



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

Reg. Charity No 294965

President: Dr. Margaret Rule CBE, FSA, D.Litt
Emsworth Museum

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Issue July 2008

Museum celebrates 20 years in present location



Working party preparing the museum's new home in Summer 1988

*Left to right: David Rudkin, Chairman - Michael Kennett, Vice Chairman
and Dorothy Bone - Secretary*

**Dorothy is still serving as secretary to the Trust, and writes about the
Museum's first twenty years in North Street** **See page 8**

**SPECIAL
20th ANNIVERSARY
EDITION**

29 July 1988 - 2008

ALSO INSIDE

Exploring South Devon



Remembering the 40s



and lots more

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Dates for your diary

5th - 27th July **"What Lies Beneath" Exhibition in Emsworth Museum by Chichester Harbour Conservancy**

This exhibition gives an intriguing glimpse of the marine and plant life under the waters of Chichester Harbour. Divers have produced excellent pictures of slippers, spiders and peacocks (limpets, crabs and worms), dahlias, carrots and gooseberries (anemones, sponges and sea squirts)! The display will include recent photographs of all these and much more.

2nd - 31st August **"More about P.G.Wodehouse" Exhibition in Emsworth Museum**

A picture of Emsworth as P.G.Wodehouse will have known it and the people he might have met during the 10 years (1904 – 1914) that he lived in the village. He certainly loved the area and used many local names in his books. The display will also include a collection of books and sheet music recently donated.

This exhibition will transfer to The Brookfield Hotel for one week from 20th September to tie in with the Havant Literary Festival.

24th August **"Flying the Flag" Emsworth Museum**

Sometime between 3.30p.m. and 5.30p.m. the specially commissioned flag provided by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games will be raised. This will coincide with the exact time that the Olympic flag is handed over from Beijing to London.

25th August **Emsworth Show at the Jubilee Recreation Ground**

6th - 28th September **"St. Nicholas Church, W. Thorney - A Beacon of Faith" Exhibition in Emsworth Museum by Andy Walkley on behalf of the P.C.C.**

This historic 12th century Church, situated on the east shore of Thorney Island, has been a landmark for sailors, fishermen and smugglers through the ages and recently for servicemen. Set in beautiful grounds, it remains a haven of peace as well as an active spiritual home.

20th - 28th September **"More About P.G.Wodehouse" in The Brookfield Hotel**
(see August exhibition above for more details)

4th - 26th October **"On the Emsworth Stage" in Emsworth Museum Amateur Dramatics in Emsworth through the Ages.**

See if you can spot yourself in the back row of the chorus or even centre stage

2nd October **Video Presentation by Adrian Fox BURMA before cyclone NARGIS and CAPE TOWN to VICTORIA FALLS by ordinary train.**

The Lumley Room, Church Path Community Centre, Church Path, Emsworth starting at 7.30p.m. All welcome
Admission Members £1.00 Non Members £2.00

December **Stewards' Christmas Tea Party**

Cancellations

The planned cream tea at the Bloxhams was cancelled due to ill health, and the 20th Anniversary event at the Brookfield Hotel due to low demand.

Remembering and listening!

The number of Oral History recordings which we hold in the museum is gradually increasing. These recollections by many people reflect different aspects of life in & around Emsworth - and sometimes further afield. Should you, or anyone you know, care to participate please let me know.

We now have approximately 60 cassette tapes. These conversations will be put on to CDs over a period of time. This enterprise will be carried out by the Wessex Film & Sound Archive in Winchester, where the master recordings are held. We are very grateful to Mr. David Lee & his team for taking on this project free of charge. Visual & Audio equipment in the museum will be up-dated.

Details of the people/subjects are listed in the museum, in the Emsworth library, & on the website (www.emsworthmuseum.co.uk). Members of the Trust may borrow copies by contacting me.

Heather Lewis (01243 373197)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regarding the opening ceremony of the museum on Easter Saturday

We feel that it should be made clear that the gentleman from Fishbourne Roman Palace, though of the same name, is no relation to the late David Rudkin who, with others, founded the Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust and after whom the exhibition room is named. They knew one another other and talked together from time to time.

