



Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

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

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August 2023

Emsworth en fête for the Coronation

The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla provided the perfect excuse for Emsworth townsfolk to bring out the bunting and have street parties over the bank holiday weekend. Saturday, 6th May was a rainy day but the 7th was hot and sunny when Far Meadow Way where I live held its street party. Here are just some photos showing window and house displays, street parties and the knitted Coronation couple atop a post box in the Square. The photos were taken by Ben Timmis and Michael Bury.



Christine Bury



Where was the Chairman?

See page 5



Diary Dates

Walks £5.00 per person, book in advance at walks@emsworthmuseum.org.uk

Walks + Museum visit outside opening hours £6.00 per person.

Talks are held in the Mountford Rooms, North Street Community Centre, Emsworth starting at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm. Admission £5.00 per person. Tickets – on sale from 1st September – only available in advance from Bookends, 7 High Street, Emsworth. Cash only please.

August 4th – 20th	continuation of Exhibition “Extreme Weather (1963 and 1987)” Previously shown in July, this exhibition shows the devastating effects of the long cold winter of 1963 and the 1987 hurricane. Earlier this year we experienced the hottest temperatures ever recorded for the month of June making Bernie Gudge’s display of pictures of extreme weather very relevant.
Wed., August 9th	Summer Evening Walk led by Nigel Brown
August 25th – 28th	Exhibition “Visual Marks” by Elizabeth Saunders and friends. Includes Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August
September 2nd – October 29th	Exhibition “Ripping Yarns and the Tale of the Forgotten Author – The story of Percy F Westerman” by Nigel Gossop
October 5th	Talk “The Mystery of the Haberdasher’s Scissors” by Alison Habens and Matt Wingett
October 29th	Museum Closes
November 2nd	Talk “Women in the Law and the Life of an Old Bailey Judge” by Her Honour Judge Sarah Monroe KC
December	Thank You Tea Party for volunteers

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Preview of Exhibitions in the David Rudkin Room

“Visual Marks”

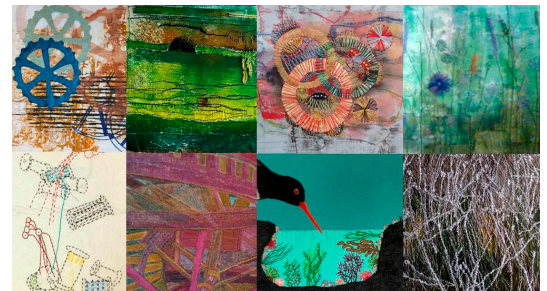
A colourful display of embroidery and mixed craft work.

“Ripping Yarns and the Tale of the Forgotten Author – the Story of Percy F Westerman”

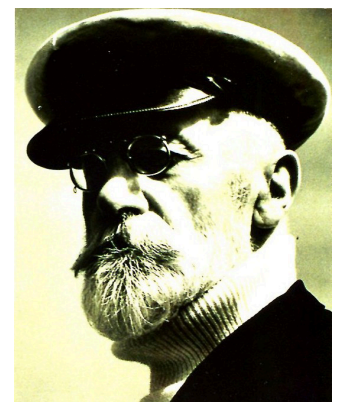
This exhibition includes books and ephemera from Nigel Gossop’s Westerman’s Yarns Collection and charts the life and works of one of Britain’s most prolific writers of children’s adventure books – many of them written and published during the First World War. Nigel has been researching this Portsmouth born author for more than 30 years. Percy Westerman knew Emsworth well and could often be seen participating in various local sailing regattas and events. Before he started writing children’s books Westerman submitted articles about his sailing experiences to the popular yachting press. In 1905 he was a founder member of the Fareham Sailing Club.

By the time of his death in 1959 he had written more than 170 books and numerous short stories and serials for magazines including *The Boy’s Own Paper* and *The Scout*.

This display includes some of the attractive cover and dust wrapper illustrations of Westerman’s books that were designed by more than 60 famous artists / illustrators to attract generations of young readers to pick them off the shelves.



