

## SECRETS OF THE SOLENT



On a bitterly cold Easter Saturday morning Emsworth Museum re-opened for the new season. Fortunately the Chairman and Treasurer of the Havant, Hayling and Emsworth group of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust weren't put off by the unseasonal weather and came to open the exhibition and welcome visitors.



*Nigel Johnson*

Promptly at 10.30am Tony Stimson, our new Chairman, welcomed everyone to the start of the museum's 25th anniversary year and invited Nigel Johnson (Chairman of the local group of HIWWT) to cut appropriately coloured green and blue ribbons to signify the start of our 2013 exhibition year.



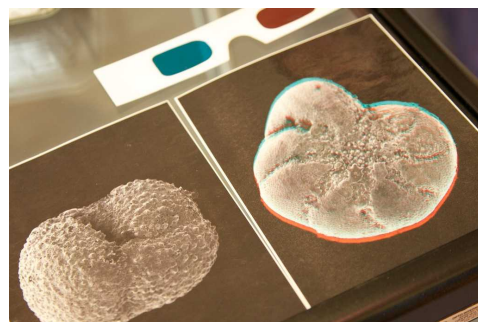
Through a mixture of film, images artefacts and artwork this exhibition highlights some of the wonders of the Solent and challenges us all to look again at the local seashore.



We all know that seals can often be seen in Chichester Harbour but did you know that seahorses also live in the Solent and that a prehistoric settlement has been found beneath its waters?



The display includes beautiful pictures of marine creatures,



seagrasses and shells and tells us about the local recommended marine protected areas and what the sea does for us.



*Sarah Morrish, Polly Whyte (HIWWT), and Jan Gillespie (HWTMLA)*

The exhibition, which is on until St. George's Day, is by HIWWT, the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology and Sarah Morrish a botanical and natural history artist.

Dorothy Bone

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# Dates for your diary

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

March 30th	Museum re-opened
March 30th ) - April 23rd )	Exhibition "Secrets of the Solent" by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Maritime Archaeology Trust
April 27th & 28th ) May 4th / 5th & 6th )	Art Trail Weekends (Museum open 10.30am – 4.30pm all 5 days)
April 27th ) - May 27th )	Exhibition by local artists Chris Abel and Jan Copsey.
April 30th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum at 6pm
May 28th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum at 6pm
June 1st - 23rd	Exhibition "Past, Present, Future: Girl's Brigade Celebrates 120 Years"
June 4th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum organised by Chichester Harbour Conservancy.
June 19th	Annual Treasure Hunt.
June 25th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum.
June 29th ) - July 21st )	Exhibition (title to be confirmed)
July 27th ) - August 26th )	Exhibition "Emsworth Museum Celebrates its 25th Anniversary"
July 30th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum.
August 26th	Emsworth Horticultural Show.
August 27th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum.
August 31st ) - September 29th )	Exhibition "The Boat Project" the legacy.
September 9th - 12th	4 day holiday to Tewkesbury and Gloucester.
September 24th	Guided walk starting from outside the museum.
October 5th – 27th	Exhibition "Chichester Harbour: A Year of Photos" by Chichester Harbour Conservancy
October 21st	"A Railway Miscellany" talk by Linda Newell
October 25th	Birthday Dinner at the Brookfield Hotel
November 18th	Talk (speaker and title to be confirmed)

ADMISSION FREE We are always grateful for financial donations to help with the costs of running the museum

## Admin's Alcove

Writer's block is a peculiar thing and so frustrating!! Especially when it is ONLY an article!

My excuse is that we are very close to the opening of the season (as I write this) and so it is slightly stressful for all of us. I hope you will all agree that the redecoration of the entrance, stairs and reception area has been well worth the effort, and I get a little buzz every time I walk through the door. Another little touch is the information sheets that are on display at various points on the stairs. Where we have put the maps and photos on the wall, we have added a little explanation nearby, just to help everyone understand what is there. After all, we should all try to learn one new fact each day!

Our next project is to try to find some funding to completely revamp the main hall. All our efforts have been concentrated on the archive room, Rudkin room and entrance. Now the main hall looks slightly run-down and dingy, so thinking caps on and back to work again.

The Archive Room shelves are looking suitable full now, but there is still room for relevant items, and Joyce and Linda will continue with their sorting and collating tasks there. Anyone who would like to join in, please do turn up and we will find you a job. Clive Pugh has also joined our happy band by inputting our acquisitions on the MODES system, which is quite complicated, but he is plugging on.

