



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

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

Emsworth Museum
10b North Street, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7DD
Tel: 01243 378091 www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk

May 2019

A Warm Welcome To Our New Chairman

At the AGM on 18th March, Dr Trevor Davies PhD (Eng), BA Archaeology was elected Chairman of Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust. He was warmly welcomed and introduced to members by Vice-Chairman Margaret Rogers who, to mark the occasion, presented him with a Trust tie and the key to 10b North Street.

In reply, Trevor Davies praised Emsworth Museum as a pearl beyond price. He recalled, "I was at university [in Nottingham] during the 1960s. I remember working by candlelight during the three day week and doing research without Google. I look at the way these periods are sometimes presented today and I barely recognise the events that I remember. So I see the EM&HT role of recording current and local events and preserving the objects relating to them as really important for future generations. One clear example is the recent revelations about the Free French camp in Emsworth which are fascinating and deserve a wider audience – but could so easily have been lost."



Trevor Davies – An Emsworthian by design

Trevor has been visiting Emsworth since first meeting his wife, Ann. He became a member of Emsworth Slipper Sailing Club in 1974, and was involved in its reconstruction. Trevor and Ann have lived full time in Emsworth since 2001 and have been Life Members of the Trust since the 1990s.

Ann's family has close local connections. Her grandfather lived on Hayling Island after WWII and subsequently moved to Chichester. Her parents had a second home in Emsworth from 1962 before retiring here. Research has shown that Ann's great, great grandfather was invalided out of the Navy in the 1870s and is buried with his wife in Westbourne cemetery.

After he retired, Trevor completed a degree course in Archaeology at Reading University, graduating in 2011. He was Chairman of Chichester and District Archaeology Society from 2006 to 2009, and has recently been elected President. Trevor has organised excavations at the Warblington Roman villa site since 2012, and has directed them for the last two years. He and Ann curated the 2015 and 2017 special exhibitions in the David Rudkin Room as well as the permanent display of objects from the Warblington Roman villa site that is now in the Museum.

Trevor's goals for the Trust are

- To care for our collection under the best conditions we can manage.
- To look after the team of volunteers who enable us to show the collection to the public, because without them we have nothing.
- To take every opportunity to enhance the collection with museum class objects that have a distinctive Emsworth provenance.

He added "I hope that together we can continue to crystallise these opportunities".

Diary Dates

All monthly exhibitions are held in the Museum's David Rudkin Room. Winter talks are now held on **Wednesday** evenings, in the Mountford Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth PO10 7DD at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm. Admission: Members £3.00, Non Members £4.00.

April 27th – May 19th	Exhibition – Paintings and sculpture by Deborah Richards
May 8th	Local History Walk led by Christine Bury
May 25th – June 30th	Exhibition – 75th Anniversary of D-Day “D-Day for Emsworth and its People”
June	Talk – Portsmouth's D-Day Museum and Tapestry by Tracy Teasdale
June 12th	Local History Walk led by Christine Bury
June 13th	Treasure Hunt
July 6th – 28th	Exhibition – 100th Anniversary of the Emsworth Horticultural Society
July 10th	Local History Walk led by Christine Bury
August 3rd – 26th	Exhibition – 100th Anniversary of the Emsworth Sailing Club
August 14th	Local History Walk led by Christine Bury
August 31st – Sept 29th	Exhibition – Transport in Emsworth up to 1950s
October 5th – 27th	Exhibition – 100th Anniversary of Scouting in Emsworth
October 16th	Talk – “The Naval Camps of Bedhampton and Leigh Park in WWII” by Bob Hind
November 20th	Talk – “Commander Crabb: What really happened” by Dr John Bevan
December	Stewards' Christmas Tea Party

Emsworth Museum will be open until 27th October on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30am – 4.30pm and on Sundays 2.30pm – 4.30pm. In addition it will open on some 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 21st May, 2nd July, 13th August, 24th September and 12th November). If you would like to visit and 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

Website News

Emsworth Museum's website (www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk) now includes some new content.

- The Museum holds a number of recordings made by people who lived or worked in Emsworth. They contain a fascinating insight into Emsworth's past. A list of the recordings is now available on the website and some recordings have been converted so that you can play them online. To access them just click on the blue ear on the front page of the Museum's website.
- We have also released two online exhibitions, an online version of the successful 2017 Emsworth Property exhibition and a new online-only exhibition depicting the last season at the Pycroft brickyard. To access them just click on the shining blue door on the front page of the Museum's website.
- A number of video recordings showing scenes and events in Emsworth's past are also available. A few of these have been digitised and loaded onto the website.

