



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

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

Emsworth Museum
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February 2018

Stewards and Helpers Christmas Party

Since we moved to the Parish Hall for the General Committee's annual tea party to show its appreciation of the time and efforts of our volunteer helpers, we have been able to sit more comfortably at generously spread tables.

The organisation and preparation of things had, as always, been done in advance and had been superbly monitored by Dorothy, our Secretary. The room was lit and warm, tables put out with cloths and Christmas decorations, and food appeared as if by magic along the top table.

The proceedings opened with a welcome to everybody by Vice Chairman, Margaret Rogers. She stressed the Committee's grateful thanks to all for their hard work over the past season. Margaret then touched on improvements currently under way to the Museum's windows and blinds. She also highlighted the change to the Museum's closure time in 2018. The Museum will continue

The festive tea with a merry band of helpers



opening as normal until the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which we will commemorate with a special exhibition organised by Bob Duncan. Before inviting everyone to tea Margaret emphasized the importance of attending the Stewards' training days to which Dorothy would shortly be inviting them.

Whilst tucking in to the tea, table teams were formed to tackle three quizzes which had already been set out and this year were provided by Wendy, Margaret and Christine. After giving everyone time to argue over the answers, the results were given out, followed by Peter Morse supervising the December 50/50 club draw. The winner was Terry Stubbington.

After finally reiterating the Committee's thanks to all our helpers, the party was drawn to a close by Margaret reading a selection of tripadvisor's entertaining comments written by visitors to the Museum over the summer.



Peter Morse, left, with 50/50 Club winner Terry Stubbington

Our thanks to David and Sue Young who have kindly sponsored the printing of the article on pages 6 and 7 about the 2017 Trust Holiday to Hereford and the Forest of Dean

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. Members £3.00 non members £4.00. The order of the exhibitions marked ** might be changed.

March 19th	Annual General Meeting (agenda in envelope with this Newsletter)
March	Stewards' Instruction Sessions. If you Stewarded 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 2018 please contact me.
March 31st	Museum Re-opens
March 31st - April 23rd	Exhibition – Title to be confirmed
April 9th	Provisional date for visit to the Palace of Westminster
April 28th - May 20th	Exhibition – Paintings by local artist Michael Bury (Emsworth Arts Trail – April 28th/29th and May 5th/6th/7th)
May 26th - June 24th	Exhibition – Title to be confirmed
June	Treasure Hunt – Date to be confirmed
June 30th - July 29th	Exhibition – Paintings by local artist Angela Loader
August 3rd - 27th	Exhibition – “Emsworth weather – storms, tides, floods and winds” **
August 27th	Emsworth Show
September 1st - 30th	Exhibition – “Growing up in Emsworth in the 1950s/1960s” **
September 22nd - 7th October	Emsworth British Food Fortnight
September 30th	“Ale, Gingerbread and Oysters” local history walk with Dr Margaret Rogers
October 6th - November 11th	Exhibition – Commemoration of Emsworth Men in WWI
October 7th	“Ale, Gingerbread and Oysters” local history walk with Dr Margaret Rogers
October 15th	Illustrated talk – Title and speaker to be confirmed
November 19th	Illustrated talk – Title and speaker to be confirmed
December	Stewards Christmas Tea party

Museum Opening Times Emsworth Museum will be open from 31st March until 11th November on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 10.30am - 4.30pm and on Sundays 2.30pm - 4.30pm. On all five days of the Arts Trail (April 28th/29th and May 5th/6th/7th) the Museum will be open 10.30am - 4.30pm. In addition it will be open on 23rd 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 20th, April 3rd, May 15th, June 26th, August 7th, September 18th, October 30th and December 11th). 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

19th February 2018

An illustrated talk “Sugar, Slaves, Ships and Some Speculation”

Rodney Stone turns the clock back 180 years to discover how a Hampshire gentleman helped Mauritius cope with the practical and financial challenges it had to face following the abolition of slavery. He will also describe what it would have been like to live on that distant island in the first half of the 19th century.

Curatorial Update

The Museum has had all its old vertical blinds replaced by roller blinds of a royal blue colour and very nice they look too. Whilst the former was functional, the plastic fittings had become brittle and were prone to break. The new blinds are easier to use and have less in the way of plastic components. Sun-X of Worthing undertook the work and have supplied the new ultra-violet film which is in the process of being applied to the window glass.

