his exhibition about the family business. This business was started by Mike's father and uncles in 1949 and some of the information from that time was very interesting. My interest in this exhibition is that my husband, Ernie Newell, was actually apprenticed as a motor

mechanic at this garage, and did his full 5 year apprenticeship with an additional year added on to study diesel engines.

During his time at Lillywhites he was very involved with some of the other young mechanics in building and racing stock-cars at Aldershot, Wimbledon and Ipswich. Some of the tales would make your hair curl, and I am so glad that the "Elf & Safety" inspectors did not exist in those days!! They would definitely have

spoiled the fun!

For those of you with very sharp eyes, you would have seen a younger me peeking out of one of the photographs with a group of the lads and their girlfriends – very short mini-skirt and all!!

Linda.

ANNUAL TREASURE HUNT on 6th JULY

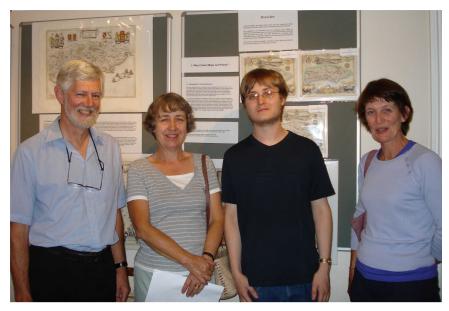
With 27 adults (plus a collie-cross dog) and 14 children taking part this was the largest number of people we have ever had on our annual treasure hunt. Entrants came from Hayling Island, Horndean, Waterlooville, Westbourne and Petersfield and included 4 of the Scout Leaders and 12 Cubs who had helped with the April exhibition. The evening started with some degree of concern because of a power cut affecting a large part of the town including the museum. The question being asked was – will we be able to make tea and coffee for the "treasure hunters" when they return to the museum to have their answers checked? Fortunately the power came back

with about an half hour to spare. The course and clues were set by John and Loli Kieran who won last year. The winners this year were Lesley and Tom Edens from Horndean and they have accepted the challenge of setting

the route and questions in 2011. Lesley Edens came second in 2009.

Many thanks to Wendy Bright, Linda Gentles and Cathy Sachs for organising the refreshments.

Dorothy Bone



2009 and 2010 winners - John Kieran, Lesley Edens, Tom Edens and Loli Kieran.

Videos to DVDs

You may be aware that we have been working with the Wessex Film and Sound Archive to convert our video records of Emsworth and the Trust into DVDs. This has now happened, and Adrian is trying to find all the archive numbers so that he can match them all up again.

Now they are in DVD format we are able to show them on the screen in the Archive Room more frequently and it is hoped that the stewards will find the instructions easy to follow, and the visitors will find some of the videos informative.

Unfortunately the quality of some of the footage is not good, so we will have to pick and choose which ones we use.

However, even those not really suitable for general viewing will come in handy for those visitors who are looking for specific subjects to study.

Linda

Most of our library of video recordings has been transferred to DVDs and is in the process of final labelling and indexation. Some DVDs are available now for stewards to see or to set up for visitors. We hope that stewards will be encouraged to play a title or two so that the public can get a taste for some of our archive films. Most of them have a strong Emsworth link, which is just what many of our visitors want to see.

Among our titles are extracts about Sir
Peter Blake, Ian Carmichael, the burning of
the Ark (Emsworth, not biblical!),
restoration of the Terror, Cowes Regatta
1913 with J Class yachts, various Years in
the Life of the EMHT, School plays
Washington Rd School etc.
Come in and press those buttons!!
Adrian Fox

A Royal Visit



The Emsworth Museum day-trip organised by Roy and Sheila Morgan on 14 April had a royal flavour with first a stop at Royal Tunbridge Wells then on to Hever Castle, the ancestral home of Anne Boleyn, ill-fated second wife of Henry VIII.



Although it was drizzling with rain on arrival at Tunbridge Wells, the famous colonnaded Pantiles with its elegant shops and restaurants and the many period houses gave the town an air of gentility There was a chance to sample the waters from the natural Chalybeate Spring, offered by a lady dressed in traditional costume, and the water was surprisingly drinkable.

The Spring was discovered in 1606 and people have been taking the waters ever since.

A visit to the nearby Parish Church of King Charles the Martyr (Charles I) proved a fascinating experience. Dating back to 1676 it was originally an assembly room and chapel for early visitors to the wells. The church ceilings are exquisite and were created by plasterers John Wetherall and Henry Doogood who worked for Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St. Paul's Cathedral. The church also has two balconies and in many ways resembles a theatre rather than a traditional church.