The collage (above) and the Visual Marks exhibition of textile art includes works by Sue Emery, Wendy Fleckner, Elizabeth Saunders, Janet Ferguson, Kate L’Amie and Sue Evans



Percy F Westerman

Portsmouth – Harlots, Dung & Glory

Part 1: 1100 – 1800 From nothing to world renown

The last talk of the 2022/23 season was held in the Mountford Room of the Community Centre on Thursday evening 4th May. Andrew Negus was an eloquent and entertaining speaker who promised his audience tales of murder, mayhem, disease, first voyages to America and Australia and all within the context of the development of both the dockyard and the city of Portsmouth.



Andrew Negus

Old maps and the influence of Kings and wealthy men featured early in this illustrated talk. Andrew set the scene in 1100 when Portsmouth as a naval town did not exist. The area around what became known as old Portsmouth was the little morass of swamp and mud. The great morass lay further south near the later Tudor building of Southsea Castle.

William the Conqueror used Portsea Island as a port on his way home to Normandy. Ships were needed for the voyage so a settlement grew up to service them. Horses needed to be looked after, his retinue needed to be fed and thus a small hamlet grew up around the Camber which was a muddy, shingle spit.

Later, a naval dockyard was established and expanded as our colonies grew and more ships were required. The town's population increased as more and more people found work to service the needs of the Navy. Defences were added but conditions in the town were no better than centuries before.

Portsmouth had a reputation for debauchery and drunkenness. The harlots/prostitutes of the 18th century were called the Portsmouth Poles. The town's growth continued and more defences were built including the Hulse Lines and Fort Cumberland, the port expanded and Haslar Hospital was built. All was set for the rise of Nelson and Napoleon.

The evening ended with members of the audience voting to hear Part 2, with questions on Spice Island and the holding of the raffle.

Preview of the Autumn Talks

October 5th

The Mystery of the Haberdasher's Scissors

Writers and researchers Alison Habens and Matt Wingett claim to have discovered an extraordinary fact about the three famous literary figures of the 19th century – H G Wells, Arthur Conan Doyle and Rudyard Kipling. Alison and Matt suggest that these three men met in the early 1880s in the Old Drapery Bazaar, Hide's Emporium on King's Road, Southsea and were involved in a dark mystery that might have come straight from one of their own stories.

Hear it unfold through a series of extracts from their autobiographies, solve a few clues and work out where the boundary between true history and pure invention sits.

Alison is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Portsmouth and leads the Portsmouth Writers Hub. Matt is a publisher, editor, designer, local historian, rare book dealer and general dogsbody of *Life is Amazing* – dedicated to publishing books.

November 2nd

Women in the Law and the Life of an Old Bailey Judge

Her Honour Judge Sarah Munroe KC became a QC in 2002 and a Judge in 2011. In 2016 she became one of only 30 Senior Circuit Judges and one of only 15 at the Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey) trying serious cases frequently involving murder trials.

On Thursday 28th July 2022 Sarah made UK legal history when she delivered the first televised broadcast life sentence at the Old Bailey.

Judge Munroe will talk about her career as a lawyer for the last 40 years and her work at the Old Bailey.

From the Chairman



I would like to record my thanks to the Stewards' team who have volunteered to steward the Museum continuously for the first three months of the season. Volunteers have come forward in a timely fashion, so, as a result, there have been very few last-minute concerns. We still have the second half of the season to go, so please keep an eye on the available sessions on the regular updates of the stewards' schedule. Ben Timmis, newly elected to the Committee, will be taking over the scheduling of stewards from me – in the early days, I will be supporting him.

Treasure Hunt and Brownie Visit

Gordon Braddock organised a very successful Treasure Hunt on 21st June. This was the first hunt we had run since 2019, so Gordon did a remarkable job, almost starting from scratch. Anne Adamson, Christine and Terry Stubbington helped Gordon with administration and refreshments. The Treasure Hunt was well-supported by the local scouts. Shelagh Standen hosted the first of a series of Brownie pack sessions planned for the summer at the Museum.

