

MP Opens Our First Summer Exhibition



Chris Clode and Lesley Di Fonzo

Havant MP Alan Mak opened the first of the 2016 summer series of exhibitions in the David Rudkin Room when he visited on Saturday 26th March. Introducing Mr Mak to Chris Clode and Dr Richard Austin, Chairman Tony Stimson said that the Trust is very grateful for the support of Havant Borough Council and added “we are proud of our small and perhaps unusual museum”.

In describing the importance of the oyster boat Terror to Emsworth, Chris Clode confirmed that the exhibition celebrates 125 years since she was built as well as the 10th anniversary of her re-launch after restoration. He said the boat, owned and insured by Chichester Harbour Conservancy, is operated by the

Friends of Chichester Harbour and he invited residents of Emsworth and visitors to take advantage of the opportunity to sail in her during the summer.

Dr Austin explained that Chichester Harbour is the largest natural estuary in South East England and said the Conservancy is thrilled that with this exhibition more people will be able to find out about the history of Terror and be encouraged to experience a sailing trip for themselves.



Alan Mak opening the exhibition

Before cutting the ribbon to open the exhibition Alan Mak commented that he was delighted to see so many people supporting Emsworth Museum and said that it was great to see the local community so involved. After speaking with committee

members and members of the public Alan Mak was shown the Main Room displays by Museum Curator Philip Magrath. Philip said later that Alan was very interested in the Black Rod costume and he explained to him that careful monitoring is needed because of the vulnerability of textiles to insect infestation. Alan also made a point of looking at the panels that show information about the local beer houses and particularly mentioned the local pub that is his “favourite”.

Dorothy Bone



Alan Mak and Secretary Dorothy Bone

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Dates for your diary April to December 2016

All monthly exhibitions are held in the museum's David Rudkin Room.

Talks are held in the Mountford Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth at 7.30pm.

April 23rd - May 15th	Exhibition - "Deborah Richards - An Emsworth Artist" (Emsworth's Art Trail - April 23rd/24th and April 30th/ May 1st /2nd)
May 9th	Local History Walk - led by Margaret Rogers
May 21st – 30th	Exhibition - "Emsworth Oysters" The re-print of Linda Newell's book "Uncovering the Past: Emsworth, Oysters and Men" will again be available for sale.
June 4th – 26th	Exhibition - "The History of the Emsworth Gas Holder"
June 13th	Local History Walk – led by Margaret Rogers
July 1st – 31st	Exhibition - "100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme"
July 6th	Annual Treasure Hunt
July 11th	Local History Walk - led by Margaret Rogers
August 6th – 29th	Exhibition - "10th Anniversary of the Ems Valley U3A"
August 8th	Local History Walk – led by Margaret Rogers
August 29th	Emsworth Show
September 3rd – 25th	Exhibition - to be confirmed
September 5th – 8th	Holiday to Worcester and The Black Country Living Museum (contact Peter Morse for more information)
October 1st – 30th	Exhibition - to be confirmed
October 17th	Illustrated talk - "Digging for Defence: Fort Nelson 1860 – 1914" by Philip Magrath
November 21st	Illustrated talk - "A Tale of Two Abbeys: Construction, Destruction and Legacy" by Christine Bury.
December	Stewards Christmas Tea party - date to be decided

Museum Opening Times

Emsworth Museum will be open until 30th October on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30am - 4.30pm and on Sundays 2.30pm - 4.30pm. On all the 5 days of the Art Trail (26th / 27th / 30th April and 1st / 2nd May) the museum will be open 10.30am - 4.30pm. In addition it will be open on Friday 1st July and all Fridays in August 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Members are welcome to visit the museum for research on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 2.00pm - 4.00pm except when committee meetings or other special events are being held. If you intend to visit and would like to be sure that the museum will be open, please telephone or email me.

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

Dorothy Bone 01243 373780 dorothybone@btinternet.com

Curator's Corner

We have I feel made good curatorial progress in the museum in the close season. All of the objects that were placed in the David Rudkin Room having been removed from the museum store to allow for the replacement of the old wooden racking with metal racking, were returned in good time before the opening day. The lengthy business of examining each object, using our excellent volunteers, in order to update the museum database can now continue. In the Main Room there are a host of improvements that can be made, some relatively easy, some requiring more detailed work.

