



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

President: The Rt Hon. Lord Willetts of Havant
Reg. Charity No. 294965

Emsworth Museum
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May 2017

New President Visits Emsworth Museum

David Willetts, The Rt Hon. Lord Willetts of Havant, toured the Museum on Easter Saturday morning, 15th April. It was his first visit since accepting the role of Trust President but he has been a staunch supporter of the work of Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust for some 30 years.

Chairman, Tony Stimson, welcomed him and County Councillor, Ray Bolton. Among those present were distinguished guests and many EM&HT members. Tony reiterated to his audience his thanks for the support of Havant Borough Council in letting the Trust use the premises at 10b North Street for a peppercorn rent. With this support the Museum continues to be a much loved cultural asset in the Borough and Lord Willetts recalled how fantastic it was for Emsworth to have such a facility. He called upon everyone to search their attics for useful Emsworth memorabilia.

Vice Chairman, Margaret Rogers, and Museum Curator, Phil Magrath, showed Lord Willetts and Ray Bolton the latest exhibition on the timelines of some prominent Emsworth families. During the course of Lord Willetts' tour members of the Emsworth Chalcraft, Lintott and Prior families also came to see the latest temporary exhibition. Later Lord Willetts visited the main exhibition room and saw the new Oyster Gallery and the conservation work being undertaken to the main collection.

EM&HT President, Lord Willetts, left, with Tony Stimson and museum curator, Phil Magrath, right



Lord Willetts, left, with chairman, Tony Stimson



Vice chairman Margaret Rogers and David Willetts looking at family letters



Museum Opening Times

Emsworth Museum is open from 1st April until 29th October on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm and on Sundays 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

In addition it will be open on all Fridays in August 2.30pm – 4.30pm.

Diary Dates

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.

May 20th – June 11th	Exhibition: The Emsworth Show – Then and Now
June 14th	Guided Local History Walk
June 17th – July 9th	Exhibition: A Brief History of Local Football, 1900–1960
June 21st	Treasure Hunt
June 22nd	Additional Illustrated Talk: The Battle of Jutland 1916: A Local Perspective by Philip Robinson
July 12th	Guided Local History Walk
July 15th – August 6th	Exhibition: Emsworth Historic Properties – Highlights from an Archive
August 9th	Guided Local History Walk
August 11th – Sept 3rd	Exhibition: The Warblington Roman Villa Estate – An Update
September 4th – 7th	Trust Annual Holiday to Hereford and the Forest of Dean
Sept 9th – October 1st	Exhibition: To be confirmed (linked to Emsworth British Food Fortnight)
October 7th – 29th	Exhibition: Auntie Pat's Dancing School
October 16th	Illustrated Talk: The Infamous Ford Grey, Earl of Tankerville by Dr Bob France
November 20th	Illustrated Talk: The Story of Goodwood House by Hilly Sloan

Members are welcome to visit the Museum for research on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 2.00pm – 4.00pm (except May 16th, June 27th, August 8th, September 19th, October 31st and December 12th). If you would like to visit and be sure that the Museum will be open, please telephone or email 01243 378091 / info@emsworthmuseum.org.uk

Dorothy Bone

Preview of Exhibitions from May – August

May 20th – June 11th “The Emsworth Show: Then and Now”. The Emsworth Horticultural Society has been running the Emsworth Show for a long time – and in its present form since the 1970s. Through photographs, artefacts and memories, this exhibition will tell the story of how the show started and the early days, up to the present time when it has become one of the most important and popular dates on the Emsworth calendar.



June 17th – July 9th “A Brief History of Local Football, 1900 – 1960”. Using photographs from his own collection and also from Emsworth Museum's archive, Steve Miller will show pictures of the teams that represented various local Clubs, Schools and Organisations from 1908 – 1962 and also village teams from the first half of the 20th century. Extracts from the school magazine *The Emsworthian* provide amusing accounts about the Emsworth County Primary school football teams from 1951 – 1953 under the guidance of Monty Reed. Narratives, newspaper reports of scores and scorers for the 1958 – 1962 season illustrate the progress of the Emsworth Youth Club football team from the Lads League to men's football in the Portsmouth League. Alan Knight, ex Pompey goalkeeper, has agreed to open the exhibition on June 17th.

July 15th – August 6th “Emsworth Historic Properties: Highlights from an Archive”. This exhibition continues the theme of local history research addressed in the opening exhibition of the season but with an emphasis on Emsworth's historic buildings. Using examples from a recently acquired archive, the exhibition will highlight some of the lesser-known resources that have particular relevance to property research.