The Museum's website is open all year round so you don't have to wait for Museum opening times to take a look. If anybody has an interest in helping to digitise the CDs or DVDs then I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Feedback please to **Graham Taplin** by email at graham.taplin@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman's Address to the AGM on 18th March



Margaret Rogers

Not a year goes by in the annals of the Museum that the General Committee does not work hard to make improvements of some sort, and this year what pre-determined our choice of tasks to be done was summarily thrust upon us with a volume of water cascading down the Archive Room walls.

So over winter teams have come in to remove shelving, files and books under the auspices of our past Chairman, Tony Stimson, before being replaced again in what we think is an improved visitor and research arrangement, due in no small part to the work of Mr Geoff Higgins – thank you Geoff.

Like Topsy, the Museum has continued to grow since we first moved into 10b and one of our prime considerations now has to be what we can and cannot accept from donors. And with the help of our curator, Philip Magrath, it has been decided that only material directly relevant to Emsworth can be accepted given that Museum space is now at such a premium. If we are lucky enough to find additional storage which is suitable, safe and secure we may think again. There are also many small improvements which we hope will ensure that not only visitors but also our members will welcome – a vibrant book display, a new donations box, new stewards' lanyards and name tags and improved signage.

Alongside a comment on whatever our current exhibition in the Rudkin Room is, there are two remarks which are written in our visitors book time and again and that is that they think our Museum is 'quaint' and that our stewards and volunteers have been most cheerful and helpful. Without such a committed body of stewards and volunteers we simply could not function and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for all their efforts. To climb up the stairs and be greeted by a friendly welcome gets a visit off to a really good start and many people who just 'drop in' for a visit because they are interested in the current exhibition will come back again for a proper more relaxed visit.

Margaret Rogers

More AGM News

Forty members attended the 2019 AGM which began with Margaret Rogers, Philip Magrath, Christine Bury and Peter Morse reporting on Trust and Museum events and activities in 2018 and plans for 2019.

After being elected Chairman of the Trust, Dr Trevor Davies was warmly welcomed by members and he briefly outlined some of his aims for the future.

Shelagh Standen was elected to fill the vacant position on the General Committee. She has recently taken over the work of Membership Secretary from Peter Morse.

Every year, under the terms of the constitution, one officer and one committee member must retire by rotation but can stand for re-election. This year it was the turn of Margaret Rogers and Marguerita Taplin to retire. They both agreed to stand again and were unanimously re-elected.

We are pleased that Margaret will continue as Vice-Chairman. The committee are grateful to her for taking on the role of Acting Chairman when Tony Stimson resigned from the position of Chairman of the Trust (and from the committee) in 2017.

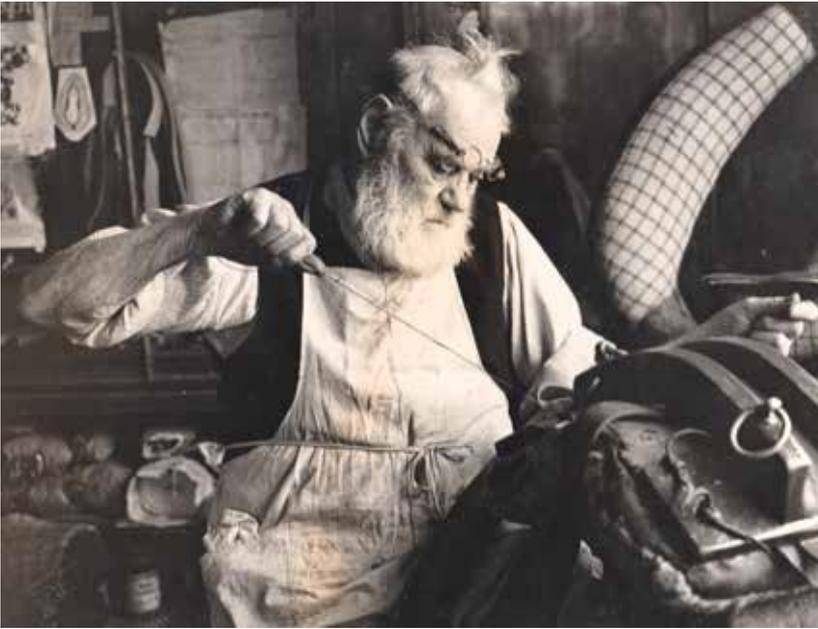
Although Peter Morse is no longer Membership Secretary, to smooth the transition to Shelagh Standen, he has kindly agreed to maintain and run the fundraising 50/50 Club for the time being. Jan Butler and friends are hoping to organise a Trust holiday later in 2019.