This charming historian did in fact generate the interest in the oyster fleet etc. plus carried out a great deal of research on Emsworth and the surrounding area. Clarifying this would pay respect to his memory and also be appreciated by Cathy (also a Founder Member) and her brother, David, who constantly take a great interest in and support the Trust.

Eddie & Heather Lewis.

Admin's Alcove

How many of you have noticed the significance of this year in the life of our Museum? For those of you who have been involved from the original date of opening and before, it is a real milestone. This is one of the few Museums that is volunteer-run and funded totally by donations and subscriptions. Dorothy and I have got together to outline some of the highs and lows that led to the momentous occasion in 1988, when the Museum was opened on 29th July.

We had hoped to mark this in a suitable manner, but unfortunately the support was not enough for us to do so. It is hoped that we will be able to mark the 25th anniversary in July 2013, so please start letting us know what you think would be appropriate.

Do we plant a tree and if so – where? Do we have a big dinner and if so – where? Your ideas are needed!!

Your ideas and input are needed all the time. You pay your subscriptions, but we would love you to be more involved. At the moment it is the same Members doing everything. When somebody drops out we seem to have problems persuading others to get involved, so all the work is now devolved on to fewer and fewer people.

I expect some of you will have known of my dumb moment when I fell over in view of everyone shopping in South Street in Chichester and broke the top of my left arm. Very painful and I was signed off work for 2 months. Every cloud has a silver lining and I have spent my time quite happily working in the Museum, cataloguing the photographic collection. We do have some gems, and now we will be able to cross-reference them so we can help with research and find out stories more easily. They have prompted several more exhibitions to start brewing in my brain!

Talking of exhibitions – I hope you have been to see the ones that we have staged in the early part of the season. The first one was “Uncovering the Past” about the oyster industry and Emsworth and was related to an archaeological survey of the old oyster beds on the foreshore. This very cold and wet task was undertaken by the stalwart volunteers of the Chichester District Archaeological Society, with funding supplied by Chichester

Harbour Conservancy. John, our Vice Chairman, headed up the project and acted as co-ordinator, and my task was to organise the paper research and help support the findings. We had over 700 visitors to the exhibition and several people have assured me that it is the best one that has been staged in the Museum. John and I were very gratified to hear that, and the exhibition is now in storage awaiting its next outing, which will be a

July's exhibition will be supplied by Chichester Harbour Conservancy and relates to a survey of the creatures of the seabed within the harbour, so could be visually stunning and also very child friendly. We have just installed a TV screen in the activity room so that we can show the film that was made to go with it. The screen is such that we can play DVDs through a player or through the computer, so we are



The Oyster exhibition viewed from the new activity room

presentation at Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Havant Museum has also expressed an interest in showing it towards the end of the year, and I am seriously considering clearing part of the main hall so that we can have it as part of an oyster display on a more permanent basis.

The Bourne Quilters produced a beautifully coloured exhibition, which fitted in very well with the Art Trail at the beginning of May. They will be having their own exhibition in the Community Centre in July. May was also Museum and Gallery Month, but because we did not stage any special events I am not sure we benefited. That is a lesson learnt for next year.

The exhibition that is ending in June was about the inauguration of the Tree Trail around Emsworth, which was prepared by the Emsworth Tree Wardens. It is a very interesting trail and the information contained within the exhibition enhances it beautifully.

I understand they have so much information that they are likely to produce a book as well as the trail.

now really getting hi-tech!! It is just another dimension to the different ways we can hold the interest of our members and our visitors.

Please come in and see what we have been doing. I know many of you have not visited yet, and I hope you will be impressed with the improvements we have made. In the last week or so, Chris Treagust has constructed our sales area in the reception hall and he is now beginning to sort out my rough plan of the office. I know many of you are thinking that this is all taking much too much time, but we must get it right and we have a duty not to squander money that has been given to us, and we must also think of the future generations, who we hope will enjoy visiting the Museum and learning about what we did and were like in our day!!!