Northlands: Richard Mapley

Donations gratefully received

We are very pleased to announce that the Trust has recently received two large cash donations with another promised for which we are extremely grateful.

CLlr Rivka Cresswell has awarded the Trust the £500.00 grant that she has available from Havant Borough Council sources to give to a volunteer-run organisation in the Borough.

At the AGM after hearing Philip Magrath's plans for the future John Saunders, Vice President, Trust Property Trustee and the Trust's first Treasurer, kindly donated a similar amount for the purchase of conservation materials.

During his visit on Easter Saturday Lord Willetts indicated that he is arranging for a substantial four-figure cash donation to be paid to the Trust.

These very generous donations are greatly appreciated and will enable the Curator to purchase the conservation materials he needs and for the Trust to purchase some new cabinets to ensure that our artefacts and documents are conserved, cared for and displayed in the correct and approved manner. These improvements will result in giving future visitors to the Museum a better and more enjoyable experience each time they come. Thank you.

Dorothy Bone

Deteriorated tape and dangling wires

Opening a museum cabinet that has remained closed for many years is an exciting prospect – one can never be sure exactly what gems, or indeed horrors, lie therein. From a curatorial point of view, it is good conservation practice to give both the inside of the cabinet and the objects a good dust as well as noting any areas of concern. It also provides the opportunity to undertake a degree of rearrangement in cases where there are too many objects. Additionally, it is very important to isolate any detrimental material such as drawing pins, paper clips and, worst of all, Blu Tack! So imagine my excitement as I turned my attention to the large cabinet alongside the west wall in the Museum's main room. Within the lower display, the electric wire associated with the light and long since free from the sticky restraint of yards of tape had, seemingly many years ago, draped itself along with the tape over Dent's liquid compass! Further, adhesive from the tape had concreted itself on the compass glass which, fortunately, could be removed with microcrystalline wax. Once complete and returned to the cabinet my eye was caught by a small unlabelled circular object of about three inches in diameter.

Closer inspection revealed a shallow wooden container with an engraved metal disc on the lid. Although in small typeface it reads:

This Box made from a part of the Royal George Sunk at Spithead 29 Aug[us] t 1782 taken up June 1833.

When HMS Royal George was launched at Woolwich Dockyard in 1756 she was the largest warship in the world. As a 100-gun first-rate ship of the line her complement numbered 900 men. By 1782 she had seen service throughout the Seven Years War most conspicuously at the Battle of Quiberon Bay in 1759 and during the American War of Independence. On 28th August 1782 she was amongst Admiral Howe's fleet lying at anchor at Spithead being prepared to sail to relieve Gibraltar. Amongst the estimated 1,200 on board including the ship's complement were a number of workmen, 200-300 relatives visiting the officers and men, 100 or so 'ladies from the Point' and the ship's captain, Admiral Kempenfelt. The next day, in order to



progress urgent hull repairs below the waterline the practice of 'heeling to' was actioned. A dangerous enterprise at the best of times but manageable with care, this involved rolling the ship's guns onto the opposite side allowing it to heel and thereby bringing the area for repair above the waterline. In this case, not only was it overdone but the lower deck gun ports were not secured and a strong NNW squall threw her irretrievably onto her side. Well over a thousand souls were lost including Admiral Kempenfelt. Despite errors of judgment nobody was blamed and the conclusion of the official investigation into the cause of the accident was the poor state of the ship's timbers.

Philip Magrath, Curator

Visit to RNLI HQ at Poole

On a dank but thoroughly enjoyable day in late March, thirty five members and friends went on a day's outing to Wimborne and Poole in Dorset. Organised by EM&HT membership secretary, Peter Morse, the outward coach trip had neighbours puzzling over the whereabouts of shipping forecast areas and the probable mileage between Emsworth and Poole via Wimborne.

The morning stop was in Wimborne for cups of tea/coffee and cake. There was time to visit the town and the Minster with its 14th century astronomical clock, beautiful stained glass and to watch a DVD about the contents of the famous chained library. Lunch was in Poole on the quay. Several people visited the Pottery shops, while others went to the Museum or toured the old town with its fascinating hostelrys and antique shops.

The main purpose of the day though was the afternoon visit to the nearby RNLI Training College.