Dorothy Bone



Shelagh Standen is the Trust's new Membership Secretary

Funtington Parish in the Past



Funtington craftsman and saddler, Fred Ewens, at work in 1943 aged 93

Photo: Daily Herald

The first special exhibition of 2019 in the David Rudkin Room was a creative tour de force curated by Alec Peters and Geoffrey Boys. Their display spilled over into the Archive Room and featured photographs, maps and models, reminiscences and memorabilia gathered from many different sources to illustrate life in the parish of Funtington.

The original exhibition in West Ashling took place in August 2017 to great acclaim and was five years in the making. Visitors to Emsworth Museum between 6th and 23rd April were able to see just part of that first presentation and to catch a glimpse of parish life during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Even today the primarily rural parish has only about 2000 residents who mainly live in the villages of Funtington, West Stoke, East and West Ashling. People from all four villages featured in the exhibition whether they were living in big houses such as the great grandparents of chief scout, Bear Grylls at Funtington Hall or as farm labourers. A photograph of the first car in Funtington owned by John Greenwood was upstaged by a penny farthing bicycle still being ridden in the 1970s. Wedding and family groups took pride of place alongside photos of village shops, storekeepers and craftsmen. Church life, social life, festivities and entertainment: all could be seen by the many visitors who toured the exhibition.



*A replica of a church turret formed part of the exhibition
Geoffrey Boys, far left, with EM&HT Chairman, Trevor Davies, centre, and fellow curator, Alec Peters*

Annual Treasure Hunt

Thursday, 13th June, will be the time to put on your trainers and thinking caps again and decide upon your team's name. The starting pistol goes off at 7pm promptly and refreshments will be served afterwards in the Museum for all the finishers and prizes awarded to adult and junior divisions. Fingers crossed for another fine evening and we shall look forward to seeing you.

Forthcoming Exhibitions

Emsworth must have been a very community spirited village in 1919: at least three new groups/societies were set up that are still operating successfully today. This year the displays in the David Rudkin Room celebrate the centenary celebrations of the Emsworth Horticultural Society, the Emsworth Sailing Club and Scouts.

During the Emsworth Arts Trail and continuing until **19th May** artist, printmaker and sculptor, Deborah Richards displays her paintings of the South Downs landscapes, the Solent coast, sea crossings and fairgrounds that capture in colour, movement, changing light and weather. Alongside her drawings, paintings and prints she is exhibiting sculpture created with porcelain and wire.

The 75th anniversary of D-Day is being marked with the exhibition "D-Day for Emsworth and its People" which is on from **25th May until 30th June**. This display shows the crucial role that Emsworth and the surrounding area played in the preparations and lead up to the invasion, and the impact it had on residents. Thousands of troops, their vehicles and equipment were moved into the area and pictures, maps and narratives provide first-hand accounts by local veterans of the build up to and the actual invasion on 6th June 1944. Stephen Miller, curator of this exhibition, has investigated the vital contribution made by covert operation teams, civilians, local boatyards and specialist workshops. He also uncovered some surprises that were planned for the German army.

The 100th Anniversary of the Emsworth Horticultural Society is being celebrated in pictures and memorabilia from **6th to the 28th July**. Among the many achievements by their members over the past 100 years has been the setting up and opening of the trading hut in the 1980s, designing and displaying two gardens at the annual Chelsea Flower Show and also at Hampton Court, and more recently taking part in a recording with the local Radio Solent Gardeners' Question Time panel.

The 100th Anniversary of Emsworth Sailing Club is being celebrated with a series of events and activities throughout 2019 including an exhibition of pictures, documents and memorabilia in Emsworth Museum from **3rd to the 26th August**.

Past members of the Club who will be featured are Lord Louis Mountbatten and the world-renowned yachtsman and environmentalist, Sir Peter Blake.