Having people helping in this way means that I can start sorting other sections, and this means that we are going to have to start pruning some of the older items. At the beginning it is obvious that the Museum Administrator was glad to be offered anything historical to fill the space, but over the time we are now concentrating on the story of Emsworth, its people and buildings. This means that we now need to create space by disposing of some of the items not relating to Emsworth. Please be assured that we will do this in a considered way. We will not just get a bundle together and throw it in the fire!! Anything that I consider does not relate to the story of Emsworth I will take to the committee for consideration; I will then contact the donor and have a conversation with them about it. It may be that they would like it restored to them, or we could find another home for it. There is no way that anyone is going to approach you and tell you to collect your item from the Museum. Among our artefacts we have some very unusual items, and some are quite peculiar, but most of them are very valuable to us, and we will not dispose of them.

As many of you may know I am passionate about family history, and obviously this has rubbed off on the rest of my family, because over the years I have been given various items. Recently my mother died, and I inherited her collection of family memorabilia of photographs and newspaper cuttings.

On turning them over I found, bless her, that she had written names on the back of many of them. If you want to give anything to the Museum, please follow her example and let us have as much detail as possible. There is nothing more frustrating than having some wonderful photographs and not knowing who the people are and what is going on, or even the date.

Wednesday 15th May we will be holding a new members evening, so that you can wander around the Museum, meet the committee and helpers and find out more about this organisation that you have joined, while enjoying a glass of wine!! Please look out for your invitation attached to this newsletter.

A reminder to say that I will be leading my first walk on April 30th, followed by two more on the 28th May and 25th June. As a member you can obtain a discount by contacting the Museum and pre-booking your place. We meet at 6.00pm outside the Museum and the walk takes about 2 hours. A nice gentle amble with lots of stopping places while I talk. If you have visitors or family staying this may be the way to entertain them for a couple of hours, followed by a nice drink afterward (or even a meal!)

Elsewhere in the newsletter there are details of our celebration of the Silver Anniversary. Please do try and join us – I am sure it will be great fun.

Linda Newell

Emsworth Museum is open from Easter Saturday (30th March) until the end of October on Saturdays, Bank Holidays, and Sundays 28th April and 5th May from 10.30am until 4.30pm. and on Sundays from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Also on St. George's Day (April 23rd) from 10.00am until 2.00pm 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 (5th March, 7th May, 2nd July, 3rd September and 5th November) when committee meetings are held.

From time to time groups of people ask to visit on these afternoons or events are organised. If you wish to visit, and would like to be sure that the museum will be open, please check by emailing [dorothybone@btinternet.com](mailto:dorothybone@btinternet.com) or telephone 378091.



## TALKS

### 5+1 Extending the Senses. 21st January 2013

On a cold snowy evening we were heartened to have an audience of 38 people attend this illustrated talk by Laurie Booth about dowsing. Laurie Booth described dowsing as not a gift but an adventure of the mind since one must believe for it to work. He talked about the occasions where dowsing may be used not only for

water divining but in searching for tunnels, pathways and buildings. Locally he talked of six Iron Age huts in the area of Brook Meadow and paths leading to Kings Road.

Laurie Booth is a member of the British Society of Dowzers and was happy to answer numerous questions and demonstrate the techniques. The audience were invited to dowse for a farm building beneath the floor in the Mountfield Room many with apparent success.



*Laurie Booth demonstrating dowsing*

It was great to see people staying after this talk to practice dowsing and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

Wendy Bright

### The River Ems

The slide presentation by Mike Edwards on 25th February proved more popular than anticipated. Mike commented that he wasn't sure whether it was the speaker or the subject that had proved the attraction...

Mike Edwards is a retired and well known photographer in Emsworth. He traced the apparent source of the Ems showing slides of the river in flood and tracing its flow with several tributaries down to the Slipper Mill Pond.

Excellent colour slides were shown and Mike paid tribute to David Rudkin who helped him in the early days with this project. "The River Ems" book by David J Rudkin is available at the Museum and fifteen copies were sold on the evening. 112 people attended, 60 EMHT members and 52 non members. Tony Stimson tried to survey people to learn where they remembered hearing or seeing publicity for the talk. The results are available in tabulated form. Although he was swamped by the numbers we are obtaining useful information, especially about non members.



