



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

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

Emsworth Museum
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February 2017

Christmas Party

On Wednesday, 7th December, members of the Trust's General Committee invited Stewards, newsletter deliverers, helpers and door openers and closers to our annual 'thank you' Christmas Party. This is always a Committee team effort to which everyone contributes. Again, we were lucky to be able to hold it in St James' Parish Hall and our Chairman, Tony Stimson opened the proceedings by thanking everyone for their efforts over the year and hoping that many will continue to do so in 2017.

Between 50 and 60 helpers sat down at festively decorated tables to enjoy an excellent and varied array of treats whilst puzzling over several quizzes, dingbats and oyster questions. Our guests clearly enjoyed each others' company and the informality of the occasion, at the end many left expressing their thanks for an enjoyable afternoon.



Margaret Rogers



In this first issue of the New Year we are trialling the use of more colour in the newsletter as well as changing the paper quality. Some of our colour pages are being sponsored. Our thanks to

Steven Borland of Borland & Borland, the local estate agents,
www.borlandandborland.co.uk



for his continued sponsorship. Also we would like to acknowledge two unsung heroes who have provided many of the photographs. They are Mike Edwards and John Tweddell.

Diary Dates

All monthly exhibitions are held in the Museum's David Rudkin Room. (See below ** these exhibitions might be re-scheduled). Talks are held in the Mountford Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street, Emsworth at 7.30pm. Members £2.00, non members £3.00.

February 20th	"The Battle of Jutland: A Local Perspective" an illustrated talk by Philip Robinson
March 20th	Annual General Meeting (agenda in envelope with this Newsletter)
March	Stewards' Instruction Sessions. If you Stewarded in 2016 or you have already indicated that you would like to Steward in 2017 your invitation will be in the envelope with this Newsletter. If you haven't Stewarded but think you might like to volunteer in 2017 please contact Dorothy Bone. Please see details below.
March 29th	Trust visit to RNLI at Poole
April 1st	Museum Re-opens
April 1st - 17th	Exhibition - Emsworth Family Histories
April 22nd - May 14th	Exhibition - Display by fused glass artist Chris Abel
May 20th - June 11th	Exhibition - 70 Years of Football in Emsworth **
June 17th - July 9th	Exhibition - The history of the Emsworth Show **
June 21st	Treasure Hunt
July 15th - August 6th	Exhibition - Emsworth Historic Properties: Highlights from an Archive
August 11th- September 3rd	Exhibition - Warblington Roman Villa by Chichester and District Archaeology Society
August 28th	Emsworth Show
September 4th - 7th	Trust Annual Holiday to Hereford and the Forest of Dean
Sept 9th - Oct 1st	Exhibition - to be confirmed (linked to Emsworth British Food Fortnight)
October 7th – 29th	Exhibition - Auntie Pat's Dancing School
October	Illustrated talk - title and speaker to be confirmed
November	Illustrated talk - title and speaker to be confirmed
December	Stewards Christmas Tea party

Preview of the first two exhibitions

April 1st – 17th Emsworth Family Histories. This, the first of two exhibitions on different aspects of family and local history research, concentrates on the lives of Emsworth people throughout the generations. Using census records, trade directories, research documents and information provided by local people the histories of some of Emsworth's well known families will be explored and described with family trees and pictures.

April 22nd – May 14th Chris Abel, a fused glass artist, will display his glassware during the Emsworth Art Trail and he will be showing gifts for the home and garden including a series of panels in different sizes based on coastal scenes, dichroic glass jewellery, coasters and plates and a small selection of paintings.

Museum Opening Times Emsworth Museum will be open from 1st April until 29th October on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30am - 4.30pm and on Sundays 2.30pm - 4.30pm. On all five days of the Art Trail (April 22nd/23rd and April 29th/30th/May 1st) the Museum will be open 10.30am - 4.30pm. In addition it will be open on Tuesday 25th April 10.00am - 2.00pm 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 February 21st, April 4th, 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 me, **Dorothy Bone** on 01243 373780 / dorothybone@btinternet.com

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

Lord Willetts of Havant



We are delighted and honoured to welcome the Rt Hon. Lord Willetts of Havant as the President of the Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust in succession to the late Dr Margaret Rule.