The priority will be to tackle the way in which some of the objects are displayed from a conservational viewpoint. I would also like to try and make the view into this room a little more inviting, to improve the cabinet labels and the displays within them and to replace two of the old display cabinets with more modern ones. I was very encouraged with the training of stewards which, over two days involved nearly forty, and a very healthy desire to fill up as many weekends as possible for forthcoming duties.

Philip A. Magrath, Curator.



Oyster Project Completed

Since Linda Newell's death, I've been working with help from other Trust members to see the project through. Fortunately, under Linda's leadership and enthusiasm, we'd completed most of the main tasks, including producing a wonderful film and a gallery (now named in her honour) within the museum to help visitors learn about Emsworth's heritage in the oyster industry.

However, to obtain the rest of the funds, we had to demonstrate that we'd fulfilled the grant terms and produce a report and detailed accounts for the Heritage Lottery Fund, which was quite an exacting task.

We had developed detailed teachers' packs with the help of Chichester Harbour Conservancy and these were delivered to 18 local schools. This will hopefully stimulate future school

visits. Oral history tapes about local fishing have also been transcribed and are held within the oyster gallery.

The grant funded a number of free boat trips, so passengers could gain an insight into how oysters were fished and hear the truth about why the trade had been stopped – especially the tale about the Dean of Winchester's death. The hour-long trips around the harbour were conducted by the Harbour Conservancy with a fascinating commentary using Museum material and Linda's research and scripts.

We held an exhibition about the Project, again highlighting local history and including materials for younger visitors to create model oysters and complete a quiz. This was timed to coincide with Emsworth Food Fortnight and included two film shows at the Museum.

There have been more local showings of the Oyster film and these will hopefully continue from time to time.

I am proud to have been part of this project, which has built a lasting legacy to help us promote the museum more widely in future. Special thanks go to Ali Beckett who helped enormously to complete the project.

Sylvia Courtngae



Aboard the Solar Boat

Talks



On a winter evening on January 18th 2016 Mike Edward's presentation "Havant Past and Present" certainly attracted a huge audience. There were many more non members present who were pleased to be reminded of the 1950's and the changes in Havant for better or worse, illustrated by a series of his own photographs. Incidentally Mike Edwards is repeating his talk at Havant Library on Tuesday 10th May at 7pm. Advance booking essential to avoid disappointment. Tickets £5 are available through the booking line on 02392 484945.

Wendy Bright

Forthcoming Talks

"Digging for Defence" Fort Nelson 1860-1914. Phil Magrath Monday 17th October 2016

"A Tale of Two Abbeys: Construction, Destruction and Legacy" Christine Bury. Monday 21st November 2016

Local History Walks

Walking is enjoyable especially in the company of others. During the summer months Margaret Rogers will again be running her guided local history walks starting from outside Emsworth Museum at 6.30pm.

The four dates (all Mondays) are May 9th, June 13th, July 11th and August 8th.

The walks, each lasting about two hours, are at a comfortable pace and you can finish at any time. This is a great way to learn the history of Emsworth - whether you are a visitor to the area or have lived in the town all your life you are sure to hear something new.

Booking is not necessary. Cost - £3.00 per person - is paid on the evening.

Annual Treasure Hunt

The annual Treasure Hunt is on Wednesday 6th July starting from inside Emsworth Museum at 7.00pm. The cost - £2.00 per person (with a concession for juniors) - paid when you pick up the sheet of questions and includes tea and biscuits on your return to have your answers checked.

This is a fun event and although some people take part every year we always look forward to meeting new members and visitors. The winners with the most correct answers are invited to set the course for the following year and the ladies who won the event in 2015 have already planned the route and submitted the questions for this year. Booking is not necessary.

For more information email dorothybone@btinternet.com or telephone 01243 378091.

Emsworth Museum Annual Holiday

There are still vacancies for our 4-day holiday starting on Monday 5th September 2016, based on a 4-star hotel at Stourport. The itinerary will include visits to Snowhill Manor (the former home of the eccentric collector Charles Wade), the Tudor House Museum, Waddesdon Manor and Gardens, the Black Country Living Museum (with a cruise on the Dudley Canal) and a guided tour of Worcester.



The Black Country Living Museum covers 200 years of history on a 26 acre site with a complete village of houses, shops, workshops, the Limelight Cinema with silent films, a Victorian fairground and a pub. Also on the site is an underground mine and displays of vintage transport with trolleybuses trams and boats on the canal.

The cost of the holiday is £314 per person (based on 2-people sharing). If you would like to join us please contact Peter Morse on 01243 697582, or peter.morse@talktalk.net

Chairman's Message

My thanks to those members who supported their committee by joining us at the Annual General Meeting in March.