From **31st August until 29th September** Bernie Gudge, Emsworth Museum's Photograph Archivist, is displaying a collection of photographs of horse drawn, motorised and pedal powered transport that has been used in Emsworth in the past. Bernie has searched the archive and his own records to present an attractive exhibition of unique, nostalgic images of Transport in Emsworth up to the 1950s.

In the final exhibition from **5th until 27th October** local Scouts will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Emsworth Scouts with pictures, stories and memories highlighting their achievements, activities and the awards they have won.

Dorothy Bone

Obituaries

We are sorry to record the recent deaths of members who have been invaluable supporters of the Trust and Museum.

It was with great sadness that we learned at the end of December of the sudden death of Julia Stimson, wife of past Chairman Tony Stimson.

Retired Chemist Tony Yoward died in January. He had been a member of the Trust for many years and wrote a leaflet and booklets on Emsworth's history that were very popular and sold well in the Museum shop. Tony was an acknowledged authority on the Mills of Hampshire and a member of the Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Group.

Brian Baines, a Founder Member and long time friend and supporter of the Trust and Museum, died in February. He had lived and worked locally for most of his life.

Cllr Rivka Cresswell was Havant Borough Council's appointed representative on the General Committee of the Trust and regularly attended committee meetings. Her down-to-earth approach to problems, enthusiasm, warm smile and good humour was much appreciated. In 2017 she donated her councillor grant to the Trust which was used to upgrade the Museum IT equipment.

We shall miss all of them and their individual contributions that helped to make the Museum such a pleasant place to visit.

Dorothy Bone

Where was Godwin's naval base?

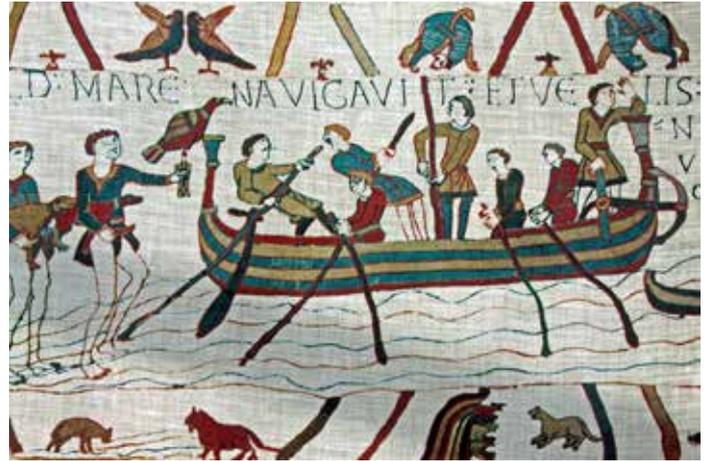
In January's illustrated talk in the Community Centre, the third in the Trust's winter cycle, local author, Philip MacDougall hypothesised as to where in Chichester Harbour the Anglo-Saxon warrior, Earl Godwin, might have maintained his naval base.

In the 11th century, the Manor lands of Bosham were extensive and covered both the Chidham area and Thorney island as well as the village of Bosham which then as now was centred around Holy Trinity Church.

Godwin, first Earl of Wessex was one of the most powerful Earls in the kingdom and he amassed much land and property, particularly in Sussex, including the valuable Manor of Bosham where he and his sons seem to have kept a small fleet of ships. When Godwin died in 1053 much of his wealth and property passed to his son Harold Godwinson, the future King Harold who was defeated by the Normans at the Battle of Hastings.

What do we know about these ships? Very little as the recorded information is scanty. *The Anglo Saxon Chronicle* informs us that Earl Sweyn (one of Godwin's sons) came into Bosham with seven ships. The Bayeux tapestry shows the magnificent ship that Earl Godwin gave to his future son-in-law, King Edward the Confessor, in 1042 and also shows Harold boarding one of his ships at Bosham to go hunting.

Godwin and his sons were exiled from the kingdom in September 1051 after refusing to obey King Edward's commands to punish the people of Dover. Godwin, along with his wife Gytha and sons Sweyn, Tostig and Gyrth fled to Thorney before seeking



Hunting scene from the Bayeux tapestry showing Harold Godwinson boarding one of the Bosham ships

refuge in Flanders. They probably went to Thorney in order to take ship. The Godwin family returned to England the following year with armed forces and the Earldom was restored.