Linda

Exploring South Devon

In glorious sunshine, 37 members of the Trust enjoyed exploring South Devon from Monday the 5th to Friday the 9th May. First stop was Exeter where we explored this picturesque city, had lunch on the newly renovated quay then walked to the cathedral. The tower dates back to Norman times but the main construction of the Cathedral began in the 14th century. It has the longest unbroken Gothic vault in the world, an abundance of stone carvings and a unique blue and gold 15th century clock with the earth as a golden ball in the centre and the sun as a fleur-de-lys travelling round every 24 hours. Blue chairs and a blue tinge in the cathedral's huge columns echoed the blue theme. Then on to our hotel in Torquay that was comfortable, with sea views from the dining room and entertainment in the evenings (dancing optional).

Tuesday was a busy day and we also met our guide, Frank, who was very knowledgeable but tended to set off at speed so not everyone had the benefit of his knowledge! We visited the Elizabethan town of Totnes where the wool trade had brought prosperity in the 17th century so there are many grand houses from that period. A walk up the steep main street brought us to the open

market where all the stallholders were dressed in Elizabethan costume. The nearby Priory Church of St Mary revealed the tallest tower in Devon and sharpened arrow marks on the walls, from the days of bows and arrows when the archers practised their skills in the church graveyard. We didn't have time to visit the castle which had never been used in defence because the people of Totnes always negotiated with any potential invaders.

Our next visit was to Buckfast Abbey that was founded in 1018 by a group of Cistercian monks, but the order was forced to leave the site in the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. Gradually the monastery declined and decayed until in 1907 a small group of Benedictine monks started to rebuild Buckfast on the original foundations, completing it by July 1937. Today it is the home of a community of 30 monks who support themselves by selling honey, wine and stained glass and it is a very tranquil place with both a herb and sensory garden in the grounds. Inside the Abbey seemed very spacious with a stunning stained glass window in the Blessed Sacrament chapel. Designed in 1966 by one of the monks, Brother Norris, it depicts Christ with outstretched



hands and the special technique used of chipped glass reflected vivid blues, reds, greens and yellows.

After a scenic journey over Dartmoor with its dry stone walls, gorse bushes, grazing sheep and ponies, we stopped at a picturesque clapper bridge then on to Princetown, famous for Dartmoor Prison and an association with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's novel "The Hound of the Baskervilles".



The town seemed to be in the midst of renovation, whereas the prison is in decline and has been re-graded to a category C with less than 50 prisoners, none of whom are notorious. It was much fuller in the 18th century when it was used for French prisoners of war and in 1813 for American prisoners. However it closed in 1816 but eventually reopened as the penal prison it is today. As well as seeing the grey forbidding prison, there was an opportunity to have a Devon cream tea and in the Visitor Centre view an excellent film about the flora and fauna of the area.

soldiers, including 300 in white bear skins, on November 5th 1688. He hoped to restore the Protestant religion to England and he succeeded in deposing James II in a bloodless coup, then ruled England jointly with his wife, Mary. In Brixham Museum hangs a tapestry designed and made by local primary school children commemorating William's landing. There is also a wealth of memorabilia revealing other aspects of the town's past; it was hoped to find a reference to the Emsworth *Echo* but the link proved tenuous.

crew. There is a replica of Drake's Golden Hind in the harbour as Drake set sail from Brixham to navigate around the world in 1577. A walk along the quay revealed many working fishing boats and the fishermen's huts that are being renovated by the EU; the workmen manoeuvring a large crane caused considerable interest.

Thursday began with a boat trip from Totnes to Dartmouth down the River Dart. Along the banks the trees reach to the water's edge and the river is a haven for a variety of wildlife including cormorants, buzzards, falcons, osprey and grey seals. Various places of interest were passed on the way including the Standen Estate, Stoke Gables church with its 1,500-year-old yew tree, Agatha Christie's house and Dartmouth Naval College.

Dartmouth is a well-preserved town steeped in history with pastel coloured houses and winding streets. On one corner is the bookshop that once belonged to Christopher Robin (of AA Milne's poems). Hidden away up the inevitable hill is a very interesting medieval church, St. Saviour's, with an ornate, coloured pulpit made of bette stone, an intricately carved rood screen, a wooden fire engine and Chaucer's Shipman "Hawley of Dartmouth" buried there with his two wives. The Pilgrim Fathers came to Dartmouth before sailing to America and in more recent times the television crews came to film, "The Onedin Line". The more technically minded of the group went to see Thomas Newcomen's memorial engine, originally built for pumping water out of mines. In the late afternoon we took a boat across the harbour to Kingswear and then had a leisurely ride on a steam train to Paignton.