We have been less successful in trying to replace two of the older museum cabinets and this will not now happen until later in the year or perhaps even in 2019. In order to retain the same size they would have to be made to order and cost in the region of £5000 plus an additional £2000 for specialist construction! We shall almost certainly need to investigate acquiring previously used units.

Excitement has been generated in the Museum over the kind offer by Dr Trevor Davies to arrange a small Main Room display of Warblington Roman Villa artefacts with the agreement of the owner Havant Borough Council. It is hoped that a long-term loan agreement suitable to both the owners and the Trust can be arranged.

We have finally received feedback from our Arts Council Assessor regarding the Museum's application for its accreditation renewal. We have waited over a year for a response. Some elements of it have been queried and it is hoped that with the support of Jaane Rowehl, our local Museum Development Officer from Hampshire Cultural Trust, we can satisfy them but not before the deadline date of 26th January 2018!

Philip A. Magrath

50/50 Club

Members of the 50/50 Club hold tickets which are entered into a monthly prize draw. Tickets cost just £6.00 a year with a minimum holding of two tickets. Half of the proceeds are used for the improvement of the Museum and the other half is returned to the members in a monthly prize draw.

The Committee are considering projects for the 50/50 Club and will be pleased to receive purchase suggestions from members of the Trust.

Have you considered becoming a member or increasing the number of tickets you hold? Entry forms are available from the 50/50 Club Organiser, **Peter Morse, 01243 697582, email peter.morse@talktalk.net.**

2017 winners are:

Month	No	Name	Prize	Value
January	85	Mrs M Riding	First	£35.00
January	36	Mr C Edwards	Second	£15.00
February	2	Mr & Mrs G J W Burns	First	£35.00
February	140	Mr & Mrs D J Childs Hopkins	Second	£15.00
March	71	Mrs M S Taplin	First	£35.00
March	18	Mr & Mrs A W Stewart-Fitzroy	Second	£15.00
April	152	Dr & Mr P M Last	First	£35.00
April	216	Mr & Mrs B Langford	Second	£15.00
May	174	Mrs J Wickhart	First	£35.00
May	42	Mr R J C Kennett	Second	£15.00
June	151	Dr & Mr P M Last	First	£35.00
June	91	Mr Brian Baines	Second	£15.00
July	174	Mrs J Wickhart	First	£35.00
July	157	Mrs Vickers	Second	£15.00
August	58	Mrs P Marshall	First	£35.00
August	162	Mr & Mrs R W Savage	Second	£15.00
September	118	Mrs A C Kennett	First	£35.00
September	77	Mr & Mrs A W Stewart-Fitzroy	Second	£15.00
October	143	Mrs S Thompson-Coon	First	£35.00
October	133	Mrs I Burns	Second	£15.00
November	182	Mr & Mrs D J Childs Hopkins	First	£35.00
November	172	Mrs S Ridley	Second	£15.00
December	88	Mr & Mrs T Stubbington	First	£35.00
December	182	Mr & Mrs D J Childs Hopkins	Second	£15.00

Emsworth's Oyster Industry on BBC 2

In June 2017 a researcher from Voltage TV contacted me for pictures of Emsworth in the 1900s for a food related programme they were producing. Under the heading "The Food Factory – Fish and Chips" the finished programme was shown on BBC 2 at 8.00pm on 2nd January. The majority of the hour showed cod being caught off the shores of northern England – prepared, frozen and made into fish fingers.

Greg Wallace, the programme narrator, then referred to London in the 1900s when oysters were cheap and were eaten by many people. He also described briefly the Emsworth oyster industry and the death of the Dean of Winchester from eating a contaminated oyster at a banquet in the city. Details of this event, which are contained in Linda Newell's book "Uncovering the Past: Emsworth, Oysters and Men" led to the end of oyster fishing locally and the eventual collapse of Emsworth's oyster industry.

Thank you to John Tweddell for providing the pictures used in the programme and Sally Finnegan, Voltage TV, for donating a copy of the DVD to Emsworth Museum.

