

August 2020

## Welcome back.....

.....to the Museum. We opened our blue door to all members and visitors for the first time in 2020 on Saturday morning, 1st August. Some changes have been made to comply with the Government's Covid-19 guidance but what is unchanged is the warm welcome given to all who enter that door. Trevor Davies has detailed some of the changes in his Chairman's message on page 2. Come and see for yourself the new and revamped displays.

## Emsworth in Lockdown



Photographs taken in April by Michael and Colin Bury at Emsworth roundabout and outside Springfield Care Home. Thank you to our dedicated care workers.



### Museum Opening Times in 2020

#### 1st August to 1st November

Saturdays and Bank holidays 10.30am–4.30pm  
and Sundays 2.30pm–4.30pm. There will be no Friday openings in August as in previous years.

Members are welcome to visit the Museum for research but this will be by appointment only. Please contact **Dorothy Bone**, 01243 373780, email: [dorothy.bone@btinternet.com](mailto:dorothy.bone@btinternet.com) in the first instance.

# From the Chairman

## Opening the Museum

I am delighted to confirm that the committee of the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust decided to open the Museum with effect from Saturday, 1st August.

Your committee has not taken this decision lightly.

We have considered the contribution that the Emsworth Museum makes to the life of the community – particularly because it is likely that more people will take their holidays in the UK this year. In addition to the new displays on show to Emsworth residents, there should be a lot of visitors for whom the Emsworth story will be completely new.

Recognising the constraints, we have developed a formal risk assessment. As a result, we have made some changes to the Museum:

### On entry:

- Traffic lights to control movement on the stairs.
- Hand sanitiser will be available downstairs.
- All visitors will be asked to wear masks.



*The traffic lights were designed and installed by Richard Jacklin, son of Vice Chairman, Margaret Rogers*

### In the Museum:

- Screening round the reception desk.
- Signing in for all to allow for contact tracing should it be necessary. The records will be destroyed after three weeks.
- One-way system through the Museum.

- To manage social distancing, the route is divided into zones approximately two metres long. These are arranged so that there is a section of the Museum in each zone. Only one “bubble” in one zone at any time.
- Close the toilet to visitors.
- Additional cleaning of surfaces.

### For the Stewards:

- Masks and face shields will be available, but if you prefer to bring your own, that will be fine.
- After each shift, we will ask you to wipe down with the disinfectant spray or wipes provided:

Bannisters  
Surfaces  
Keyboards, keypads  
Phones  
Light switches  
Donation box  
The face shield you have used

## Wedding Dress

As reported in the February newsletter, the Edwardian wedding dress had been taken down to be conserved. We expect the conservation to be completed in August. The Museum has been fortunate to have a grant from the AIM Pilgrim Trust fund for the costs of the conservation.

The wedding dress was bought from Bulpitt's Drapers, Southsea. Sarah Howard, our chosen conservation specialist, has found that there are a number of items originally supplied by Bulpitt in the collections of various Hampshire Museums. This could be an interesting avenue of future research.

Once the conservation is completed, the next step is to acquire a museum-standard mannequin for the dress.

## Omeka/website

Graham Taplin has been working diligently behind the scenes to update Omeka and increase the amount of the Museum's collection that can be made available via the website. There is now:

- A new look to the website home page with links that go directly to Omeka.
- Oral history now incorporated directly into Omeka.



- About 20 Oral History audios have been added and can be played from Omeka.
- New menu structure with links back to the website.
- Fully compatible with mobile phone displays.
- 500 or so photos added and made public.

This is great progress, but there is still some time before all the collection is accessible in this way.

### **Winter 2020/2021**

Your committee is considering the work programme for next winter. You will recall that we have a grant for another new cabinet. A satisfactory quotation has been received.

Prior to actually placing the order, we are developing the plan for the preparatory work that has to go on for the new cabinet to be fully utilised. Other quotations are in the course of preparation.

*Trevor Davies*

## **Yorkshire Holiday postponed until September 2021**

After consultation with interested parties for the holiday in September 2020, I have decided to postpone this year's trip and organise the same coach outing for September 2021. We would have needed at least 25 people for the 2020 trip to Yorkshire to have been viable and seating would have been difficult for friends and couples. Social distancing would have been a problem, mask wearing all the way to and from Yorkshire and on shorter journeys was unthinkable and The National Trust have not opened their properties yet.

I hope you feel I made the right decision but only 5 out of 24 were willing to go this year.

Jo Jennings from Woods Travel Group is preparing a new itinerary which will be forwarded to all those who have expressed an interest. No commitments and no deposits at this stage.

However, I am delighted to announce that, as in 2020, a five-day, four night visit to Yorkshire staying at The Best Western Plus Craiglunds Hotel at Ilkley has now been booked from Monday, 13th September to Friday, 17th September 2021.