Chris Clode, Alan Mak and Tony Stimson

I was very pleased to welcome Mr Alan Mak, MP for Havant, Mr Chris Clode, Chairman of the Terror Management Committee of the Friends of Chichester Harbour and Dr Richard Austin, Manager of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the Chichester Harbour Conservancy, on 26 March 2016 at the opening of our first exhibition for the season, marking the 10th Anniversary of the re-launch of Terror.

We have a successful, unique and much loved independent museum in Emsworth through the very considerable dedication and hard work of a small number of Trust members who do the day to day work of keeping the Museum in good order and stewarding when we are open to the public.

To sustain this we urgently need more volunteers to come forward and join the existing band of active helpers.

On this occasion my message is focussed on an urgent plea for more members to offer their services to help.

We have the following posts and opportunities to fill with new helpers:

Membership Secretary. Peter Morse has retired after nine years of dedicated service in this role for which we are deeply grateful. His successor is now urgently sought to carry on his good work. Anyone who is willing to take this on with immediate effect is asked please to contact Peter on 01243 97582, or peter.morse@talktalk.net to discuss it as soon as possible.



Peter Morse with Alan Mak as he picks the winning numbers in the 50/50 Draw

An assistant for Bob Duncan looking after the sale of souvenirs and books in the Museum. Bob has re-organised the entire stock of items for sale and would like a volunteer to assist him with their sales, particularly when he is away on his fairly frequent trips. Anyone who is willing to take this on is asked please to contact Bob on 'phone number 01243 374839.

Insurance Intermediary. Following the death of David Colson last year, we need a volunteer to act as Insurance Intermediary between the committee and our insurance broker, Drayton Read. This is very much a part time activity and does not require specialist knowledge of insurance but a new volunteer taking this on will relieve our hard pressed Hon. Secretary from one task.

Please contact Dorothy Bone if you are willing to take this on.

Organiser of the Trust Stand at the EHS Show. Marguerita Taplin has held this post for three years but wishes to now hand it on. It is an occasional commitment over the summer to put arrangements in place and to supervise the stand at the show on August Bank Holiday. Please contact Dorothy Bone if you are willing to take this on.

Independent Examiner of the Trust Accounts. Andrew Bloxham is retiring from this role at the completion of his examination of our accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016 after 13 years in post. The appointment of his successor will be from 1 January 2017. Accounting knowledge is desirable. Please contact Dorothy Bone if you are willing to take this on.

Stewards. As always, we need more Stewards. This is an important role and we must have two Stewards on duty for each session the Museum is open. Without those two Stewards on duty, we simply cannot open to receive visitors. Already this season we have come close to not opening for want of a Steward. Stewarding need not be a heavy commitment, just two or three times in a season will help spread the load. It is a fun job and one meets most interesting visitors, some of whom have fascinating tales of Emsworth past. Please contact Dorothy Bone if you would like to become a Steward.

Tony Stimson
Chairman

Somme Students

Members might well think that the General Committee of the Trust breathes a collective sigh of relief at the end of each summer when the Museum closes to the public and departs to the far corners of the globe for a well-earned rest. Not so. Even in her particular far corner in Malaysia Marguerita manages to organise the Newsletters and each year here in Emsworth the Committee undertakes a project which could not be undertaken when we have visitors. Last year we scrubbed, painted, decorated, cleaned and upgraded artefacts in the Main Hall and since his appointment our Curator has steadily worked on the reorganisation of the office and store. This winter some of us have also mentored students from Chichester University undertaking in the Museum a work experience module in the second year of their history studies. The project we have designed for them is to do research towards putting on an exhibition in the Rudkin Room beginning 1 July to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Working on Linda's unfinished files they have researched Emsworth

men involved in WW1 at that battle, taken photographs of St James' reredos screen and the Memorial Garden showing those who died and visited Fort Nelson where our Curator gave them an insight into the rudiments of cabinet display and showed them period artillery.

The Museum has undertaken this work because it is very keen indeed to attract and involve more younger people. It also fulfils elements of our prestigious Accreditation Award as well as the Museum's own educational aims. To host courses such as this involves help from not only Committee members – Sylvia Courtnage, Christine Bury, Curator Philip Magrath, and myself but also others – Philip Robinson and Havant Mayor-elect Faith Ponsonby – genuinely a collective effort. Finally, should you come across notices in and around Emsworth asking for Battle of the Somme artefacts and you think you might have something to contribute towards our exhibition we should be very pleased to hear from you.