Maintenance

Our landlords, overseen by Tony Stimson, have been repairing the structure of the building. The roof above the main exhibition room has been repaired, but the repair has not yet been fully tested! A new blue front door has been installed. The expectation is that it will be more weatherproof, but again it has not yet been fully tested. Sadly, there has been a delay on the window because it was more rotten than first thought, so it will have to be remade, rather than repaired. Tony is pushing for the window to be replaced as soon as possible because its absence makes the Museum look rather scruffy. Work is also required on the uprights supporting the store in the southwest corner.

Website

Trevor Smith has been working with Clive Roberts on a revised website which will allow more of our collection (particularly the photographs) to be available online. The changeover will take place shortly. In the meantime, the Committee has set up an IT subcommittee to recommend changes to improve our online and museum services. In particular, to make them easily accessible to members of the Trust and the general public.

Talks

Nigel Gossop has been working on the talks programme for next winter. Details of the planned talks this autumn are on page 3. I hope you will agree that it is a programme that is both diverse and fascinating. So, buy your tickets from Bookends as soon as you can after 1st September!



The Denvilles Brownie pack of 22 girls and 5 adults visited the Museum on Monday, 3rd July. All seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves and the favoured exhibit was the typewriter in the P G Wodehouse gallery

Projects

We are beginning to think about the projects for winter 2023/24. Firstly, we will continue the campaign to redecorate the Main Room, focussing on the western end. As you will be aware, this is not an easy task. Secondly, we are considering how we can fit in an extra display case to house the Black Rod uniform. In the short term, we have moved some displays around within the Museum to simulate one of the alternatives. I would welcome feedback as we evaluate the options.

Brickmaking

As you know, the Museum only accepts objects with a strong Emsworth provenance, simply because we do not have the space to do anything else. As you will see overleaf, the Brickmaking exhibition has triggered the donation of some locally made bricks as used on the Museum building which we have accepted into the collection.

Trevor Davies

Brickmaking in Emsworth – Postscript

Now that the Brickmaking exhibition has closed, we can celebrate the interaction with the Emsworth community that has further enhanced the brick-making story.

The Museum originally benefitted from donations made by Noel Pycroft when the Pycroft's Hayling Island brickworks closed in 1988. A visit by his son, Ian Pycroft, who was included in the pictures in the exhibition, helped to clarify the terminology of brickmaking. Ian kindly pointed out where we had gone wrong in the descriptions. He has also offered the Museum a film of Brickmaking at his father's brickworks.

His cousin, Aaron Pycroft, whose father ran the Pycroft's Chidham brickworks visited the Museum and donated a book written by Graham Fielder and published in 1974 which describes the brickmaking process in great detail.

One visitor was very pleased to see his great, great grandfather mentioned as an Emsworth brickmaker.

We have also received donations of Rowlands Castle bricks that will enhance our collection. In particular, Debbie from Victoria Road spotted the borrowed brick that matched those around the Museum's North Street windows and donated an identical one she had in her garden! We greatly appreciated her generosity, because the Museum now has an example for its own collection, after the borrowed one was returned to Bursledon Brickworks Museum.

The additional bricks have now been used to complement the display in the Main Room of the Museum. But we now do not need any more!

Trevor Davies

A Memorable Day at Buckingham Palace

Our Chairman Trevor Davies was honoured to be invited to the Garden Party to celebrate the Coronation at Buckingham Palace on 9th May. After his initial surprise, he concluded that the invitation was in recognition of the work of Emsworth Museum within the community. The Royal hosts were William and Catherine, Prince and Princess of Wales, who were presented to a number of selected guests.

Treasure Hunt 2023

The annual stroll around Emsworth resumed on the evening of Wednesday, 21st June after a break of several years. A healthy number of teams of young scouts were joined by seniors.

Marching past the Community Centre and St James Church treasure hunters followed a route along North Street and Palmers Road to Brook Meadow. Several trees had been adorned with numbers and pictures by the Brook Meadow Conservation Group for Havant Green Week. This enabled the meadow to be explored using treasure hunt-style questions, possibly for the first time. Along Lillywhite's Path the participants ventured to Queen and King Streets, Tower Street, the harbour beach and South Street using clues to search for answers to questions. Perusing plaques and signposts, headstones and noticeboards they sought out features of local history and geography, local characters and even code-cracking and the tide table. From St Peter's Square they ambled along the High Street, through the underpass back to North Street and base.