Hopefully, in January 2021 or perhaps a bit later we will get full details and booking information. More details should be in the February Newsletter.

*Jan Butler, email: [jan\\_butler@outlook.com](mailto:jan_butler@outlook.com), telephone 01243 430926*

### **RHS Banksian Medal Winner**

Congratulations to Jan Butler who has been awarded The RHS Banksian Medal 2020 by the Emsworth Horticultural Society (EHS).

Normally, this prestigious RHS medal is awarded to the exhibitor who wins the most money in the horticultural classes. The RHS has already had the medals made, and suggested that societies award the medal to someone who has promoted horticulture within their local community.

Jan has been running the marquee and the competitions as the EHS Show Secretary for the last 19 years, retiring last year. The EHS committee felt that the Banksian medal would be a fitting way to mark her outstanding work and commitment. The award will be presented at their next AGM.







## VE Day 75 in Emsworth, 8th May 2020



Sunday, 8th May, was a fabulous day and many people decorated their houses and moved outdoors to enjoy the sunshine and celebrate the 75th anniversary of (Victory in Europe) VE Day. Cakes, scones and sandwiches were eaten, toasts drunk, songs sung and pictures taken.

The above photographs show Emsworthians in Bath Road and Far Meadow Way enjoying all the events including an outdoor pop-up Museum curated by Martin and Liz Chalcraft.

In Clovelly Road, Patricia Williamson reported that neighbours who hadn't seen each other for weeks, were able, at a distance, to chat and catch up.

"We each sat on our own bit of pavement with tea or coffee and a bite. Then, at about 2.45pm, organiser Linda gave out song sheets and accompanied us on her clarinet as we sang *Pack up your Troubles, It's a Long Way to Tipperary, We'll*

*Meet Again and Lambeth Walk*. And then, just before 3.00, Graham strode up and down ringing a large handbell and asking everyone to charge their glasses for the *Toast for Heroes* – which we all drank, amidst much clapping. The road was adorned with lots of bunting and several large Union Jacks, and we all enjoyed the "distanced" togetherness in glorious sunshine for another hour or so."

Clovelly Road





## Lockdown Walks

When the coronavirus hit Britain in March 2020 no one realised how serious it would become. Within weeks of the outbreak the whole country was ordered to be in lockdown, the only respite from staying at home if you were not a key worker was to exercise outdoors once a day, walking, running, or cycling. We chose walking and rediscovered our local environment. Dave and I have always enjoyed going for walks in the countryside or by the sea but it was often not local, visiting beauty spots such as Wittering, the South Downs or farther afield to the Seven Sisters in East Sussex.

### Trees

Armed with our cameras we first explored the field opposite the house, somewhere we had not walked for many years and forgotten how vast it is. The frequently photographed cluster of trees planted to commemorate the First World War looked majestic in the spring sunlight. Another day we turned right outside the house, crossed the road to another large field, accessible through an avenue of trees. We walked to Woodmancote and crossed the road by the pub down a country lane we had not used since our children were small. There were horses in the fields and bluebells in bloom in the shaded woods. In another field there were alpacas standing sedately together. One day with our daughter, Michelle, we continued up Cemetery Lane to Westbourne and walked by the river. Another field we explored was down South Lane in Southbourne, behind Kelsey Avenue, with a dilapidated greenhouse contrasting with the smart estate houses: a good photographic opportunity.

### Bluebells

We did travel by car to a few destinations but the car journey had to be shorter than the planned walk. The bluebell wood in West Stoke was stunning with the vibrant hue of thousands of bluebells contrasted



against the dark trees and undergrowth. One day after visiting the woods we crossed the road and walked along a path to Kingley Vale with fields and hills opening up before us. In Emsworth we walked round the Harbour to Brook Meadows, the Nature Reserve, and admired the weeping willow and watched the birds on the water. Late afternoon in Bosham the sun shone as we walked round the creek before entering the nearby deserted churchyard.

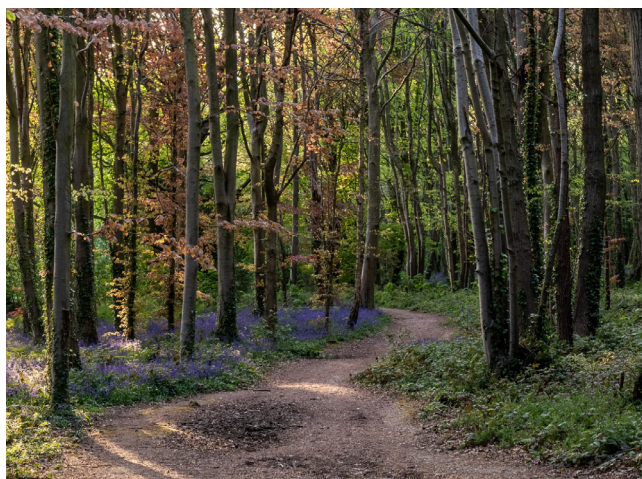
### Prinsted

No exploration of the locality would be complete without visiting the picturesque village of Prinsted, the hidden gem near Southbourne. Prinsted Village never really changes, some of the houses have been smartened up and enlarged but the shore remains the same, with wide vistas across the bay to Thorney Island, a few boats on the water in Spring, many in the Summer. Nearby the thriving boatyard is a reminder Prinsted is very popular with boats of all sizes moored up for the winter. The day of our walk we returned from the shore through a leafy avenue that led to the nearby fields and the exit to Southbourne.