Margaret Rogers

Emsworth Show

The Museum will again have a stand at the Emsworth Show on 29th August so please come along and see us there. We need volunteers to help man the stand for a couple of hours on the day and also need to borrow a rainproof marquee 3.5 x 3.5 metres. Please get in touch with me if you can help.

Marguerita Taplin 01243 374105 ms.taplin@yahoo.co.uk



Annual General Meeting

The 41st Annual General Meeting of Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust was held on 21st March 2016. After welcoming everyone Chairman, Tony Stimson, thanked all members who contribute in many ways to make the Trust and Museum so successful - and Wendy presented Dorothy with a beautiful arrangement of flowers. This was followed by reports on the year ending 31st December 2015 by Geoff Higgins (retiring Hon. Treasurer) and Peter Morse

(Membership Secretary). Philip Magrath (Museum Curator) described his plans for 2016. Vice-Chairman Margaret Rogers reported on an exciting project that involves Sylvia Courtnage and Christine Bury working with her on mentoring two students from Chichester University and this will result in an exhibition in the David Rudkin Room in July. Phil Sharpe was elected Honorary Treasurer and Geoff Higgins was elected a committee member. Cllr Rivka Cresswell's appointment as Havant Borough Council's representative to the Trust for 2015/2016 was ratified and Andrew Bloxham was appointed Independent Examiner of Trust accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016. Philip Magrath and Christine Bury have joined the committee as Co-opted members. Unfortunately the committee has not been successful in appointing a new

Membership Secretary to replace Peter Morse who has resigned from the committee. However he has kindly agreed to continue to look after membership matters and the 50/50 Club on a temporary basis only until a new Membership Secretary takes the work on. After a short interval Mike Edwards showed pictures that he and David Young had taken during the members' holiday to Cheshire in 2015 – with captions added by Peter Morse.

Dorothy Bone



The Stalwart Helperts at the AGM.. Wendy Bright Geoff Higgins and Brian Tricker

Exhibitions in the David Rudkin Room this Summer

March 26th – April 17th “10th Anniversary of the Re-Launch of the Oyster Boat Terror”. This exhibition told the story of the historic sailing boat Terror and included a model made by Len Perry. Terror was built in about 1890 to support the large oyster dredgers that worked in the harbour and was also used for pleasure sailing. In the early 1900s the local oysters became infected and Emsworth’s oyster industry collapsed overnight. For many years Terror was left to decay until a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund allowed her to be imaginatively restored. She is now a great attraction to visitors to the harbour. This was an excellent exhibition to start the season.

April 23rd – May 15th “Exhibition by artist Deborah Richards

Emsworth Museum is one of the many venues on the Emsworth Arts Trail which takes place on 23rd/24th/30th April and 1st/2nd May. Deborah Richards is known for her distinctive award-winning prints and will be exhibiting new work which responds to the changing light, colour, rhythm and mood of the Solent coast and local down-land. Included in the display will be hand printed silk-screen and relief mono-prints, original drawings and paintings and one-off mini prints and cards. In addition her love of the wild outdoors is expressed in her ceramic sculptures of wolves, horses and people. The museum will be open from 10.30am until 4.30pm on all 5 days of the Arts Trail. The display will continue on the following two weekends at the normal museum open times.



May 21st – 30th “Emsworth Oysters”

This exhibition is based on the display in 2015 that told the story of the Emsworth Oyster Industry and the Heritage Lottery award that funded the project involving local schools and the making of the 2 DVDs. Linda Newell’s extremely informative and attractive book “Uncovering the Past: Emsworth, Oysters and Men” contains her research into the Emsworth oyster industry. The first print run sold out quickly. The book has now been re-printed (with some additions) financed by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Sustainability Fund and will be available for sale from mid-May. If you haven’t already bought the book make sure that you visit the museum to secure your copy and at the same time you can watch the 2 DVDs that will be showing in the Linda Newell Oyster Gallery.

June 4th – 26th “The Story of the Emsworth Gas Holder”

Built by Messrs Robert Dempster and Sons in Yorkshire on the site of the old gas works the Emsworth gas holder was a fine piece of engineering and it has been an important part of the Emsworth skyline for over 80 years. The site, off Palmers Road, was originally used by the Emsworth Gas and Coke Company and closed in 1927 when it was no longer necessary to produce gas locally. The gas holder, built on a huge concrete base, stored gas supplied by a 15” diameter trunk main from the Hilsea Gas Works at Portsmouth but has been redundant since 2012. This exhibition will include pictures of the building of the gas holder in 1933/1934 as well as dramatic views of it being demolished recently.