Lord Willetts has been a member of the Trust for many years and has been a regular visitor to the Emsworth Museum over this time, occasionally opening a new exhibition for us in his capacity as MP for Havant, and as an interested Trust member just wishing to see what was new in the Museum. He has always been a keen supporter.

Curator's Review 2016

Much of the last six months has been taken up with preparing the Museum's case for accreditation renewal. It is hoped that the result will be known by Easter. This process involves several ongoing administrative tasks which, although not part of the official submission, were recommended for best practice, and if we are to be true to our word, need to be implemented.

Elsewhere in the Museum, a little time has been spent from a conservation viewpoint improving the materials on which objects are displayed but it is clear that much more wholesale changes are required to bring the Museum up to modern-day standards. The Museum store and its lack of space continues to be of concern but in the absence of any alternative storage area within the Museum not much can yet be done.

Ironically, the Museum has been offered several very relevant local archives which cannot be refused. The principal collection belonged to the Emsworth Horticultural Society which has been formally accepted into the collection. Already thoughts are turning to the start of the new opening period so the last exhibition of last season will soon need to be packed away.

Phil Magrath

50/50 Club

The rules of the 50/50 Club require that 50% of the proceeds are returned to Club Members in the monthly draw. With almost 200 shares held by 80 members of the Trust we are still able to offer a first prize of £35 and a second prize of £15 every month. The prize list for 2016 is shown in the table below. Congratulations to all the winners.

Have you considered becoming a member or increasing the number of shares that you hold? Because of the increased administration charges the minimum holding for new members is now 2 shares (i.e. £12.00 per year). However, existing members may increase their holding by one share (still only £6.00 per year). Entry forms may be obtained from the 50/50 Club Organiser, **Peter Morse**, 01243 697582 or peter.morse@talktalk.net. Proceedings from the 50/50 Club are used to enhance the Museum in various ways – for example, improving the lighting of displays or, more rarely, the acquisition of artefacts of particular interest to Emsworth. The Committee are now considering new projects for the 50/50 Club in 2017 and will be pleased to consider any suggestions from members of the Trust.

Month	No	Name	Prize	Value	Month	No	Name	Prize	Value
January	98	Mrs J Oiller	First	£35.00	July	154	Dr and Mr P M Last	First	£35.00
January	185	Mrs V J Dennis	Second	£15.00	July	172	Mrs S Ridley	Second	£15.00
February	210	Mr & Mrs J H Forster	First	£35.00	August	54	Mr & Mrs R Galloway	First	£35.00
February	53	Miss C Rudkin	Second	£15.00	August	209	Mr & Mrs J H Forster	Second	£15.00
March	80	Mrs M S Taplin	First	£35.00	September	134	Mr & Mrs D J Childs Hopkins	First	£35.00
March	210	Mr & Mrs J H Forster	Second	£15.00	September	78	Mrs B E Beaumont	Second	£15.00
April	195	Mr D A W Wells	First	£35.00	October	220	Mrs E Whiteley	First	£35.00
April	188	Mrs S G Lonsdale	Second	£15.00	October	38	Mrs D Bone	Second	£15.00
May	82	Mrs V J Dennis	First	£35.00	November	131	Mrs B E Beaumont	First	£35.00
May	92	Mrs M Riding	Second	£15.00	November	158	Capt J F Stewart RN Rtd	Second	£15.00
June	40	Mrs V Wilson-Smith	First	£35.00	December	46	Mr & Mrs F C Warren	First	£35.00
June	37	Mrs T R Bray	Second	£15.00	December	213	Mrs M Barrett	Second	£15.00

Exhibitions

by Libby Wilding,

EM&HT member and website correspondent

The 10th Anniversary of the Ems Valley U3A, August 5th to September 11th

Thank you, Emsworth Museum, for bringing us the information I wanted, in the form of this light, colourful and eye-catching exhibition. The first thing I noticed on entering the David Rudkin Room was that the charts and posters exactly fitted the size and shape of the wall panels! This meant that no space was wasted and the font size was large enough for me to read without my glasses. There was a poster explaining how U3A began in Cambridge in 1981, to provide “educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment”. Groups come together to learn what interests them, with a group leader to co-ordinate and guide efforts. Ems Valley U3A began in 2006 and has over 400 members (and, I’m told, a waiting list!).