Dorothy Bone

From the Vice Chairman

A very happy, prosperous and healthy 2018 to everyone

I really did not want to be writing this column as I – and the General Committee – had hoped that we would by now have secured the services of a new Chairman. When Tony Stimson decided to step down from that post he gave us ample warning of his intention in the hope that someone would come forward to carry on the Trust's work. All our past Chairmen have brought to the post their personal skills and attributes and few were alike but all were convinced it was a worthwhile job. So if you know of anyone whom you would like to suggest for the post of Chairman/woman please do so by talking to our Hon. Secretary, Dorothy Bone.

Since its inception on 1st April 1975 the Trust has tried to preserve for future generations the history of Emsworth, both its people, buildings and industry. It has demonstrated this by putting on exhibitions and displays, talks and walks, being involved in a variety of events and opening up research facilities. Like 2016, this past year has been quite a difficult one in trying to achieve this. Serious illness has struck several members of the Committee and despite frequent visits to the hospital for both knee and sight problems Dorothy Bone has managed somehow to steer us all through, organising, among other things, a variety of interesting exhibitions, making sure of continued publicity and maintaining the Stewards' schedule. Despite all the ups and downs she encountered throughout the year there has only been one day during the open season when there was not a Thursday afternoon volunteer available for the Museum's opening.

Also on the plus side our energetic Curator, Phil Magrath, has been supervising the paper trail necessary for new acquisitions and getting rid of duplicated stock, systematically appraising areas of the Main Hall, putting improvements in hand and updating displays. Once upon a time we viewed this area as a 'static exhibition' with little change from year to year, but when we open again on 31st March 2018, visitors to the Main Hall will benefit by seeing new lighting, brighter windows and new blinds, and eventually there will be two new display cabinets.

Other great improvements include the work done by Marguerita and Graham Taplin on the Omeka system. This system will be of great benefit because of the capacity it has for data storage, lessening the vast amount we currently have to hold in physical storage. They have already held tutorials for the General Committee members and Jan Groves will

be guiding the Stewards through their introduction to the system in March. In addition to his work on Omeka, Graham has also been overhauling the Museum's website into a 21st century presentation and it now offers a most attractive, up-to-date source of information, even if we have to take some of the tripadvisor comments on board as well!

Phil Sharpe now has a firm grip on the Trust's finances, despite the banks best efforts to thwart him and Christine Bury has shone in the dual role of Newsletter and The Echo editors. Although everyone in the General Committee has been elected to a specific post or to tackle a particular job, throughout this last year there have been occasions when everyone has had to 'muck in' and throw themselves wholeheartedly into helping wherever they could, and my warmest thanks go to everyone on the Committee for this. Because of personal circumstance over time members come and go and in 2018 we will be particularly sorry to lose Wendy Bright from the Committee, even though she has said she will continue to do some of her tasks. Replacing her we hope to recruit Steve Miller, already known to many because of his superbly researched 2017 exhibition on football, with follow-up articles appearing in The Echo.

May I end by saying I hope that all Stewards and helpers will continue to volunteer in 2018. Without you we simply could not maintain so ably what many regard as one of the jewels in the crown of Emsworth – its Museum – and I look forward to greeting you again in March.

*Margaret Rogers
Vice Chairman*

Membership

Thank you to all those members who paid promptly this year. It makes the life of the Membership Secretary so much easier.

Membership Cards for fully paid up members are enclosed with this Newsletter.

No cards? It could be that you have not paid – or I could have made a mistake. For any queries, please phone or email **01243 697582, peter.morse@talktalk.net**

David Rudkin Room Exhibitions 2018

To encourage visitors to Emsworth as well as Emsworth residents to come to the Museum we need to hold a variety of exhibitions on different themes throughout the season. This is quite a challenge and, although so far this year some have been agreed, two dates are yet to be confirmed. If you have seen a display in a nearby village or you have produced one that might be suitable please contact me.

Exhibitions this year cover a wide range of subjects – in addition to the Emsworth Arts Trail with Michael Bury as our selected artist, we welcome back Angela Loader who always attracts lots of visitors to see her latest paintings of local scenes.

Weather is a popular topic of conversation and Bernie Gudge is searching the archive to show the effects of storms, tides, floods and winds on the town over the years and Steve Miller plans to illustrate growing up in Emsworth in the 1950s and 1960s. To finish the year Bob Duncan's exhibition will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI with particular reference to all the men of Emsworth who served in so many different parts of the world.