Dave and I have enjoyed the exploration of our local area, marked up thousands of steps on our fitbits and been reminded of the beauty of this world in which we live.

*Sue Young, April 2020*

*Photos: Dave Young*



I am compiling a folder of stories like the one above about life in lockdown that will be kept in Emsworth Museum for future researchers. If you have a story that you would like to tell, then please email me at [christine.bury@ntlworld.com](mailto:christine.bury@ntlworld.com) There is another story on the back page and more tales will be printed in *The Emsworth Echo*.

## In Memoriam



### Roy Ross Morgan 1924-2020

Roy Morgan and his wife Sheila were appointed the Trust's Honorary Archivists by David Rudkin fairly soon after it was formed and they held this position for over 35 years. When they retired in 2016 they handed their vast collection of research papers and documents to Emsworth Museum and all this information is gradually being added to the local history files in the Museum's Archive Room.

Roy was born in Crewe in Cheshire and, before his service in the RAF in WWII and after he returned, he worked in local government – qualifying as an accountant in 1950. He kept extensive diaries of the time in 1945/46 when he served as a member of the occupation force in Japan after Hiroshima. Although Roy rarely spoke about the war his writings give a different perspective from the official narratives. He also wrote some early stories for the BBC Home Service to earn a little extra income. Career opportunities eventually led him to Havant where he became the Borough Treasurer.

For many years local history was one of Roy's great interests and this led him to become involved in several archaeological digs in the area including at Rowlands Castle, Chichester, Chilgrove and Pitlands Farm at Up Marden: at least one dig was with Dr Margaret Rule (past President of the Trust).

Roy retired in 1984 and his research became more extensive resulting in the writing of *Chichester – A Documentary History*. This is still considered to be a "go to" book for scholars. When Strahan Soames edited *The Emsworth Echo* and newsletters he invited Roy to write articles on his Emsworth research and these appeared for many years under the title "Archivists' Report".

Roy was an avid reader of the writings by PG Wodehouse. When the PG Wodehouse Society (UK) was formed he was one of its early members and from time to time he contributed articles to its magazine, *Wooster Sauce*. His knowledge of the characters that feature in PGW books allowed him to compile a list of the names of local people and places that PGW incorporated into his stories long after the author had moved away from Emsworth to America.

One find that pleased and excited Roy greatly was when he read PG Wodehouse's name as tenant (not owner) of a property in Record Road in the 1914 Rate Book. Up until this time it was known that PGW lived in Emsworth – but not where.

Roy was a kind and wise gentleman. He loved dogs and was at one time the Treasurer of the local Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Music was also very important to him and he served as Treasurer to the Havant and District Arts Society.

He had a quiet enthusiasm for Emsworth and its history and EM&HT has lost a valued friend and supporter. Roy died at the end of January 2020.

**Dorothy Bone**

### Donations and Fundraising

The lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that all our lives have been impacted in some way but those who have felt the financial impact the most are small businesses and sole traders. People in the local community have been tremendously supportive of Emsworth organisations and that support is still needed as town life returns to some normality.

Like many organisations this year, Emsworth Museum has had to curtail its fundraising activities but entry to the Museum is still free. We will be delighted to see you and show you the refurbished displays. If you can, though, please think of making a donation or buying something from the Sales Area to make up some of our lost income.

# In Memoriam



## Cdr Gerald M Williams

### Chairman of EMHT 1997-2012

Gerry Williams was elected Chairman of EM&HT in 1997 and held this position for 15 years – the longest term for any Trust Chairman apart from Founder David Rudkin who also served for 15 years.

During the early years a number of the facilities in Emsworth Museum were limited through lack of space and the overall layout remained relatively unaltered from the time when the rooms were used as a Public Hall. However this began to change when the Trust received three large bequests and the increase in funds, under Gerry's direction, allowed for the re-design and re-organisation of some of the rooms. At about the same time work was started to digitise the Museum acquisition records and the Trust was able to progress and look positively to the future.

Gerry was a practical man, and for a number of years with other helpers he carried out the internal maintenance and re-decoration of the Museum. He was keen to promote the Trust and Museum and commissioned the banner that usually flies from the flag pole over North Street when the Museum is open for visitors.