*Mike Edwards (right) talking to a member of the audience*

Sincere thanks to the Committee and all volunteer members for all their help and support for the talks for the winter season and for the generous donations of gifts for the raffle. Suggestions from members for future speakers and topics would be very welcome.

Wendy Bright

### Happy Birthday to Us

This year Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the opening of Emsworth Museum on 29th July 1988. I have spoken to Amanda at The Brookfield and we have devised the evening to include a 3 course gala dinner, followed by a light-hearted entertainment. The cost will be £25.00 per head. Of course we will be proposing various toasts to the past and the future, and we will have a few displays of our work. We may even have our DVD playing some of our oral history tapes this year.

Please do try and join us Brookfield Hotel, Emsworth on Friday 25th October, 2013. Let me know if you would like to attend as soon as possible. However your money will not be required until 20th September.

Linda Newell



**1988  
to  
2013**

**Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust  
is celebrating the Silver Jubilee  
of the opening of Emsworth Museum  
on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1988.**

**Brookfield Hotel, Emsworth**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

Come and celebrate with us  
Enjoy gala dinner  
After-dinner entertainment  
Displays of Museum activities

**£25.00 per head**

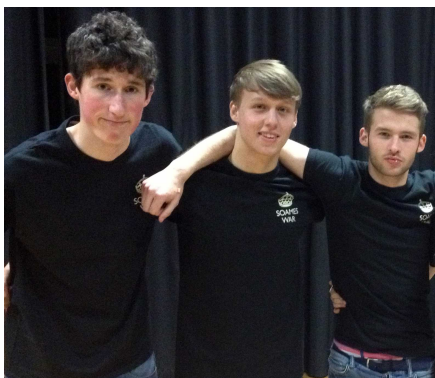
**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

## Annual General Meeting

The 38th Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held on Monday 18th March – with the first part of the evening taken up with reports on the Trust's finances and details of activities in 2012 as well as plans for 2013. The minutes will be distributed with the November 2013 edition of the Emsworth Echo.

The appointments and elections listed on the agenda were approved unanimously - Tony Stimson is our new Chairman and Sylvia Courtnege has joined the committee. Wendy Bright and Dorothy Bone were re-elected and Andrew Bloxham will be the Independent Examiner of Trust accounts at the year end.

Havant Borough Council's appointment of Cllr Richard Galloway as their representative on the General Committee of the Trust was ratified.



Later, three of the students who are helping to make the film based on Strahan Soames' 1940 diary told us about the progress they have made.

This was done in the form of an interview with Alison Beckett the Publicity Officer for Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The students obviously enjoy working on this project and members present were pleased to be able to ask questions and join in their enthusiasm. The photograph shows the 3 students wearing their specially designed T-shirts with the logo Soames War. The film will be premiered at The Spring in Havant in May and will also be shown at the Emsworth Sailing Club on 20th June as well as being used as an education tool by Chichester Harbour Conservancy. A copy of the film will eventually be available for us to show in the museum.

Dorothy Bone

## Treasure Hunt Wednesday 19th June

Our 15th annual Treasure Hunt is already being planned. Last year's winners, a team of Scouts, are not able to set the course this year and Rob Foord and Tina have kindly agreed to do it. This will not be the first time for them as they produced the questions in 2009 having won in 2008, and I'm extremely grateful to them for taking on the challenge again.

The Treasure Hunt starts from the museum at 7.00pm and the charge is £1.00 per person. A cup of tea (or coffee) and biscuits will be waiting for you when you return to have your answers checked.

If you enjoy walking and would like to learn some new and interesting facts about Emsworth do come along.



It is a pleasant way to spend a summer evening.

Dorothy Bone

## Exhibitions

The first and second exhibitions to be held in the David Rudkin Room this year are dealt with elsewhere in this newsletter. You can see from the photos how interesting both the Secrets of the Solent and The Arts

Trail exhibitions are and I hope you will take the opportunity to visit both of them.

2013 is the 120th anniversary of the Girls' Brigade and this milestone is being marked with an exhibition from 1st – 23rd June. The Solent District branch of the Girls' Brigade

has 11 groups covering Portsmouth, Fareham, Havant, Waterlooville, Portchester and Emsworth and this exhibitions will show the history of the Girls' Brigade and some of the activities that girls from the age of four to 18 years can be involved in.