If you have any pictures or information relevant to these exhibitions please telephone or email me. Many thanks.

Dorothy Bone

Volunteers

We are still looking to add to our team of volunteer Stewards who welcome visitors to the Museum, help them to find answers to their questions and make their visit enjoyable and interesting. Please let me know if you would like to join this cheerful and keen band of helpers.

If being a Steward doesn't appeal to you there are always other tasks to be done to keep the Museum and Trust running smoothly and efficiently. Telephone or email me to discuss how you could help.

Dorothy Bone

Annual Autumn Holiday

This year we have arranged a four-day holiday in Tiverton, Devon, starting on Monday 15th October, and staying at a three-star hotel.

The itinerary will include a visit to Montacute House (National Trust), a guided tour of Exeter and its historic quayside, a tour of Exeter's underground medieval vaulted passageways, a horse drawn cruise on a canal and a journey on a heritage railway.

The cost will be £369 pp (based on two sharing) with a supplement of £60 for singles.

Details and an application form are enclosed with this Newsletter. We do hope that you will join us.

Peter Morse

Annual General Meeting on Monday 19th March 2018

We hope that you will be able to attend our 43rd annual general meeting. It is very important that members are well represented and are able to comment on the actions that are taken by the Committee on their behalf.

Tony Stimson resigned from the position of Chairman at the AGM in 2017. The Committee are still actively looking for a new Chairman but to date have been unsuccessful. Please let me know if you have the expertise and enthusiasm to take on the role of Chairman of the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust or if you could recommend someone.

Every year one officer and one other committee member must retire by rotation. This year it is the turn of Dorothy Bone (Hon. Secretary) and Dr Wendy Bright. After seven years as a committee member Wendy has decided not to stand for re-election. Steve Miller is the committee nomination to replace her.

Dorothy Bone has agreed to stand for re-election.

After the business of the AGM Peter Morse and Mike Edwards will show pictures of the Trust holiday in September 2017.

Dorothy Bone 01243 373780 email dorothybone@btinternet.com

Holiday to Hereford and the Forest of Dean

4th-7th September 2017



After joining our coach on Monday morning in Emsworth, 36 members and friends of the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust travelled through rural Wiltshire to Lacock to visit the Abbey, the Fox Talbot Museum of Photography and the nearby picturesque village. The Abbey has been the setting for many modern films including *The Boleyn Girl* and filming was also taking place on this day. The head of a close-knit family, William Fox Talbot is famous for creating a photographic negative in 1835 of one of the windows in the Abbey that heralded the birth of modern photography. As well as an exhibition of his work and a selection of cameras and photographic equipment, there was an interesting display of

reconstructed monochrome pictures by two modern photographers. Expansive gardens surround the well-furnished house – a pleasant place to spend a relaxed afternoon. Later we settled into our 4* hotel on the outskirts of Worcester.

Next morning our group travelled to Hereford, an historic city founded in the 7th century by the Saxons and later claimed by the Romans, the Welsh and the Royalists. Many of the original black and white timber houses have either been destroyed by fire or covered with more modern façades. However, the Cider Cellars, Butter Market and Butchers Row reminded us of a bygone age.



Lacock Gardens



Timber-framed house in Butchers Row

The Museum housed not only displays showing Hereford's past history but also a collection of over 1000 paintings and drawings by the local artist Brian Hatton. Sadly he was killed during the First World War while fighting in Egypt in 1916. The legacy of his work is stunning with landscapes, portraits, farming scenes and paintings of his own horses revealing the breadth of his talent.

Despite many changes over the centuries, Hereford is an attractive city with a magnificent Cathedral that has been a place of worship since the 8th century and is mentioned in the 1217 copy of the Magna Carta. It houses the famous Mappa Mundi, the largest surviving medieval world map, and the Chained Library. In contrast to these treasures from antiquity, there are three tapestries by the artist John Piper, an SAS 75th Anniversary Sculpture and a stained glass window in translucent blues commemorating Hereford's association with the SAS. In the Cathedral grounds a modern iron statue of Elgar leaning by a bicycle represents the composer's connection with the area.



Hereford Cathedral – Elgar Statue

Before returning to the hotel we stopped at Symonds Yat, overlooking the valley of the River Wye and the winding river below, an excellent photo opportunity in the late afternoon light.