After lunch we were taken on to Hever Castle and by the time we alighted from the coach the sun was shining on meadows of bright yellow daffodils surrounding the castle. It is an imposing building and although mainly associated with Anne Boleyn it actually dates back to 1270 when it only consisted of the gatehouse and a walled bailey. In the early 1500s the Boleyn family bought the castle, added a Tudor dwelling within and it was the childhood home of Anne. After her family fell from favour it became the home of Anne of Cleves, Henry's fourth wife.



Inside the castle the rooms were quite small and atmospheric, with portraits, furniture and tapestries from the Tudor period and the Books of Hours (prayer books) were particularly poignant, reminding the visitor that Anne had been a devout Christian. The costumed figures of Henry VIII with his six wives were a reminder of the king's power – no woman should dare to cross him.

However, Anne Boleyn was not the only well-known resident of Hever Castle. In 1903 William Waldorf Astor, a financier from America and of Waldorf Hotels fame, restored the castle that had become neglected over the years, building a Tudor village and creating many varied gardens and a lake. Within the castle there was considerable evidence of how the Astor family had lived with the prettily decorated bedrooms of the daughters and photographs of royalty and celebrities who had visited the house.

After visiting the castle there was time to stroll round the many different gardens which included topiary, Tudor, Italian and Rose gardens and an Azalea spring garden which was still in bloom. Anyone who wanted a challenge could attempt to find their way out of either the Yew or one of the water mazes.

All too quickly the visit came to a close and the party set off back to Emsworth having had a very busy and varied day. Special thanks to Roy and Sheila for organising the excellent day out.

Sue Young



PAULINE MARSHALL ~ A THANK YOU

After many years of maintaining the Stewards' list Pauline Marshall has decided that she is no longer able to carry on with this task. Pauline and her mother Rena Boutell before her have been involved with organising the rota almost since the day the museum opened in 1988.

In the beginning Rena helped Pam Clayton and then later Pauline continued the family commitment and has done so until now.

We are extremely grateful to Pauline for all the work she has done and pleased that she and Bryan will continue to be members of the Trust and involved with the museum. Pam has been helping Pauline recently and has kindly volunteered, with Diana Williams' help, to carry on until the end of the season.

Stewards - please continue to add your name to the duty list whenever you are in the museum. Pam's telephone number is 01243 378471 and Diana's number is 01243 378864.

Dorothy Bone

Early Local Railways Exhibition 31st July to 30th August

This Early Local Railways Exhibition shows some superb precision-engineered models of several of the famous Terrier engines as well as some most unusual artefacts, one of which is the Havant signalling box chart. It has a unique collection of named photographs of the Hayling Billy Line staff and paintings of a Terrier and the tank engine 'Emsworth' in London, Brighton and South Coast Railway livery, rounded off with a description of the opening of Emsworth Railway Station in 1847.

Margaret Rogers



"The Emsworth" painted by Clive Yeomans



The EMHT stall at the Emsworth Sunday Market on 18th July

The Emsworth Show - "All Maritime Blue and White"

Dorothy is quite busy with other issues at the moment so I have taken on the organising of our presence at the Emsworth Show this August Bank Holiday Monday. Hopefully a lot of members who help on a regular basis will be able to do so again.

I do want to thank Wendy for her idea that we have a definite theme for our stand this year, and so we are hoping to have everything blue and white. These are the official colours of the Trust and we hope that all the

helpers will join in and dress in blue and white to make a real impact on our part of the showground. If you are considering donating any bricabrac can you think in those colours as well. (Obviously we will not refuse other colours, but we hope you do not mind if to start with it is not on display) We will also have blue table coverings, and if anyone has any maritime flags we can use to decorate the tables and stand we would love to borrow them, please.

I have started the rota of those who have volunteered to help on the day and if you are able to assist please let me know. Leave a note in the Museum, or ring me on 01243 371608 or email envr@btinternet.com

Bric-a-brac can be left at the Museum, with Pam Clayton, 17 Pelham Terrace, Emsworth (for those in the south) and Wendy Bright 01243 372400 (for those in the north).

Linda

More Volunteers needed for the Emsworth Show

The rota is filling up well, and thank you to those who have already volunteered. However, there are still gaps and we need two more people for each of the slots. The slots are for 1 hour at a time from 9.30am until 4.30pm. If anyone is desperate to give us 2 hours of their time, we would truly be grateful, but 1 hour is all we need!!

Linda

Antique Maps

Those of you who visited our exhibition of antique maps may be interested in these forthcoming events

"Mapping Portsmouth's Tudor Past" at Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard, 2nd July to 17th October 2010. Exhibition includes maps from The British Library, The Hydrographic Office, and The Admiralty Office.

"Magnificent Maps: Power, Propaganda and Art". An exhibition at The British Library, 30th April to 19th September 2010.

"Flinder's Return: The Opening-Up of TERRA AUSTRALIS, 1770-1814", a centenary celebration event, organised by The Society for Nautical Research (South) 9th October 2010. For more information visit www.snr.org.uk or



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