Then ten posters described ten of the interests offered locally, from Learning Languages, through Photography, Local History, Gardening, Astronomy, Ancient Greece to Wine Appreciation. They were illustrated with plenty of pictures of members in their groups, who all looked very happy!

In the central display cabinets there were examples of art work by members of the Drawing Group. There were also plenty of leaflets, bookmarks and car stickers.

While the exhibition didn’t have a traditionally “historical” theme, it was attractive, informative and relevant to our local community.

Treasure in Store – Art and Artefacts Revealed, September 17th to October 30th

This year the Museum has mounted exhibitions on a wide range of topics, overflowing with items of interest and with relevance to Emsworth as a community. Finding a suitable topic for the last exhibition of the year and then building up a display is not a task for the faint-hearted! Congratulations, then, to the creators of “Treasure in Store: Art and Artefacts Revealed” for giving us some tantalizing glimpses of Emsworth’s past culled from the Museum’s store-rooms.

The wall panels in the David Rudkin Room showed a selection of photographs and posters, all with clear explanations of their provenance: the sailing club in 1922, the carnival queen in 1938, the water carnival in 1953 to name but a few. There were some charming watercolours of the harbour and boats, and an ornate Long Service Certificate to one Wallace O’Hagan for his 25 years as the town’s gas-lamp lighter!

The display cabinets held artefacts like the stone crop-weights used for weighing grain – and also used for weighing down smuggled goods under water until the coast was clear. There were some Neolithic and Palaeolithic stone tools and some Roman pottery, and other items too numerous to mention here.

And if we needed a reminder of how times and prices have changed, a poster from the early 1900s advertising California Wines stated that a dozen bottles of finest quality Burgundy could be had for 25 shillings.



Left: Cllr Faith Ponsonby, Mayor of Havant, opening the U3A exhibition.



Right: Museum curator, Phil Magrath showing one of the treasures in store: a decorated 1939 Mark III Cartridge Case used for carrying cordite charges.

Emsworth Show

August Bank Holiday Monday 2016 saw an early morning start for a group of enthusiastic museum volunteers as they put together the stall for EM&HT at the Showground in Horndean Road. With members help throughout the day, visitors showed a lot of interest in the informative boards on display.

We showcased some of the exhibitions held in 2016 including the Somme and Gas Holder exhibitions. Museum publications were available for sale and our popular quiz proved challenging this year, but nevertheless Stuart Treagust managed to answer 11 out of the 12 questions correctly. Stuart received the prize of breakfast for two at Driftwoods which was donated by Clare Wright. In second place was Sara Slade.

Various publications were sold and Oyster Trail leaflets handed out to encourage the public to visit our gem of a Museum and perhaps consider membership. Please contact Peter Morse our Membership Secretary if you hear of anyone who wants to become a member. Altogether the Emsworth Show was a fantastic success, attended by more than 7000 people and guess what, the sun shone!

Wendy Bright and Marguerita Taplin



Bob Duncan (second left) and Maureen Barrett, (centre) - two of several stewards looking after the stand and talking to fellow members Terry and Chris Stubbington



Inside the stand with its colourful display of memorabilia

Tenth anniversary of the Ems Valley U3A Exhibition: *More News*

The exhibition began on Friday afternoon the 5th August but as the Mayor of Havant Cllr Faith Ponsonby had other commitments on that day she was not able to formally open it until Saturday 6th. After cutting the blue and yellow ribbon with special ceremonial scissors she talked enthusiastically with the U3A members who had put on the display before joining more of the group for a celebratory party in the Community Centre.

On Wednesday 10th August MP Alan Mak visited and members were pleased to show him how they hoped to share their enjoyment in retirement with everyone who came to see the exhibition. Over 500 people attended this very popular display.

Dorothy Bone

Annual four-day holiday

Overleaf, Sue Young has written an account of our very enjoyable visit to Worcester and the Black Country Museum. This year we have arranged a similar trip, based on a hotel in Gloucester but including day visits to Hereford with its Cathedral and the Mappa Mundi and to the industrial archaeology of the Forest of Dean.

Full details are given in the flyer which comes with this Newsletter. Again, first come, first served.