No Saxon warship has ever been found in Chichester harbour but there is a man-made feature protruding out to sea at Stanborough Point on Thorney island that could have been part of a harbour. Was there also a boat building facility or a storage area for tar and timber? Sussex timber was much prized. Was there a repair yard? All Norwegian villages at that time had a slipway; so did the Manor of Bosham have the same facility? On the Chidham peninsula there is a narrow boat-shaped field. At Furzeffeld Creek, Bosham Hoe, there is an area of scrubland. Could this have been where the tar was stored? All the above is conjecture but it made for a fascinating talk which Philip MacDougall gave to a packed house. Many questions followed and the evening ended with the drawing of the raffle.

Local History Walks

Each of the summer walks will start and finish at the Museum in North Street and take from 1½ to 2 hours. These informal strolls will cost £3 per person, payable on the evening, and start promptly at 6 pm. Comments, questions and reminiscences are welcome so that we can all learn from one another. These walks have proved very popular in the past and this year they will take place on Wednesday evenings on 8th May, 12th June, 10th July and 14th August.

Museum Holiday 2018 Picture Show

I was sorry not to be able to show the photographs of the Devon holiday at the recent AGM. First of all we had a 'sound on picture' distortion and then the show stopped while the computer did an upgrade. Apologies to all who waited in vain for a resumption.

However, interested members can view the slide show from a CD which can be borrowed from either myself or Peter Morse, or viewed in the Museum. I can be contacted by email on trike42@gmail.com.

Mike Edwards

Mothballs and a Whiff of Whisky*

Former Chairman, Tony Stimson, welcomed the audience and speaker Nigel Gossop to the Emsworth Community Centre on Wednesday evening, 20th February for the last of the winter series of talks.

Nigel, a staunch advocate of the 'ripping yarns' written by Portsmouth-based author Percy F Westerman, took as his theme the life of another prolific author and adventurer, the Victorian Dr William Gordon Stables.

Born in Scotland in 1837, Stables studied medicine in Aberdeen. While there he travelled extensively during the long vacations. Experiences included being aboard a whaler that got stuck in pack ice and exploring and trekking in Northern Canada. After qualifying, Stables continued his love of travel and served as a surgeon in both the Royal and merchant navies. This was followed by marriage, five children and a settled existence as a GP in Twyford, near Reading.

Stables was already an author having had several articles printed before he made Twyford his long-term home but now he embarked on a writing career that encompassed such different genres as animal husbandry, health, fantasy, sci-fi and adventure. He was a co-founder of *The Boy's Own Paper* and some of his works were serialised in the journal.

He still had a wanderlust though and this needed to be satisfied. As a child Stables had visited a gypsy encampment and thought their wagons 'delightful little homes'. Now settled, Stables designed and had built his own wagon that was drawn by two horses. It was meticulously furnished having a kitchen and a drawing room complete with a Persian rug, bracket



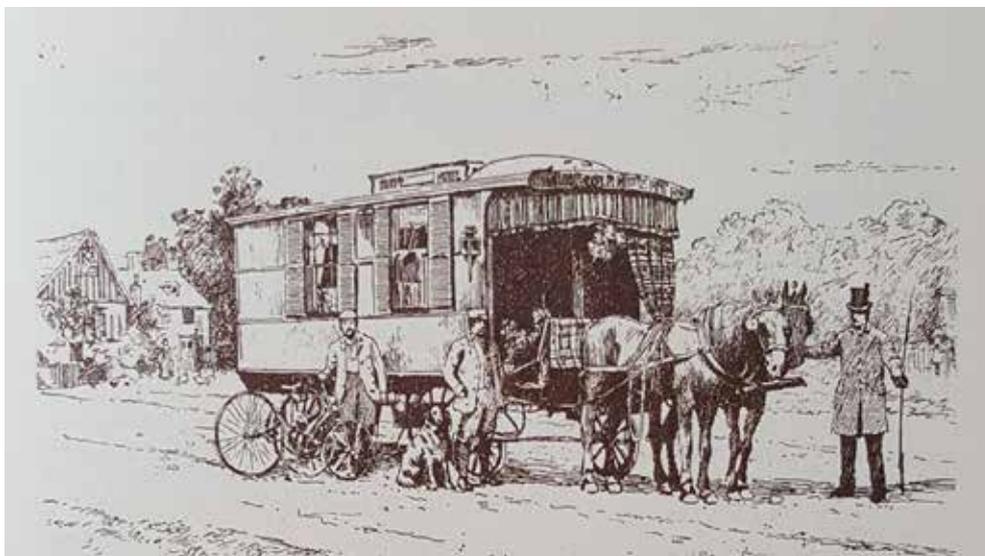
Terry Stubbington, Maureen Barrett and Ann Newnham welcome visitors to the February talk

clock and a harmonium. Stables called his wagon a 'caravan'. Nicknamed 'The Wanderer' it was 17ft long and weighed 2 tons.