Dorothy

## WEMSFAST AND WODEHOUSE

Those of you who joined in the events at Wemsfast 2012 will be glad to know that it is going ahead again this year. Dates are the 13th – 29th September (at various venues throughout Emsworth and Westbourne) and the programme will

be available in May. As an addition to the Wemsfast this year the organisers are arranging a Wodehouse Festival 11th – 15th October, to coincide with the great man's birthday. There will be several events held at The Brookfield Hotel and these will include the songs of Wodehouse. His words will be used in dramatized

readings, and it is hoped that an evening of his letters will also be forthcoming together with talks about him.

Again – more dates for your diaries, and the full programme will be available soon.

Linda Newell





## Chairman's Address

When I was invited to stand for election as Chairman I thought long and hard. My time on the Committee has given me confidence in the capable, committed and hard working members who already serve the Trust and the Museum, some as elected members of the Committee, some as co-opted members and also the many volunteers who support us in various ways such as editor of the Newsletters, organisers of the Stewards duty rotas, the Stewards and the deliverers of Newsletters, etc., to mention just some. As a result, I felt I would have good support in my role as Chairman and hence I was pleased to accept the nomination.

With your help, I aim to make a positive contribution to the development and wellbeing of the Trust and the Museum.

Over winter we have redecorated the entrance lobby, staircase and reception area of the Museum, and have re-arranged some of the picture exhibits. The next project is to redecorate the main exhibition hall, following which it is planned to make significant changes to the exhibits to enhance the story of the history of Emsworth and its people.

These projects are necessarily dependent upon our resources both financial and in the number of volunteers available to help with some of the work.

This brings me to the current matter of our subscriptions. To succeed in our development plans, we must first improve our base line regular income by increasing subscriptions. Members were advised at the AGM just passed and at the AGM in March 2012 that subscriptions would be reviewed.

Within this Newsletter is a paper setting out the Committee's proposals for the increase of subscriptions in January 2014. Later this year we will hold a postal ballot of all members to seek approval of the Committee's proposals.

I ask that you will give your considered support to the proposals please and complete your ballot paper accordingly. Increasing our subscription income is fundamental to the successful development of the Museum and the facilities we wish to offer.

Yours sincerely,  
Tony Stimson  
Chairman

Dear members,

My thanks to all those members who turned out on Monday, 18 March 2013, to support your Committee at the AGM and my thanks also for electing me as your Chairman.

As a member of the Trust for about seven years and with only one year on the Committee, and a Steward for the past four years, I am aware that there is a lot that I do not yet know about the workings of the Trust and the Museum.

However, I am keen to learn, can cope with hard work and, occasionally, I don't mind getting my hands dirty as you may have noticed from the front page of the February Newsletter. I will also continue stewarding from time to time.

## Recent Acquisitions

Sadly the Balfour Museum of Red Cross History in Winnall Winchester closed down in January 2013 and the collection was dispersed around the country.

Emsworth Museum was offered a number of items and selected the following two signs and these were collected on 29th January.

The first item is a framed Certificate for Registration of the Emsworth branch of the British Red Cross



Society Junior Group 10019 with Hampshire Branch Headquarters on 13 September 1993.



The second item is a large metal sign marked "British Red Cross Society Emsworth Centre"

Emsworth Museum was pleased to receive this donation.  
Wendy Bright

## Membership Matters

### Thank you ....

to all those members who paid promptly this year. It makes the life of the Membership Secretary so much easier.

Members paying before January 31st will have received their Membership Cards with the February Newsletter.

Membership Cards are enclosed with this Newsletter for members who have paid since then.  
If you have a query, please phone Peter Morse (01243 697582).

### Proposed Increase in Subscription Rates for 2014

For the following reasons there is now a need to increase our subscription rates for the first time in 12 years:

Stationary, postage, electricity and other costs have risen rapidly.

Our income has remained static.

We can no longer rely on interest on deposits.

This is despite the careful management of expenditure and the best efforts of our volunteers to raise funds and hand deliver the Newsletters and Echo wherever possible.

Members will recall that during the last two Annual General Meetings a rise in subscription rates was discussed and also the possibility was raised of merging the rates for under and over 65s. Since the AGM the General Committee has now recommended the following subscription levels for 2014:

Single                £9  
Joint\*               £16

*\*Two members at the same address*

The new rates represent an increase of approximately 60% since they were last raised in 2000, which is comparable to the rise in the cost of living since then. In order to gain Trust members approval for the proposed rise it is intended to hold a postal vote for all fully paid up members at the end of May 2013.

Subscription rates for Life Membership are being considered by the General Committee and will be published in the near future. Accordingly, no new applications for Life Membership will be accepted until January 2014.