Peter Morse

Exploring the Black Country



Members of the Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust and friends, 31 people altogether, set off for the Black Country on Monday, 7th September 2016. Our party was amiably and efficiently led by June and Peter Morse who kept us entertained on the coach trips with quizzes on different subjects, aided by our affable driver from Woods Coach Tours.

The first and last day of the holiday our party stopped at National Trust properties, the first, on Monday, being Snowhill Manor, once given by Henry VIII to Catherine Parr that had been bought and restored in the early 20th century by Charles Wade, a compulsive collector. The house is crammed with 22,000 diverse objects and 2,000 costumes, including 20 coats of armour, lifelike replicas of Japanese samurai warriors, model boats and penny-farthings all displayed in the rather gloomy light preferred by its owner. His motto was, "Let nothing perish" and when the house became impossible to live in Charles and his wife moved to a small house

in the garden. That evening we settled into our comfortable hotel in Stourport upon Severn.

Tuesday we visited the Black Country Living Museum created in the 1960s by the industrialist and entrepreneur, the Earl of Dudley. There was a working fairground and over 50 authentic shops in the main street, including a radio store, ironmongers and motorcycle shop selling goods from a bygone age. A lesson was taking place in a nearby schoolroom with a strict teacher instructing her pupils (including members of our party) by rote. The buildings housing the Newcomen Engine and the Bradburn and Wedge Garage, with its large collection of immaculately preserved cars manufactured in the local area until the 1990s, were worth a visit.

After a ride on a double-decker bus down to the Dudley canal, we donned hard hats before boarding an open canal boat that took us through the 9 ft



Left: Snowhill Manor. Above: Legging at Dudley Canal

wide tunnels where limestone was extracted up until 1951. The cold atmosphere, narrowness of the tunnels built in 1775–8, and the dimness of light made us appreciate the hard life of the miners who worked 12 hours a day and suffered many injuries and fatalities. The boats that carried the limestone were not originally pulled by horses, as there were no tow paths, but propelled along by men “legging” along the walls which was ably demonstrated by a father and son on our boat.

From a guided tour of the city on Wednesday, we learnt that Worcester has a rich historical and industrial history. Originally founded by the Romans in 50 AD the city was provided with a cathedral and bishop by the Saxons. Wool and leather industries were developed in medieval times while Worcestershire Sauce was introduced in 1817. The city’s greatest historical connection is with the Civil War between the Royalists, supporting Charles II, and the Roundheads who crushed the Royalists in 1651 causing Charles to flee to France from Worcester where he was in hiding. The ornate Guild Hall with its statue of Charles II reminded us of those times.

Worcester is a picturesque city as elegant streets lead to buildings such as the St Martin’s Georgian Church with its elevated pulpit and the Georgian Chapel. The latter building housed boxed pews, a central pulpit and a stage now used by tribute bands, quite a contrast to the music of Edward Elgar, Worcester’s famous composer.

We also visited the Tudor house built in 1573, enjoying tea and cakes there, and the Porcelain Museum telling the history of Worcester porcelain

that sadly is no longer made in this country. Worcester Cathedral was particularly impressive not only for its grand size but also for its wealth of history dating back to the 11th century. Among its many features are the 12th century Chapter House where the monks prayed every day, the 14th century clock and 16 bells, and the medieval cloisters that were used in the Harry Potter films.

Breaking our journey home on Thursday, we spent the afternoon at the turreted chateau Waddesdon Manor, built in the French Renaissance style and previously owned by the widowed Ferdinand de Rothschild of the banking family from 1874–98. Used for entertaining guests rather than a family home, the 45 roomed Manor’s opulence and wealth of tapestries, art collections and priceless Sevres porcelain are overwhelming.

Ornate French furniture in heavy brocade with gold embellishments fill every room, except the Bachelor Wing where swords and firearms adorn the walls. The Manor was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957 but the Rothschild family are still involved in its management. In the front of the Manor the statues, fountains and colourful formal gardens, surrounded by acres of rolling parkland, were admired by our party as we ate our cream tea in the Manor restaurant, before returning to Emsworth after a very enjoyable and varied holiday.