The weather was ideal and the terrain kind to the feet. However, only a few hours before, water in Emsworth Harbour was coated with a fresh covering of thick green algae and seaweed, a hazard the organiser had not anticipated. The less adventurous did not tread the beach!

It is anticipated that the Treasure Hunt tradition will continue. Many thanks to everyone who helped this year. It is a lovely outreach event, enjoyed by (most of?) those who attended, competitors and organisers. Please consider coming next year when the route, clues and questions will be different.

Gordon Braddock



Some members of the First Emsworth Scout Group outside the Museum. Team Hawk were the winners of the youth teams (and the adult team winners were anonymous)

Arts Trail 2023

Saturday, 22nd April was the first day of the Emsworth Arts Trail 2023. This year's annual festival proved to be every bit as popular as in previous years. Many arts' aficionados included the Museum in their trails. Dr Ben Timmis, LRPS, semi-retired consultant radiologist and committee member of the Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust was the Arts Trail artist in the David Rudkin Room. His photographic exhibition was part of this year's trail and ran on the 22nd and 23rd April as well as on the following bank holiday weekend

Ben has been taking photographs for over 60 years, now mainly around Emsworth where he lives with his wife Sue and dog Daisy.



Trees at Nore Barn

As Ben said:

"I live in Emsworth, which has a wealth of photographic opportunities, blessed as it is with ever changing light and water ... The images on display, apart from the large frameless ones, were all photographed, printed and framed by myself. I do not outsource anything."

Ben learnt traditional photographic development and enlargement techniques while working temporarily in a professional darkroom. Digital photography is also part of his repertoire.

All the photographs on display were, and are, available in three sizes in varying limited editions. Each print is accompanied by a signed Certificate of Authenticity. The largest frameless high definition prints are produced in Germany and these have a limited edition of 10.

Several of Ben's photographic images of Emsworth have been made into greetings cards and are on sale in the Museum or at Bookends of Emsworth.

Archaeology on the Coastal Plain

This exhibition, curated by Ann Davies, showcased some of the work undertaken in recent years by Chichester & District Archaeology Society (CDAS). Ann is a past chairman of the Society and has been involved in several investigations and excavations. Her exhibition in the David Rudkin Room ran from 27th of May to the 2nd of July. Four places on the coastal plain featured in the exhibition – East Head, Medmerry, Thorney island and Warblington.

CDAS have been monitoring the fast-eroding Medmerry shoreline where the sea has been allowed to encroach onto the land creating a salt marsh habitat. Features dating from the Bronze Age to the 20th century have been recorded before being swept away. A potential wooden fish trap was identified at Medmerry and another confirmed at East Head. Both probably date from the 16th/17th century.

On Thorney Island annual assessments are made of the condition of WWII structures. In addition, investigations into features such as a medieval field system have been undertaken. A number of pieces of Roman pottery and some other artefacts were discovered tucked away in St Nicolas Church on the Island. Apparently, they were found in the 1940s when the base was being developed. CDAS members assessed the pottery and a permanent exhibition was established in the church.

CDAS investigated the Warblington Roman Villa site from 2008 to 2019. These revealed a moderate sized villa complex around a 50 metre square courtyard. It is thought that there would have been an access point from the harbour. Artefacts found at the site can be viewed in a cabinet in the Museum's Main Room.



Romano-British (1st - 4th century BCE) pottery now on display in St Nicholas Church on Thorney Island



Tribute to Mike and Ann Edwards

I'm sad to report that the Trust has recently lost two of its keen and hard working supporters.

Ann Edwards died in March followed by Michael her husband of 47 years in June.

Michael and Ann lived in Emsworth for a number of years and when they became members of EM&HT, with their knowledge of the town and the local area, they were able to make a significant contribution to the activities of the Trust and Museum. They often joined other Trust members on group holidays and Michael enjoyed photographing the towns and sites they visited – later showing the pictures at meetings and events.

As a Steward Ann was quietly efficient and cheerful and always greeted visitors with a smile.