July 1st – 31st “100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme”

This exhibition will be opened at 2.30pm on Friday 1st July by Havant Mayor Cllr Faith Ponsonby following a service in Havant to mark the start of the battle. Two students from Chichester University have spent many weeks helped by Margaret Rogers, Sylvia Courtnege and Christine Bury researching and recording details of the Emsworth men who took part in this conflict and the display is based on their work.

August 5th – 29th “A Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Ems Valley U3A”

The Ems Valley U3A is a very vibrant organisation consisting of about 45 individual groups. Believed to have started in France, the U3A is mainly for retired people with a wide range of interests and this exhibition will showcase many of their activities. Some groups engage speakers to talk on academic subjects (architecture, geology, languages, history etc.) whilst others discuss art, photography and creative writing or leisure pursuits such as gardening.

Every year I try to arrange at least seven different exhibitions for the David Rudkin Room and this is becoming more and more difficult. Emsworth has a wealth of local history and there are lots of subjects that would make very interesting displays. If you are able to help with finding new subjects, researching, designing or creating the final display please telephone 01243 373780 or email dorothybone@btinternet.com

FISHERMANIA



Phil Magrath and Bob France with a copy of the painting of Kitty Fisher. The original can be seen at Petworth House

Dr Bob France gave the evening audience on the 15th February an insight into London society in the middle part of the eighteenth century, highlighting in particular the eight year reign of the notorious Kitty Fisher. On the wall Bob had put up a picture of Kitty painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds (the original of which is at Petworth House) wearing her trade-mark black mantilla and several ropes of pearls and invited the audience to consider whether or not they thought her beautiful by today's standards - a 50/50 vote! Born around 1840 she was born Catherine Maria Fischer in London, her father a silverchaser. Her first job was to work in a milliner's shop, where the girls who worked there were a target for young rakes about town. There she met and fell in love with an Army ensign called Martin and moved in with him - a short

lived liaison because the Army had plans for the said ensign overseas. As a replacement Kitty then found Sir Thomas Medlycott (this time Bob produced a painting by Canaletto) and he was swiftly followed by Commodore Keppel, in turn replaced by General Ligonier (aged 77) and Admiral Hanson (aged 60) - Reynolds illustrating the point that Kitty had captured both the Army and the Navy! These two were followed by Lord Stanhope, known as a 'goat of quality'. Essentially Kitty was a superb self-publicist; she understood self-promotion and became known throughout London society as the person a man should have on his arm, a status symbol. She rode very well and was to be seen daily in the London parks, showing off her beautifully attired costume. On one occasion her horse reared up and she was thrown - an event given full publicity in the capital's print shop windows and a society talking point. Ultimately she became a courtesan, one who owned her own property and jewellery; with a carriage and four liveried footman. She was not a follower but a maker of fashion and in control of whom she bestowed her favours on for not

less than £100.

She carried on in this manner and was painted several times by Reynolds and both he and she got more and more publicity, associating with monarchy and Casanova.

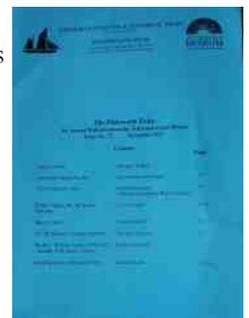


By this time in her 20s she sought a match and proposed to Henry Herbert, 10th Earl of Pembroke, who declined her offer until ultimately she married John Norris of Hemsted Park, Benenden in 1766. She had been married for only four months when she became ill and died, probably of consumption, thus ending eight years of 'Fishermania'. Bob rounded off his talk with an invitation to view the original painting of Kitty at Petworth.

Margaret Rogers

Delivery of the Newsletters and the Echo

For several years the Trust has had a merry band of volunteers who hand-deliver the newsletters locally four times each year. This saved about £600 (at current postage rates) last year. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we have become short of three deliverers in central Emsworth and Hermitage. Can any Trust member assist, for an hour or two, four times a year? A batch of newsletters usually consists of about 10 to 15 copies and I try to tailor each area to be near to the volunteer's home. Please contact me on 01243 376757 or jeffers310@gmail.com
Geoff Higgins



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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 (disk or email preferred to hard copy)

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