Sue Young

Photographs: David Young and Mike Edwards

These colour pages are sponsored by Sue and David Young



St Martin's Church



Waddesdon Manor

Digging for Defence: Fort Nelson 1860 – 1914

The opening talk of the Museum's winter season on Monday, 17th October, was given by Philip A Magrath, Curator of Artillery at Fort Nelson (Royal Armouries) and also curator of our Museum. The talk was very well attended, with 22 non-members and 35 members present. They clearly enjoyed Philip's knowledgeable presentation about the Fort's beginnings and later on its armoury provision.

It all began when John Henry Templeman, Viscount Palmerston, serving his second term as Prime Minister, left his house at Broadlands, near Romsey and journeyed along the summit of Portsdown Hill in the late 1840s. Palmerston was fully aware that the British regular army was very small at that time and also knew of French unrest after the Revolution and posturing by Louis Napoleon aiming to declare himself Napoleon III. Because of this he felt that Britain would be vulnerable to any threats arising from the European continent and recognised that the Portsmouth naval dockyard would be a prime target.

He therefore commissioned drawings by William Crassman (RE) showing a chain of fortifications, along Portsdown hill, Nelson being one of five, and after some modifications and negotiations over land purchases work began in 1861. At that time the railways were expanding and a skilled labour force of navvies (Irish navvies in particular who had fled from destitution in their homeland) was available and was keen to transfer to a job which promised them security of work for some time to come.



Fort Nelson as it is today

That security in fact lasted until 1870 on completion of the forts.

The forts were then armoured by a succession of types of artillery which Philip described in some detail, beginning with the William Armstrong rifled gun and going through a succession of lighter and more adaptable machines, including howitzers, but the expected assault by the French never came after their defeat and humiliation in the Franco-Prussian war and none of the hill forts were supplied with artillery after 1886. By about 1900 all the forts were declared redundant.

It was only the advent of WWI which saw the rebirth of the forts as accommodation for troops awaiting crossing to France. Philip then closed his talk by showing a photo of one of the men in a Leicestershire Regiment who had been garrisoned there before ending by inviting questions from the audience and suggesting that they visit Fort Nelson (information flyers had been put out on the seats previously).

Margaret Rogers

Annual General Meeting, Monday 20th March 2017

The Trust's 42nd AGM will be held on Monday 20th March and we hope that you will be able to attend. It is important that members are well represented at this annual event because should a vote be necessary a quorum of 10% of the paid up membership is required.

Tony Stimson our Chairman for four years is retiring from this position. He will continue to be responsible for some of the activities and projects that he has taken on (many of which are not usually considered to be the responsibility of the Chairman but are vital for the smooth running of the Trust and museum) but he will no longer be a member of the committee.

At the present time the committee is not in a position to appoint a replacement Chairman and Tony has kindly agreed to act as host to welcome guests to the Museum for the opening of an exhibition, etc. until such time as a new person steps forward.

Please let me know if you feel that you have the expertise and talents to take on the role of Chairman.

Following the business of the AGM members will be offered a glass of wine or fruit juice which will give everyone the opportunity to meet and speak with other members, friends and colleagues.

Dorothy Bone

A Tale of Two Abbeys: Construction, Reconstruction and Legacy

On 21st November Christine Bury, a member of the EM&HT General Committee, entertained her audience at the local Community Centre with an illustrated talk on two nearby abbeys. She started by saying that the abbeys, at Titchfield near Fareham and Netley, close to Southampton, owed their origins to one man, Peter de Roches, bishop of Winchester for more than 30 years.



Inner courtyard of Titchfield Abbey



Nave of Netley Abbey

Photographs by Michael and Colin Bury

She then went on to chart the lifespans of the abbeys from their inception right through to their demolition under Henry VIII, including allusions to famous notables of the time. Christine's extremely well-researched talk included reports, quotations and illustrations, bringing it neatly to the present-day with some excellent photographs. At the end she answered questions from the audience before being warmly applauded.

Margaret Rogers

Membership

Membership subscriptions for 2017 were due on 1st January so 'thank you' to all our members who have paid their subscriptions promptly. As promised, Membership Cards are enclosed with this Newsletter for everyone who paid by 31st January so please check before you discard the envelope.