### EM&HT 50/50Club

The 50/50 Club continues to fund improvements to the Museum.

Congratulations to all the winners in the Monthly Draw – particularly Mrs Lonsdale who has won the Bonus prize of £50.

Month	Winner	Prize	Value
January	Mrs M Walker	First	£35.00
January	Mrs V J Dennis	Second	£15.00
February	Dr P M Last	First	£35.00
February	Mr G A Higgins	Second	£15.00
March	Miss J F Reay	First	£35.00
March	Dr P M Last	Second	£15.00
AGM	Mrs S G Lonsdale	Bonus	£50.00
April	Mr C W Savage	First	£35.00
April	Mrs J Mansell	Second	£15.00

Have you considered becoming a member or increasing the number of shares that you hold? Shares still cost only £6.00 each for a year's membership but, in view of the increased cost of administration since the Club started in 1989, new applications will only be accepted for a minimum of 2 shares. However, existing members may increase their allocation by single shares.

Entry forms can be obtained from the 50/50 Organiser, Peter Morse (01243 697582).

### Shropshire Holiday September 9th -12th

Plans for the holiday are progressing well. We still have a couple of places left for latecomers .. Please phone Peter Morse on 01243 697582.

## Museum and the Arts Trail

The Emsworth Arts Trail 2013 is being held on 27 and 28th April and 3rd to the 5th May. It covers over thirty local venues and Emsworth Museum is one of these. We will be exhibiting the works of local artists Jan Copsey and Chris Abel but the exhibition of their works will then carry on until the 27th May.

You will be able to see Jan Copsey's attractive acrylic and watercolour paintings of flowers, trees and scenes of the area.



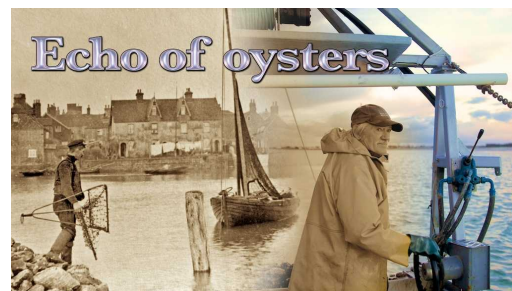
Chris Abel will be showing his wonderful handcrafted jewellery, wall art and gifts made from art glass and re-cycled glass.

Don't miss the opportunity to see Emsworth's wealth of talent. Trail Guides are available free from local shops and Trail venues or on the website at [www.emsworthartstrail.org.uk](http://www.emsworthartstrail.org.uk). It is a chance to both meet the artists as well as purchase their works.

The trail will lead you on a tour around our picturesque coastal village with the opportunity to see painting, ceramics, photography, jewellery, textiles, furniture and more.

"Emsworth Shoreline" an exhibition of landscape photographs and paintings by John Tweddell showing the Emsworth foreshore during the year, is also being put on as part of the Arts Trail. It is being hosted by the Brookfield Hotel and includes a multimedia presentation "Echo of Oysters" with over 500 photographs comparing the oyster industry locations as they are today with historic images.

You can pick up a copy of the Emsworth Arts Trail guide from the museum.



## It's Only a Laundry Basket but . . .



... it reminded me that, when we came to Emsworth in the mid 60's the Emsworth Havant and District Steam Laundry was still operating in New Brighton Road though it closed soon after. The basket was recently donated by Mrs Fisher of Mychett near Camberley. Mrs Fisher had bought the basket at an auction, and had no details of its history.

She initially offered the basket to the Watercress Line (where she had seen a similar basket being used as a prop) and they suggested our Museum. Margaret Rogers then arranged for her son to collect it for us.

It had signs of woodworm when it arrived but we treated it as a precaution and it is now on display as a toybox. The 1911 Census showed that laundry was a thriving business in Emsworth, with two commercial laundries employing over 50 people. These were mainly women but some men were also employed as engineers, labourers and carriers.

Many women also worked from home and took in washing.

The Emsworth Steam Laundry was clearly an important component of Emsworth life but, surprisingly, we have very little information in the Museum. However, there must be many Emsworthians who could tell us what it was like.

Did you, or a friend or relative, work there? Have you any photographs of the laundry or its employees? Have you any memorabilia, such as laundry price lists which might form the basis of an future exhibition? If you have any information, we would love to hear from you.

Peter Morse

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)



Printed by PDC Copyprint of Havant (Tel: 02392 471333)