Inside the simulator

The 90-minute discovery tour was an enlightening experience for all. The college opened in 2004 as a centre of excellence for the maritime training of lifeboat crews and lifeguards. Highlights of the tour were the lifeboat simulator and the sea survival centre with their ability to simulate all weather conditions and where practical survival techniques

Hereford and the Forest Of Dean

We still have a few seats left on the coach for our annual holiday from 4th – 7th September but availability will depend on rooms at the hotel. If you would like to join us you should apply to **Peter Morse** (at the Museum or peter.morse@talktalk.net) as soon as possible.



Quarter Jack strikes the bells at Wimborne Minster every 15 minutes

are learned. The sea survival pool is where crews practise their capsize training using bespoke training boats. Complete darkness, choppy conditions, thunder, lightning and helicopter recovery can all be simulated to very real effect.

Search and rescue operations can be practised in the full mission bridge simulator as some lucky members found out as they conned a lifeboat out of Dover harbour to come to the rescue of a burning freighter while all manner of hazards, such as other boats, submarines, swimmers and floating containers hampered their efforts in an increasingly choppy seaway and a thunderstorm.

It is thanks to such rigorous and continuous training and development that the lifeboat crews can rescue an average of 22 people a day and then return safely home to their families. In 2014, 1,243 lifeboat crew and 250 lifeguards from around the UK and Republic of Ireland attended one or more of over 40 different operational training courses currently available.

The journey home was a time for prizes. Michael Bury came closest to pinpointing the position of the shipping forecast areas while Don Beckman came closest in estimating the mileage. The smooth journey home thanks to driver Keith of Woods coaches ended with a vote of thanks to Peter for a great day out.

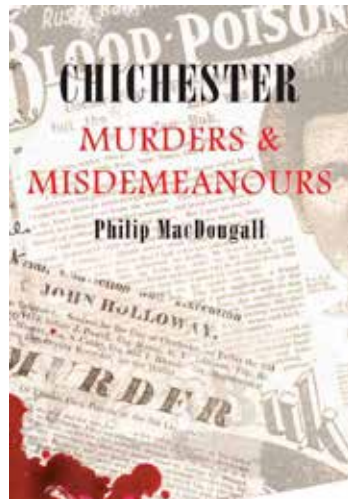


Mersey Class lifeboat, the Robert Charles Brown

Chichester Murders and Misdemeanours

The Museum's first talk of 2017 was that given by Philip MacDougall on 'Chichester: Murders and Misdemeanours'.

He began by going back to the year 1818 when well over 10,000 people congregated in Chichester to watch and follow in procession what was known as 'The Morning Drop' – a public hanging – in the Broyle area of the city (hangings did not take place within the city walls). Here Private John Holloway of the 35th Infantry Regiment was paying the penalty for murdering another soldier, Cavalryman Thomas Parr. Philip described what had incited Holloway to murder (near The Anchor in what is now Chapel Street) by bludgeoning Parr with his musket over the attractions of one Hannah Chase, and also explained that in those days watchmen stationed at various points in the city could be called upon in similar emergencies. Following a trial held in Priory Park Holloway was condemned to death.



Philip then took the audience back still further to 1802 when the very popular Goodwood Races which had been instituted by the Duke of Richmond, Colonel-in-Chief of the Sussex Regiment, called in his militia in order to keep order at the races. Here a London group of 'heavies' known as 'The Swell Mob' came to fleece money out of people by pick

pocketing and intimidation, and the Duke had to call upon the Bow Street Runners, also from London and a mobile force, to supplement his militia and stop rising crime. By 1829 the Metropolitan Police Force took over Goodwood security. A half century later in 1880 a professional police force came into being.

Philip then described two more modern murders which had taken place in Chichester. One was in February 1924 and was that of a young girl aged 11 who disappeared and was then found murdered in the grounds of Graylingwell Hospital. The investigation of this was hampered by the conviction of the police officer, Brett, who was firmly convinced that the murderer must be an outsider to Chichester. A second example was that of a young woman in WW2 murdered by a Canadian serviceman billeted in the city. Philip then concluded his talk by referring to the Sloe Fair, an annual event held in October each year in the grounds of what is now the Festival Car Park, which in 1904 caused rival factions of citizens for and against to bring about the law which says that fairs may be banned if they are causing problems.

The talk was rounded off in the usual way by Philip answering questions invited from the audience.

Margaret Rogers

Treasure Hunt, 21st June

Enjoy a summer evening walk and at the same time test your powers of observation and knowledge of the area. The 'treasure hunt' starts from inside the Museum at 7.00pm and lasts for just over an hour, finishing back at the Museum where the answers are checked. The winners of this year's treasure hunt will be invited to set the course and questions for 2018 and with new people involved each year the challenge is always different.