No cards in the envelope? It could be that I have made a mistake or your bank has failed to pay a standing order. Unfortunately, some of our members still have not updated their standing orders to reflect the new subscription rates (£9.00 for single members and £16 for joint members). So please do check your bank statement for January and let me know if there is a problem.

Personal details and privacy. We are required by the Data Protection Act to ensure that all personal data (paper or electronic) is accurate and up to date. Do please let me know of any changes or corrections.

In particular, please let me know your email address and make sure that your email addresses are up to date. We do not want to supplant the ever popular Newsletter but it is only published three times a year and we would like to use email to send any last-minute information or changes of plan.

You can send your latest email address to me at peter.morse@talktalk.net with the subject 'Email'.

Basic membership details (name, address, phone number) are confidential and are made available to Committee members for administrative purposes only. Apart from that, they are not divulged to anyone without the express permission of the member concerned. In particular, we do not sell or otherwise send our membership lists to any outside organisation.

Peter Morse

Chairman's Message

Very best wishes to you all for 2017

Thank You: 2016 has been a good year for the Trust. Once again we had some excellent exhibitions, some well-attended winter talks and some very successful guided walks lead by Margaret Rogers. All these were possible thanks to the hard work, much behind the scenes, by Dorothy Bone, Wendy Bright and Margaret Rogers in particular and many other members as well.

We also had our usual annual events of the Treasure Hunt, a stand at the Horticultural Society Show and the volunteer helpers' Christmas tea party thanks to a lot of work by committee members and volunteers.

Phil Magrath, volunteer Museum Curator, has made good progress with the reorganisation of the Store Room and the population of the new Omeka system with details of our artefacts, much due to his effort and dedication, and hard work by Graham and Marguerita Taplin.

Bernie Gudge has made steady progress with the digitising and logging of all our large collection of photographs for which we are most grateful. Michael Edwards continues to manage our lively website and we would like to see more members using the site on a regular basis. My thanks to Bernie and Michael.

Museum Work: We completed the upgrade of the Museum's electrical system in January 2016 which has enabled the safe use of our new electric heaters wherever and when they are needed.

With a lot of time and effort by a sub-committee of Dorothy Bone, Wendy Bright, Phil Magrath and me, particularly Phil who spent long hours pounding the computer in the Museum filling in the form, we completed and submitted on 14th December 2016, our application to Arts Council England for the renewal of our Accreditation. Some have previously questioned the value of the Accreditation but I remain convinced that the benefit derived from the Accredited status of the Museum is well worth the sweat, toil and tears of making the application. We are certainly a better managed organisation, more mindful of our responsibilities to our members and visitors, and more aware of our obligations for the proper care, conservation and display of our artefacts than we were before we gained accreditation.

During 2017, we are aiming to replace two of the old and dilapidated display cabinets and to update the lighting in the Main Room with modern, museum standard, energy efficient lights in place of the existing fluorescent tubes. Also, it is intended to improve the files in the Archive Room by the use of box files of consistent shapes and sizes, that will stand together better and to include an index in each one. Ultimately, all the information in these files will be digitised to be quickly and easily accessible on computers.

Volunteering: All these plans will only come to fruition with effort by volunteers and for this we will much appreciate new volunteers offering their services. If, on a day to day basis you use a computer and would be willing to give the Trust an hour or two of your time on a regular basis, preferably on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, please come and help. We also urgently need help from additional volunteers with inputting of artefact data to the Omeka system. Training will be provided for any volunteer with basic computer experience willing to give us a little time.

Changes: We have had some changes in 2016. Margaret Rogers has handed over the editorship of the Emsworth Echo and Marguerita Taplin the editorship of the Newsletter to Christine Bury. Our heartfelt thanks go to Margaret and Marguerita for their many years of service in those respective posts. Phil Sharpe took over the task of Treasurer from Geoff Higgins after Geoff's stalwart service for, I think, 14 years. Very many thanks to Geoff and thanks to Phil Sharpe for taking it on.

Official Archivists: The Trust's official archivists, Roy and Sheila Morgan, after some 32 years' service, have decided to retire from the role. We are very fortunate that Roy and Sheila have offered us all the information gathered over their years of research on documents and records of the Emsworth District. We are indebted to them for their generosity in passing on such a wealth of knowledge for future use by other researchers in the Museum.