His second committee meeting as Chairman of the Trust was held on board his boat *Sandollar* moored in Emsworth Yacht Harbour. A novel idea – but it wasn't repeated!!

Much of Cdr Williams' career was spent in the Royal Navy: serving at one time in submarines. From 1956 -59 he was stationed in Malta and later he served as air direction officer in aircraft carriers *Bulwark*, *Eagle* and *Hermes*. In 1976 he got a job with NATO in Naples and retired from the Navy in 1978.

For a while he ran a bus company in Southsea for his friend Basil Williams but this didn't really suit him and when the post of commanding officer for the naval base in Oman was advertised in the local newspaper he applied and got it. This great experience lasted for six years and after visiting UK in 1983 the family returned to Oman for another three years.

Cdr Williams was Chairman of the local branch of SAAFA for 25 years and enjoyed playing golf and tennis as well as sailing his beloved boat *Sandollar*.

He was a cheerful and popular Chairman and even after he handed this role over to Tony Stimson he continued to help in the Museum until illness prevented it.

Gerry died during the coronavirus pandemic which sadly prevented his friends in the Trust attending his funeral – but we will miss and always remember him.

**Dorothy Bone**

### Membership

The May Newsletter and the *Warblington Walk* booklet distributed in late June were sent by email to those members for whom I had an email address. In addition, over a hundred printed versions of each publication were posted to those members who had not supplied an email address. This latest edition has been distributed to members using the same methods.

Do you know of anyone who is a member and did not receive either an email or a printed copy? If so, please let me know so that the records can be updated. Also, did you receive an email **and** a printed copy? Again, please let me know.

**Shelagh Standen, Membership Secretary, email: shelaghstanden@hotmail.co.uk**



# A Time to be active; a Time to be passive; what can I do with my Time?

SUNDAY, 26th APRIL, 2020

This morning I awoke to continued sunshine, with the forecast of rain later this week, so I must get up – with pleasure – and continue getting the garden ready for the rain. Two fruit trees have been planted, two more today, assuaging my guilt for having destroyed the huge sycamore tree at the end of my land. The pots must be cleared of unwanted winter growth, and three trays of small geraniums and others must be planted. I awoke with joy, and prayed for the physical strength and ability for the day ahead. How selfish of me!

It was 7.35am when I woke and turned on Radio 4 – the religious programme. It ended with a series of phone calls, from an intensive care nurse to the loved ones of a patient whom they had struggled to save, but failed. Two thousand patients have now died in hospital; two thousand similar phone calls – and my eyes filled with tears as I lay, looking forward to my day.

8am: News of more deaths – and denials – was followed by the Sunday Service, and an insight I have never before noticed, that in the story of the Walk to Emmaus in Luke 24, there is no joy, only the forlorn comment, ‘we thought he had been....’. Cleopas and his wife/companion were so overwhelmed with grief that they failed to recognise their travelling Companion. Must Covid-19 overwhelm us with grief? For many it probably does, but so far for me, (I give thanks), none of my nearest and dearest have been affected. The Chaplain at the Surrey hospice spoke during the Service of his patients whose only future is to look at the end of their lives on earth – an experience most of us can only imagine. Looking to the future, he read Ps 121 – my late husband’s favourite – and tears came again. Ps 23 followed, with its calming insistence to dispel all fear, looking ahead to pastures green, still water, a table spread, and a cup overflowing, anointing – the permission to go ahead.

All this while I look forward to carefree work in the garden. Surrounded by so much going on beyond my view, while unusually doing as I am told, and staying at home, should I be feeling guilty? What am I doing to help anyone? I cannot celebrate the Eucharist in Church or at home where I live alone – yet my priestly service is to worship God through my service to His people. What am I doing? Is the answer ‘Nothing’?

In one sense it is – Nothing! – and that goes far beyond the grain for me. So, am I being selfish, just trying to keep out of harm’s way? In one sense, Yes I am! On the other hand, telephone conversations I make to other people living on their own can bring pleasure to both of us, as indeed, it is a joyful chatter when others phone me to ask if I am well. So what else am I doing? By keeping out of harm’s way, I know I am relieving the latent fears of those who love me most and who live far away, and that is positive. It releases them to be able to care for others in greater need where they are. It is ‘passively active’. What a strange conundrum!

It is now 10.30am, and I am ready to put on my shoes and open the garden door. Later today when my ageing body will be groaning, (I am 86+ now), I shall click on to today’s Eucharist in Emsworth, and praise the Lord with Easter Alleluias, while actively praying for those in need, for those who have no hope, and for those who mourn their loved ones with their tears.

*Barbara Watson Hammond, Priest*

## Stay Alert

## Control the Virus

## Save Lives

## Support your Local Community

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