On Wednesday we were given an insight into the ochre and iron mining industry that has been operating for 4500 years in the caverns of the Clearwell Caves at Coleford, as deep as 600ft. The tunnels we visited were cold and uneven underfoot and it was shocking to be told that originally many of the miners had been young children, working by candlelight and climbing up steep ropes to the rocks

above where water would gush down when the mines flooded. However, in 1841 a law was passed that neither females nor males under 10 years old could continue to work down the mines. There are 'free' miners up to present day who have rights to mine because they were born and bred in the area of the Forest of Dean.

Many films have been made in the caves, including Merlin; and a large illuminated lake with moving digital fish and plants was an eerie sight. A ride on the lovingly restored Dean Forest steam train and a visit to the Dean Heritage Centre concluded this experience of the County's industrial heritage.



Clearwell Caves

On the return journey to Emsworth on Thursday we visited Basildon Park, which is a 1750s Palladian building with a chequered history. Having been left empty before being requisitioned during the Second World War, the house was in a state of decline until becoming the home of the socialite Lady Illiffe and her husband in the 1950s. The rooms have been refurbished with period furniture, Old Masters, modern engravings such as those of Graham Sutherland and with Chinese and Indian décor in some rooms, including the conservatory. The expansive gardens have an abundance of colourful flowers and shrubs with many volunteers restoring the grounds to their former glory. A cream tea in the garden restaurant was a perfect end to the day. Thanks to June and Peter Morse and Woods Travel for organising this successful and interesting holiday.

Sue Young

Photos: David Young and Mike Edwards

Ford Grey, The 'Infamous' Earl of Tankerville

Restoration period adventure, scandal, politics, intrigue and rebellion. This was the story told by popular speaker Dr Bob France in his illustrated talk on 16th October about Ford Grey, Uppark's most notorious owner.

The tail end of Hurricane Ophelia caused damaging strong winds in the UK on the 16th and a glowing orange sky was seen in many parts around lunchtime. It was very eerie and atmospheric but an interesting adjunct to the talk in the Community Centre which began with story of two brothers, John and Thomas Grey in 1415. John went to France with Henry V and fought at Agincourt. He was created Comte de Tancarville for his prowess. Thomas meantime plotted against Henry and was hung, drawn and quartered.



he was imprisoned in the Tower. He escaped and sailed to the Lowlands from Chichester Harbour and stayed in Cleves from 1683 to 1685. Ford Grey returned to England in 1685 as part of the Monmouth Rebellion against James II. His luck ran out when he was discovered with the Duke of Monmouth in a ditch in Verwood. Both men were taken to London where Monmouth was beheaded. Ford Grey turned King's Evidence and was set free. However most of his property was forfeit except Uppark.

The 'infamous' Ford Grey of the talk's title was descended from Thomas. Ford Grey was born in the old house at Uppark in 1655 when England was under Puritan Rule. His mother Catherine's family were cavaliers while his father, Ralph Grey, came from a long line of parliamentarians that included Lady Jane Grey, the nine days' queen who was beheaded in July 1553.

The Grey family were wealthy landowners and their estates included Chillingham, Warke and Dunstanburgh Castles. When Ford Grey was five years old the monarchy was restored and Charles II came to the throne. Ford Grey grew up in a somewhat louche atmosphere. His great friend was the Duke of Monmouth, the handsome, eldest illegitimate son of Charles II.

Ford Grey became Baron Warke in 1675 and married Mary Berkley with whom he had a daughter. Subsequently he exiled Mary and formed an intense and incestuous relationship with Mary's younger sister, Henrietta aged 16. When the affair was discovered Ford Grey moved Henrietta to London where she disappeared from her father's view. The father then accused Ford Grey in the Kings Bench Court in Westminster Hall of abduction. Ford Grey was found guilty but over Christmas the charge was withdrawn. The affair continued for many years.

Ford Grey's next foray was into politics. He was a Whig and became a brilliant orator. He was involved in the Rye House plot to kill the King and his brother, James Duke of York. Fortunately Ford Grey had left early before the plot was discovered but nonetheless

He later remodelled the house and continued his political career. Ford Grey was an astute politician becoming both a Privy Councillor and First Lord of the Treasury. When he was created an Earl he revived the 15th century title but spelled it differently becoming the Earl of Tankerville. Ford Grey died in 1701 aged 45 and is buried at South Harting.