The charge of £2.00 per person (with concessions for organised groups of young people) includes a cup of tea, coffee or squash and biscuits whilst the answers are being checked. There is no need to book – just turn up on the night.

Local History Walks

During the last few years the town has welcomed very many newcomers coming to live both in the town itself and in the surrounding area and they have found these walks a very good way of getting to know a little of the town's history. Even people who have lived here for many years have usually found something new about our town. The walks are run on a very casual basis and questions and comments are invited as we go along. There are 12 stops in all, and the walks take around 1½ to 2 hours, starting and ending at the Museum, but you may leave at any time. The next walks are on 14th June, 12th July and 9th August. Booking is not necessary. The cost is £3.00 per person payable on the evening. The walks start promptly at 6pm but we go along at a very easy pace and dogs are welcome.

Chairman's Address at the AGM on 20th March 2017

Our thanks to all those volunteers who help in the Museum in many different ways, do the stewarding and other jobs that enable us to keep the Museum open to our visitors and also the deliverers of our Newsletters. These volunteers are mostly the same dedicated group of members who quietly get on with their particular responsibilities year after year with the addition of a few newcomers. Contrary to my previous routine, I am not naming them all individually as they, and we all know who they are and the Trust is no less grateful that I am giving them our heartfelt thanks collectively. Thank you all very much indeed.

Roy and Sheila Morgan have announced that they wish to retire from the role of the Trust's Official Archivists after 32 years' service. We thank them for the outstanding contribution they have made to the Trust through all their research work. They have been such long-term staunch supporters of the Trust that we will sorely miss them as our Official Archivists. We wish them a long, happy and healthy retirement.

At this point in the past, I have normally given a brief summary of the Trust's achievements in the previous year. As a change tonight I thought I would just highlight some general achievements over the past several years and say how I believe the Trust is moving forward to a bright future.

One of the most significant achievements has been making the application in 2013 to the Arts Council England for accreditation which we were granted. Subsequently, in December 2016 we went through the whole process again and we are now awaiting advice as to whether our application for renewal of our accreditation has been granted. The application process is an intensive exercise involving not only the completion of a 30-page form but also bringing up to date all our policy and procedure documentation as well. Having these policy and procedure documents focuses our minds on continuing to manage our affairs in a disciplined and consistent manner.

Winning the accreditation is well worth the effort. It demonstrates to the world at large we have achieved the requisite standard for the proper management and operation of an organisation such as ours.

On the physical side of life, we have made good progress in redecorating the larger part of the Museum, reorganising the store room, tidying the office, greatly improving the books and souvenirs



Tony Stimson, chairman

sales area, building the new Oyster Gallery and re-arranging the PG Wodehouse Corner, and generally making the place more attractive to our visitors. This will continue in the coming months by replacing the outdated fluorescent tube lighting in the Main Room with modern, energy efficient, better museum quality lights to brighten it up. In the slightly longer term as funds permit, we will start replacing the older cabinets with modern proper museum standard display cabinets.

We have upgraded the Museum's electrical supply system and provided three new heaters such that we can safely use heaters anywhere in the Museum, so making it more comfortable for volunteers working there in the winter months.

We have moved our digital record keeping from the MODES system to the Omeka system and the accession data is being entered in Omeka. In the fullness of time, Omeka will be accessible by volunteers, stewards and possibly even visitors, to gather information about artefacts in the Museum thus greatly assisting researchers.

We have started indexing and putting into better ring binders all the paper in the Archive Room to enhance ready access.

Continued on facing page

Chairman's Address continued

For the first time in our history, we are fortunate in having a volunteer in the person of Philip Magrath with the professional expertise to ensure we care for, conserve and display our artefacts in accordance with proper standards.

We have detached the care of the artefacts from the management and administration of the Trust thereby enabling Phil Magrath to concentrate on his tasks while the committee assumes responsibility for management and administrative activities.

In addition to opening the Museum to our visitors during the summer months we continue to achieve an extraordinary amount of ancillary activities such as exhibitions, talks, walks, audio & video recordings, publication of the Newsletter three times a year, publication of the annual journal, the Emsworth Echo, stands at the Horticultural Society Annual Show and at the Emsworth British Food Fortnight, the annual Treasure Hunt, and research day to day – all through the hard work and dedication of volunteers. All volunteers, no hired hands.

Through our independence as an organisation and through the commitment of our volunteers, we maintain our very ethos and long may it continue.