Michael was a professional photographer and he had a large collection of photographs of Havant and the surrounding area that he had taken over many years. He also took on the extensive project of photographing the course of the River Ems from its source. Michael's public showings of these pictures in the North Street Community Centre were very popular and always drew an enthusiastic audience.

For a short time Michael maintained and updated the Trust's website and took many of the photographs used in the Newsletters.

Before he retired Michael owned a shop in West Street, Havant. This was at a time when anyone requiring a photograph for a passport or a special occasion would visit his studio where he had the required lighting and drapes. Many local brides remember him as the photographer that was engaged to record the happy day and he often supplied the wedding cars.

Michael was a keen cyclist and a member of the South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society. I believe that once he attended a local show riding a pennyfarthing bicycle and appropriately dressed in a deerstalker hat and plus fours.

Dorothy Bone

Art Invisible, Roger Sadler and *the* Postcard

Membership secretary, Shelagh Standen and I continue to undertake outreach about once a month at Art Invisible at Hewitt's Community Hub in South Street. Here young folk with learning disabilities working in a design workshop are encouraged to develop new ideas and to express them in art. The added bonus is that cash is generated from the sale of their original artwork. We take artefacts along with us that match an agreed theme. We discuss them and the culture around them which helps fire fertile imagination. This has been remarkably successful.

One young artist, Roger Sadler, pressed the above right post card into my hand offering it for the Museum. Dated from around the 1950s, the card shows two ladies in the doorway of E A Stevens, greengrocer and general stores of North Street. One of the two is Roger's relative Mrs Ada Smith and we were wondering if our readership can identify the



other lady. E A Stevens currently features in the Museum's small 'Self-Sufficient Emsworth' display in the Main Room and is an excellent example of the popularity of these small outlets that oftentimes specialised in selling everything – well, almost everything.

Philip A. Magrath, Curator

Unexploded Bomb, Bath Road

Can you help?

Was your family in Bath Road, Emsworth in 1943? Helen Price, daughter of Jack Victor Morgan, visited Emsworth Museum in June to try and find out more about an unexploded bomb dropped by the Luftwaffe that destroyed her father's family home and that of a neighbour.

Helen believes, and the 1939 directory confirms, that the Morgan family lived at No. 13 but according to another website the houses destroyed were Nos 5 and 6. Does anyone know whether the houses in Bath Road have been renumbered?

Jack Morgan and his twin sister, Joan, were born in Lee-on-Solent to Alfred Thomas (Tom) Morgan and his wife Clara (née Fisher) on 25th July 1924. They had two older sisters.

Jack and his family moved to Bath Road sometime in the 1930s and later father Tom began working as a bus driver for Southdown Motor Services. On the night of the bombing the family were not in the house. Jack wanted something from his bedroom so he rushed inside, up the stairs, and at that moment the bomb fell on the home. It did not explode but



What were the house numbers of the homes destroyed by an unexploded bomb?

the force of the impact blew Jack through a window. He survived and lived to tell his own children the tale.

The Morgans and their neighbours were evacuated to Washington Road School until they could be rehoused. The photograph above shows the unexploded bomb being winched aboard a lorry. There is little sign of the remains of the bombed houses that were built sometime in the late 1920s.

Helen knows that her grandparents later lived in Victoria and St James roads. Any help to flesh out these facts would be greatly appreciated.

Emsworth Museum has a new blue front door

Havant Borough Council (HBC) maintains the exterior fabric of 10B North Street and earlier this year decided to replace the wooden front door that over time has become increasingly affected by the south westerly winds and rain.

In June a new blue composite door with a modern locking system was fitted and this will provide much greater security than the old mortice lock. We are pleased with the new door and grateful to HBC for providing it.

Before the door could be installed past Chairman, Tony Stimson, liaised with the HBC Maintenance Team, Leaves the builder and a Portsmouth locksmith to plan the work, ensuring that additional new keys were obtained from the manufacturer of the lock for keyholder's use as soon as the door was operational.

Installation was done with minimal disturbance to Museum volunteers and visitors. Thank you Tony. Also many thanks to Wendy Bright and the Chairman who issued the new keys to keyholders.

Dorothy Bone

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