The journey back to Emsworth on Friday included a stop in a rather misty Sidmouth, another quaint town. Organised by Heather and Eddie, the holiday was extremely enjoyable as well as enlightening about Devon's historic past.

Sue Young
Photographs by David Young



A number of the group decided to walk from the hotel to Cockington Village the next morning. It was a very peaceful walk through woods by a stream with banks of celandines in full bloom. Cockington Village has thatched cottages, a working forge, rolling lawns and a cricket pitch in front of an imposing regency style house, The Court. Here individual artisans sold their crafts from paper flowers to metal work and it was an ideal place for a drink before walking back through the woods.

In the afternoon we all went to Brixham, a town that is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was once home to former prime minister, Jim Callaghan, Flora Thomson (author of Lark Rise to Candleford) and Rev Wyle who composed "Abide with me". However the town's most significant visitor was the grandson of Charles I, William of Orange, whose statue stands on the seafront. Blown off course on the voyage from The Hague to London, William's large fleet landed with his



Brixham has many seafaring connections - to smuggling in the past and the RNLI today with an all weather boat as well as an inshore lifeboat, manned by a local

Other photographs from the Devon trip



Golden Hind



The Golden Hind Museum ship

Exeter Cathedral



Exeter Cathedral vaulted nave

Photographs by Mr. B. Baines

Emsworth remembers the 1940s

Artefacts from the Emsworth Museum were the centre of attraction at the 40s event organised by the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden with the object of raising money towards the project.

The museum exhibition was accompanied by a parade of wartime military vehicles through the town as well as many shops who used their windows to display old photographs and memorabilia.

A soup kitchen, run by the Royal Logistical Corps, Thorney Island, kept people smiling, despite the bad weather.



Havant Mayor Victor Pierce-Jones inspects the American jeep in the square



The museum exhibition in International House was very popular, helped perhaps a little by the bad weather on the day!



Chairman for the memorial garden fund raising team, Virginia Wilson-Smith said: 'We have raised over seven hundred pounds towards the memorial and garden. In spite of the awful weather, a great number of people turned out, and the day was a great success with only the Emsworth Concert Band having to be cancelled as they could not sit outside and play in the heavy rain.'



New cover banner celebrates two Emsworth men

The title banner, at the top of our front page, now uses an illustration of the town's most famous boat set against the Emsworth harbour skyline.

The photo montage was created using a model, made by museum founder David Rudkin, of JD Foster's **Echo**, which as the EM&HT Logo pays homage to our maritime heritage.

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A Brief History of Emsworth Museum

by Dorothy Bone, secretary to the Trust then .. and still today

David Rudkin (Founder of Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust and its first Chairman) spent his boyhood years in Thorney Road, Emsworth and from a bedroom window overlooking the lower Millpond he could see "**Echo**" at her berth at Hendy's Quay. He moved away from Emsworth and years later, when he returned to the village, he saw **Echo**'s sister ship "**Echo II**" lying unfinished alongside the Ark.

and historical documents, and the objective of the Trust was then to establish a local maritime museum which would also include local history. At the next A.G.M. the name of the Trust was changed to Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust. Then began the search for premises. This was a very lengthy process. Several places were considered and eventually Havant Borough Council offered the lease

The museum was officially opened by the Earl of Bessborough on Friday 29th July 1988. David's dream had become a reality. A brass plaque (on some of the wood salvaged from Echo) above the new window in the Reception Area marks this event. Keith Stoneman recorded the opening ceremony and after the winter break, Michael Kennett and his son Richard, videoed the re-opening of the museum and



August 1982 Maritime exhibition held in the Day Centre, South Street, before the permanent home was found

David had a dream that one day he might be able to salvage and preserve this hulk and in 1975 he formed an association of like-minded friends with the aim of rescuing **Echo II** and establishing a maritime museum, afloat or ashore. Thus the Emsworth Maritime Trust was formed. By 1978 the original project had to be abandoned because of lack of funds. Chichester Harbour Conservancy declared that the wreck was a danger to navigation and ordered its removal together with the old Ark. David managed to salvage and gather together various artefacts

(initially for 3 years) of the rooms above the Fire Station in North Street, Emsworth. The document was signed on Wednesday 9th December 1987 and in the February 1988 issue of "The Emsworth Echo" David Rudkin wrote "After fourteen years of vision, advertising and searching, hopes and disappointments but unrelenting persistence, the Trust is on the very threshold of its deserved reward. Before very long the Emsworth Museum will be opened, and this worthy old town will be enriched with a repository of cultural and educational value and interest."