In it, Stables travelled with his dog, Hurricane Bob, his valet, Foley, and coachman, John. One of their early journeys was to Aberdeen and back. John drove the caravan while Foley rode alongside on a tricycle and scouted the road ahead. Foley slept in the kitchen while John was housed in an inn or under the caravan if no other accommodation was available. The caravan and its occupants became very well-known and excited much speculation among various villagers.

Although Stables died in 1910, his caravan has had a new lease of life. It has been restored and can be seen at the Caravan Club's headquarters in Broadway in the Cotswolds. Stables is one of the founder members of the Club.

**'Mothballs and a Whiff of Whisky' is how one young girl described William Gordon Stables in old age.*



The Wanderer, a purpose-built caravan designed by Dr William Gordon Stables

Curator's Corner

The start of a new season is always an exciting time for everyone concerned especially those who spent so much time and effort in preparing the Museum for its first weekend. It is encouraging to note that over the corresponding weekend last year nine visitors signed the visitor's book whilst this year it was double that at eighteen! Amongst the complimentary remarks came 'lovely little museum – I learned a lot' from a visitor from California and a 'fantastic trip down memory lane, a warm welcoming place' from someone a little closer to home, a Southbourne resident in fact.

Among the many memoirs currently in the Museum's possession is one by John Ernest (Jack) Barrett latterly of 21 Clovelly Road, Emsworth. Born at Rowlands Castle in 1910 it recounts in detail his early life, schooling in Portsmouth and experiences amongst a rural idyll. Exhibiting a particular prowess with matters electrical, Jack Barrett completed his apprenticeship as an electrical fitter in 1931. From there he advanced through various stages to become an inspector, spending much of his time working on the great battleships of the era such as *HMS Nelson*, *HMS Rodney* and *HMS Barham*. In time he was transferred during the war years to the Royal Naval Mine Depot at Milford Haven where he researched the countering of German magnetic mines by degaussing (de-magnetising) vessels and later to the Royal Naval Armament Depot at Trecwn.

A two-year secondment to West Africa and HM Naval Base in Freetown, Sierra Leone followed in 1941. This location had become of critical importance to the war effort as one of the most important convoy ports in the world. Jack Barrett was to be the acting foreman of the electrical branch under the Director of Dockyards.

On returning to Britain, he became an electrical engineering manager's representative responsible for electrical installation and electricity supply for around 200 naval establishments in south Wales and south-western England. This was followed by a 15-year spell as the examiner of dockyard work based in Bath and progression to the post of the

main grade electrical engineer. In 1960 he moved to Pinner and the navyworks headquarters as a senior electrical and mechanical engineer. Soon afterwards the chance arose again for promotion to Superintending rank but it required another relocation this time to Liverpool where he spent four years. Prior to retirement Jack Barrett found himself back in Portsmouth as yard services manager of Her Majesty's Dockyard.

This memoir contains nearly 200 pages of typescript so it can be imagined how much detail the author describes at each stage of his extremely varied, active and colourful life. There is much within to interest the local historian with his description of early life in the Rowlands Castle area; the naval historian with his memories of work and activity in the dockyards and indeed those social historians with an interest in wartime and post-war social history. John Ernest Barrett passed away in 2003 in Emsworth where he had lived for some time at the age of 92.

Philip A. Magrath

Jack Barrett was one of our Founder Members. He and his wife Eileen, née Terry, were greatly supportive of the work of the Museum and helped to get it established.



This one-stringed fiddle formed part of the Funtington exhibition memorabilia

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Hon. Secretary: Dorothy Bone
01243 373780
dorothybone@btinternet.com

Membership: Shelagh Standen
shelaghstanden@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk Newsletter Editor: Christine Bury
01243 377870 christine.bury@ntlworld.com

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