In his summing up of this flamboyant character, Bob France called him a flawed personality who favoured Parliament over the Crown, the Commons over the Lords and Protestants over Catholics.

Right: Goodwood House

Below: Dr Bob France and Trust Vice Chairman, Margaret Rogers



Goodwood House: the story of a house and family

The antics of the Duke of Monmouth also featured in Hilly Sloan's illustrated talk on Goodwood on 20th November. But more of that later.

Hilly has worked at Goodwood as a tour guide for 17 years and shared her passion for the house and its people with a fascinated audience in the Mountford Rooms at the Community Centre.

Goodwood's story began with the restoration of the monarchy under Charles II in the latter half of the 17th century. The King had several mistresses, one of whom was Louise de Kerouaille, Duchess of Portsmouth by whom he had a son in 1672. The boy was created the 1st Duke of Richmond at the age of three. He was not given lands, instead he was granted a coal tax. This income meant that on gaining his majority he was already a wealthy young man. Charles Lennox, note the one 'n', gambled and loved sport, particularly fox hunting.

House was not insured against fire and Charles, 3rd Duke, worried about his debts, eventually decided to extend Goodwood House. Many items from the London home were saved and moved to Goodwood. The extensions were designed by the classical architect, James Wyatt who was also responsible for building the impressive stables and kennels.

Horse racing had begun at Goodwood in 1802 thanks to the 3rd Duke and racing became established on the estate at the course known as 'The Harroway.'

The 4th Duke was a military man and thus we have the famous story and painting of the Duchess of Richmond's ball in Brussels prior to the battle of Waterloo.

Later Dukes continued the sporting theme with the introduction of both golf and cricket.



In the 1670s the Duke of Monmouth established a hunt at Chalton in West Sussex. When older the Duke of Richmond took part and bought nearby Goodwood House in 1701 as his country home. Although Goodwood was the country seat the main home was in London at a very prestigious address overlooking the River Thames.

Caneletto painted two famous scenes from the windows. One looking over the river to St Paul's Cathedral and the other looking towards Whitehall. The house burned down on the morning of 21st December 1791 and was never rebuilt. Richmond

The 9th Duke Freddie was fascinated by cars and aircraft. He raced at Brooklands and following WW2 he established motor racing at Goodwood on the old perimeter track of RAF Westhampnett. Today, the Festivals of Speed and the Revival meetings are world famous.

The individual passions of each of the Dukes has shaped the Goodwood we see today – beautiful art, furniture, books, porcelain, plus of course sport, fashion and culture.

CDAS at Warblington

August 11th was an auspicious day for CDAS (the Chichester & District Archaeological Society) for it marked the opening of the group's second exhibition at the Museum. Curated by Trevor and Ann Davies, this latest exhibition covered on-going excavations at Warblington on land owned by Havant Borough Council (HBC). County Councillor, Ray Bolton opened the temporary display in the David Rudkin Room and Margaret Rogers, acting chairman, welcomed the many visitors including representatives from Chichester Harbour Conservancy and HBC. The exhibition ran for seven weeks and was visited by Emsworth residents and amateur archaeologists from both Hampshire and West Sussex. Fortunately for the archaeologists the exhibition coincided with the now annual dig at Warblington.

Artefacts from previous excavations have shown that the Warblington estate had been continuously occupied from about 80 BC to around 420 AD. This continuity of occupation from the late Iron Age to the end of the Roman era is a longer period of occupation than that found at either Fishbourne Roman Palace or Bignor Roman villa.

The exhibition featured survey results, pottery, painted plaster, coins and other artefacts. At least three significant buildings have been found at Warblington in addition to a Roman villa. Artefacts such as a stylus (used in record keeping perhaps) could be suggestive of a commercial enterprise on the site.

The prized artefact on display though was 'A Mystery Object'. This was a small and rare stone cist excavated on the last day of the excavations in 2014. Nothing similar has been found in the UK so far.

"I will remember the moment the top came off in my hand for the rest of my life", said James Kenny, Excavation Director.