The museum premises where restoration and redecoration work was carried out between January and April 1988

added general views of the village. These records of the beginning of the life of the museum are available to remind visitors of what it was like back in 1988.

Michael Kennett reported in the newsletter in January 1989 that in the first 13 weekends the museum was open 864 people climbed the stairs (no stairlift at that time) and the visitors' book showed that almost without exception they were enthusiastic about the displays. In some ways the museum has changed little in the 20 years that it has been open but now with the

refurbishment we are moving forward into the electronic age – we have a computer to record and show information, cassette tapes are being replaced by CDs and activities and events on video will soon all be on DVDs to be viewed either on a computer screen or the new 32" flat screen. The David Rudkin Room has been brightened up with new paint, carpet and blinds and is a very attractive facility for the short term exhibitions that change every month. But hopefully one thing that will not change is the cheerful and welcoming voice of the duty Stewards.

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**MUSEUM
ADMINISTRATORS**

Mrs Joan Rutherford was our first Museum Administrator and was involved in the setting-up of the museum.

In 1992, following Mrs Rutherford's resignation, Mrs Tessa Daines was appointed – she had previously been Havant Borough Council's representative to the Trust.

Mrs Linda Newell became Museum Administrator in 2007.



Building up the Trust: A presentation to Tim Stephens who became the 100th member in October 1984



*July 1988
Setting up the museum exhibits for the official opening*



*The Emsworth Museum official opening 29 July 1988
The Earl of Bessborough talking to the Mayor and Lady Mayess of Havant Borough Council*

New editor for the Emsworth Echo

As you know Pam Clayton and Angela Macmorland produced their last "Emsworth Echo" in November 2007.

Margaret Rogers has taken on the job of Editor, assisted by Sue Young, and they will be producing the next edition. I thank them for taking this on and hope that they enjoy it as much as, I believe, past Editors have.

Dorothy Bone

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Check-out The History Show

The History Show on ExpressFM, which is broadcast every Sunday morning at 9am, recently included an introduction to Emsworth Museum and the current "Trees" exhibition, as well as publicising the annual Treasure Hunt. Another feature included information on July's "What Lies Beneath" exhibition, presented by Robin Kay, Press Officer of the Portsmouth Society. There was also an interview

with Geoff Higgins, our treasurer, about the Oyster exhibition.

The hour-long show takes a light-weight and light-hearted look at aspects of the history of Portsmouth and South East Hampshire, frequently told in the words of the people who experienced it. If you are interested go to the website at www.expressfm.com to find out more.

Gerry Williams recently received a 20 Year Award from SSAFA, for which he is Chair of the Portsmouth Division.

The photograph was taken by Frances Sweeney, our local correspondent for The Portsmouth News. It shows the presentation by Lt General Sir Robin Ross KCB, OBE



Lt General Sir Robin Ross and Commander Gerry Williams

Treasure Hunt

19th June

The weather this year was very pleasant - a little chilly down by the Mill Pond - but dry and bright. 26 adults and 2 children took part in the "hunt" and all seemed to enjoy themselves. Entrants came from Emsworth, Hayling Island, and Waterlooville and the course was set by last year's winners Simon Rickard and Becky Hancock from Westbourne. Rob Foord and Tina Clark, who won this year, have agreed to produce the questions for 2009. As they cheerfully left the museum after having their answers checked by Simon and Becky (and a cup of well deserved tea or coffee) several of them were heard to say "See you next year".



*Rob Foord, Becky Hancock, Tina Clark and Simon Rickard
The photograph was taken by Frances Sweeney*

Emsworth Museum launches Olympic celebrations

The Closing Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games is on the afternoon of Sunday 24th August. At this time the Olympic Flag will be handed to London, the next city to host the games.

To celebrate this event flags will be raised throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. 600 specially commissioned London 2012 flags are being issued by LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games) and Emsworth Museum is to receive one of them.