Thank you very much indeed, Roy and Sheila, for all you have done for the Trust and for your kindness to many and your generosity to the Trust as a whole. We wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Chairman's message continued

I am pleased that we continue to open the Museum to members for two hours on each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon with Bob Duncan doing the Tuesday shift and Brian Tricker doing the Thursday shift, with periodic relief being provided by other committee members. My thanks to Bob and Brian, and to those committee members concerned.

It saddens me to have to make yet another plea for a volunteer to take on the role of Membership Secretary. We urgently need to find a replacement for Peter Morse who gave notice a year ago that he wished to hand on the role. Please, please, please, can we have a willing volunteer to pick this up in the very near future.

Finally, my thanks to all those, many unnamed above, who willingly volunteered their services to help in so many different ways in 2016. In particular, my personal thanks to Dorothy Bone for her unstinting and continued hard work for the Trust over the past 35 years, and her support for me as Chairman over the past four years.

It has been an honour for me to serve the Trust as Chairman.

Tony Stimson



Volunteers Wanted

We are always looking for willing volunteers such as Maureen Barrett and Roland Rogers pictured here. It can be great fun as you can see. Please let us know if you would like to help with the running of the Museum and the Trust. At the moment we particularly need someone to take over the duties of Membership Secretary. This is a vitally important job in which some computer skills are necessary. Email dorothybone@btinternet.com or telephone 01243 373780 if you can help in any way.

Forthcoming Talks

Philip Robinson's talk on 20th February is a local perspective on the Battle of Jutland.

The BattleCruiser HMS *Queen Mary* sank at 16:26 on Wednesday 31st May 1916 with the loss of 1,266 crewmen. Eleven of those men were from the local area and included brothers, Walter and William Kennett who lived in Slipper Road, Hermitage.

The first report of the action appeared in The Portsmouth News for Saturday 3rd June with the comment "At least six of the vessels which have disappeared beneath the waters of the North Sea were manned at this port, and in hundreds of homes there is weeping for those who will return no more".

This talk will explore the story of the Battle of Jutland in commemoration of the 29 local men who died; the greatest local loss in a single day of the 1,560 days that was the First World War.

As usual, the talk by this popular local historian will start at 7.30pm in the Mountford Rooms at Emsworth Community Centre. Doors open at 7pm and tickets will be available on the door. Members of EM&HT £2.00, non-members £3.00.



Come and taste our lovely Oysters: Oysters for sale

We had just erected our gazebo for our Oyster Stall when the heavens opened but fortunately the weather improved during the day. Emsworth Museum were asked to participate in the British Food Fortnight and we decided to run an oyster stall at the Thought for Food Market that was held in South Street Car Park on 1st October. What has the Museum got to do with selling oysters you may ask? The idea was to publicise the Museum's Oyster Gallery and the historical link that Emsworth has with oysters.

Emsworth oysters are not harvestable until November so we obtained oysters from Mersea in Essex with the helpful assistance of Paul Starr. These I can testify were large and extremely delicious. The stall got off to a successful start when an order was placed for 30 shucked oysters before we had even opened for business.



Helping to shuck oysters were John Gains, Grahame Dryden, Bernie Gudge and Graham Taplin. We had a steady stream of visitors who were curious about the oysters they were buying. On hand to talk about this and impart snippets of information on the history of oysters and the Museum were a team of volunteers who also distributed our Oyster Trail leaflet to visitors. Enthusiastic members of the Ems Valley U3A Wine Appreciation Group enlivened the event by bringing along bottles of wine to drink with their oysters. It was interesting to see children willing to sample their first oysters and even come back for more.



It was a successful day which encouraged visitors to visit the Museum. The event would not have been possible without the assistance we received from Starrs our local fishmonger and butcher. Another fisherman, Peter Williams, volunteered to deposit all our opened shells back into the sea so that they could be used to cling to by future generations of oysters. Thanks to all our volunteers especially Ann Gains who helped me out on the stall for most of the day.

Marguerita Taplin

Visit to the RNLI at Poole

You will already have received details of our proposed day-trip to the RNLI at Poole on 29th March. We still have a few places left at £24.50 per person. If you are interested please let me know either by sending me a note to the Museum or to peter.morse@talktalk.net. First come, first served.



Peter Morse

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