Inside were two flat metal packages which were subsequently delivered to University College London for painstaking conservation. This revealed that the metal came from the Roman lead mines in the Mendips and had been reused. The stone cist was of Bembridge limestone and was roughly finished. Although nothing was found in the packages, chemical analysis of the metal revealed that the ashes of a baby/still-born infant had been buried in the cist.

The Warblington site has still not been completely excavated so who knows what else will be found.



County Councillor, Ray Bolton, and Havant Borough Councillor, Jackie Branson with, right, Dr Trevor Davies



*Above: Some artefacts from the Warblington 'dig'
Below: Ray Bolton and Trevor Davies discuss the survey results*



Auntie Pat's School of Dancing

Former Emsworth dancers and their families were delighted by the October exhibition in the David Rudkin Room. The walls were covered with photographs of young dancers who had attended Auntie Pat's Dancing School in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

Patricia Barnwell had started the school in 1944/45 in the parish hall before moving to the upper room above the fire station where the Museum is currently. 'Auntie' Pat and her dancers put on several shows including pantomimes such as Cinderella, Aladdin, Goody Two Shoes and Babes in the Wood. The school catered for all ages from babes to adults and the shows were very entertaining being a mixture of ballet, tap and songs. All the costumes were handmade.

Fortunately many of the performances were recorded in a photo album by school master, Monty Reed and these formed the basis of the exhibition curated by Bernie Gudge.

Mr Reed's album was on display along with other artefacts including a programme of Goody Two Shoes and the dancing medals won by Janet Holloway in 1951, 52 and 53.

Many ex-pupils still in the area came to view and reminisce at this the last temporary exhibition of the 2017 season. The Museum will re-open to the public on Saturday, 31st March.



Top: The Peskett family with Bernie Gudge, exhibition curator, second from left.

Middle: Ex-dancer Valerie Hancock with her son Terry and Bernie Gudge

Below: Cast of Aladdin c 1948, courtesy of Monty Reed



Emsworth Show, 28th August 2017

What a wonderful warm and sunny day we were blessed with this last August Bank Holiday and what a contrast to the past three years. The good weather brought the crowds in to visit the Emsworth Show and the Museum marquee proved very popular. We had many visitors coming in to look at our exhibition boards which displayed information on the Museum as well as extracts from a few previous exhibitions held this year. We had boards on Storms in Emsworth, Property and Family History as well as the History of Football in Emsworth and they attracted a lot of interest. Thanks to Bernie Gudge, Wendy Bright, Clive Pugh, Margaret Rogers, Christine Bury and Steve Miller for allowing us to use information from the exhibitions they had researched. Thanks also to all those volunteers from the Museum who helped man the stands on the day.

This year we shared an area of our marquee with Chichester District Archaeological Society (CDAS) and Ann Davies from CDAS was on hand all day to talk to visitors about their past and current digs at Warblington Roman Villa Estate as well as Priory Park.



Above, left to right: Ann Davies, the then CDAS Chairman, with EM&HT members Marguerita Taplin, Wendy Bright, Graham Taplin and Sylvia Courtnage

Below, left: Alan Dawkins

As usual we ran a quiz at the Show and this consisted of pictures of scenes of old Emsworth. Many people who came along to our stand struggled to identify any of the photos. Not so Alan Dawkins who was the only person able to identify the six locations correctly. He is the winner of the £10 voucher kindly donated by Driftwoods. Alan was born and brought up in Emsworth and I found out when speaking to him later that his grandfather was Arthur Dawkins who lived to be over a 100 and so received a letter of congratulation from the Queen. It was not until he received this that he discovered he had been celebrating his birthday on the wrong date. He was a day out. Arthur Dawkins was interviewed about his life in Emsworth and is the subject of one of the oral history tapes that we hold in the Museum. Alan's grandmother Edith Gregory was born in what was once the Dowager House at Lumley Mill. The family have information on Lumley Mill that would be of interest to the Museum and Alan and his wife Kathy have promised to let us have sight of it.

Marguerita Taplin

STOP PRESS Visit to the Palace of Westminster provisionally booked for Monday 9th April

If you would like to go and haven't already indicated an interest please telephone or email me. Details of the time the coach will leave Emsworth and the cost will be emailed to everyone who registers an interest. The tour will start at 12.30pm.

Dorothy 01243 373780 dorothybone@btinternet.com

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If you would like to provide a news article or illustration, please send it to the editor, preferably on disk or by email.

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