The exact time of the hand-over of the Olympic flag (and therefore the raising of the flag at Emsworth Museum) is not yet known but should be between 3.30p.m. and 5.30p.m.

Arrangements for a ceremony to mark the raising of the flag at the museum have not yet been finalised but we hope to involve local youth groups and sports organisations as well as Members of the Trust and residents of Emsworth. This is a unique event that we can celebrate in the 20th year of Emsworth Museum.



© London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd.

Emsworth Museum is one of only 600 places that have been awarded an Olympic flag!!! How come and why I hear you ask. The London 2012 committee decided to offer councils and organisations the chance to be involved in the handover of the Olympic flag from China to Britain at the end of this year's Olympic Games. They decided that 600 flags would be distributed to be flown from flagpoles at the same time as the

handover takes place in August this year. Dorothy was quick off the mark and applied and we have just heard that we have been awarded one. We are one of the few flags in this part of Hampshire and, at the moment, the next nearest is Southampton.

This is a wonderful opportunity for Emsworth Museum to work with other parts of our community and promote the

Museum as well. We will be working on a small event with lots of impact on Sunday 24th August, and hopefully we will get a local VIP and some of the sports organisations to join with us. Then on Monday 25th, which is Bank Holiday Monday, we are hoping to fly it at the Emsworth Show.

Who says Emsworth is a sleepy backwater?!!

Emsworth show - 25th August

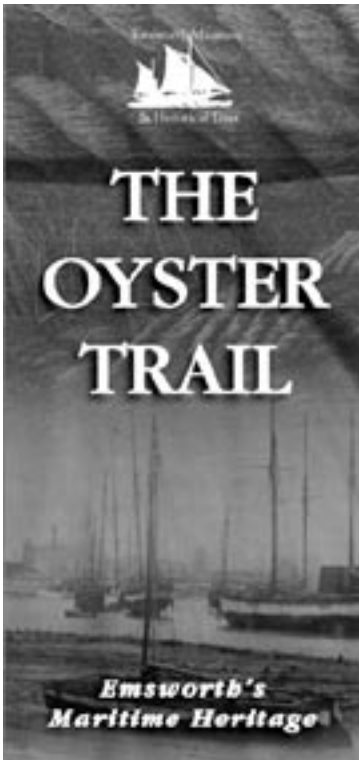
The Trust will again have a stall to publicise the exhibitions in Emsworth museum and also to make visitors to the show aware of the books, leaflets, cards and "Terror" items that we have. To pay for the hire of the stall we need to sell a small amount of good quality bric-a-brac.

If you have any items (no food or electrical goods) that might be suitable please contact:

Liz Smyth - 377995 OR Pam Clayton - 378471 in south Emsworth OR Eddie Lewis - 373197 OR Dorothy Bone - 373780 (e.mail dorothybone@btinternet.com) in north Emsworth

If you are able to help on the day or in any other way I will be pleased to hear from you.

Emsworth Museum's Oyster Trail is worth the walk



Emsworth Museum, working with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, has put together a new walk around Emsworth, with the aim of telling you more about our maritime heritage.

Following the success of our archaeological survey and museum research project, a new leaflet called 'The Oyster Trail' is now available. It's a great way to find out more about our fishing and oyster industry, which was at its peak at the turn of the 19th century.

The leaflet is available from the museum at 50 pence - or can be downloaded free from our heritage project website at:

www.emsworthheritageproject.org.uk



Havant Literary Festival and Emsworth Museum

"The Art of Wodehouse"

**6pm on Saturday
27 September at the
Havant Arts Centre**

An exploration of the life, work and local connections of the enduringly popular comic writer and one-time Emsworth resident, PG Wodehouse.

The art of this unique talent - Evelyn Waugh called him the best writer of the first half of the 20th century - will be illustrated with quotations from some of his books, plays and song lyrics. This talk is by Tony Ring,



a foremost UK authority on all things Wodehouse.

Tickets will be available at £5 from The Havant Arts Centre.



With a fully booked Special Exhibition programme for 2008, the Emsworth Museum's PG Wodehouse exhibition (on show in museum in August) will be hosted at the Brookfield Hotel in Havant Road during the Festival

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