Tony Stimson



A heartfelt 'thank you' bouquet was presented to Trust secretary, Dorothy Bone before the AGM

Further News from the AGM

Fifty members (10% of the membership total) attended the Trust's 42nd AGM in the North Street Community Centre on 20th March.

Opening the meeting retiring Chairman, Tony Stimson, said that no nominations for the position of Chairman had been received from members and the committee had also to-date been unsuccessful in their search. He said he was prepared to continue as Chairman until 31st May 2017 so that he could complete some outstanding business with Barclays Bank and other projects and asked the members present for their agreement. With a show of hands this was unanimously confirmed.

Philip Sharpe, Treasurer, presented the annual accounts (not yet audited) for the year ending 31st December 2016. Members who attended the AGM will receive an audited version with this newsletter.

Reports were also given by Philip Magrath, Peter Morse, Margaret Rogers and Christine Bury.

In addition John Saunders' appointment as Vice President was renewed for another 3 years, Sylvia Courtage was re-elected to the committee, Geoff Higgins was made a co-opted committee member and Christine Bury was unanimously elected to fill the fifth committee position.

Cllr Rivka Cresswell's appointment by Havant Borough Council as their representative on the committee was ratified and Richard McMillan was appointed Independent Examiner of the Trust's accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017.

In gratitude and recognition of his work examining the Trust accounts for the past 15 years Andrew Bloxham was awarded five years Honorary Membership of the Trust.

The minutes containing a précis of the reports and details of the elections will be included in the envelope with the November Emsworth Echo.

Dorothy Bone

Museum Stewards: The rota still has a number of vacant slots. Are you able to help? If so please call into the Museum and add your name to the list.

The David Rudkin Room exhibitions change every month so there is always something new to see and the help that you can give to visitors will make their visit so much more enjoyable.

Jutland 1916

Philip Robinson's illustrated talk on Jutland was the last of the Museum's 2016/2017 winter lectures and it proved an interesting and informative end to a very diverse series of talks.

Philip, a self-confessed 'Jellicoe man' is a very popular speaker and the Mountford Rooms were packed to hear his lucid explanation of the problems faced by the Naval fleets, both British and German, and their commanders during the 36-hour long Battle of Jutland which began on 31st May 1916. Chief among the British problems during this inconclusive engagement was the lack of communication between the ships and personnel, the opening of the safety doors to speed ammunition delivery to the guns and a clash of personalities between the senior commanders.

There was great loss of life on both sides during the battle and Emsworth suffered the greatest loss on a single day of men who fought in the Great War. Philip explained how the battle unfolded, the decisions made by the various Naval commanders and, in particular, where individual ships were when local men died and why those ships were vulnerable.

Philip placed the battle in context and by the use of maps showed the fleet actions and the way in which the North Sea was blockaded, thus containing the German fleets under Admiral Reinhard Scheer and Vice-Admiral Franz von Hipper.

Our Grand fleets were commanded by Admirals Sir John Jellicoe and Sir David Beatty. Out of the 151 British ships present, 13 were lost with nearly 7,000 men being killed or wounded. Twenty nine local men were lost. Commemorated on the Emsworth war memorial are petty officers Leigh Buick and Victor Whiting who died when armoured cruiser HMS Black Prince sank. Alongside them were fleet surgeon, Herbert Geoghegan and able seamen Harold Gilbert and George Pearce. Honoured visitors at the EM&HT talk were members of the Pearce family including the great granddaughter of George's parents William and Agnes who lived in Queen Street.

Stoker Albert Couvell died when the battle cruiser HMS Queen Mary went down. Alongside him from the same ship were leading seaman John Jelley and marine gunner Arthur Rubick. Added to these losses was the devastating blow for the Kennett family with the deaths aboard the HMS Queen Mary of brothers Walter and William, sons of Joseph and wife Mary.

James Cribb, acting leading stoker and Arthur Parham, leading seaman were aboard battle cruiser HMS Invincible and the destroyer HMS Tipperary respectively when they too broke up.

Philip commented that after the talk two members of the audience approached him to share their memories and Jutland memorabilia.

STOP PRESS: Additional Jutland talk

Philip Robinson will reprise his Jutland talk on Thursday, 22nd June at 7.30pm in the Mountford Rooms at The Community Centre in North Street. Tickets £2.00 for members and £3.00 for non-members.

The views expressed by contributors to this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the General Committee. All rights are reserved. Please contact the editor for permission to use any material.

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Philip Robinson, second from right, with the son of Jutland veteran Roy Murrell (seated), accompanied by Brendan Gibb-Gray and Yvonne Copeland