



# Emsworth Maritime & Historical Trust NEWSLETTER

President: The Rt Hon. Lord Willetts of Havant  
Reg. Charity No. 1204910

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August 2025

## Treasure Hunt Success



*Scouts and scout leaders photographed in The Friends Community Garden before competition commenced. Treasure Hunt organiser, Gordon Braddock can be glimpsed centre back*

On a lovely, warm summer evening ten groups of adults and scouts gathered in The Friends Community Garden by the Emsworth Medical Practice to take part in the Trust's annual treasure hunt. The search for answers to wide ranging clues, set by EMHT committee member Gordon Braddock, took place between 6pm and 9pm on Wednesday, 18th June.

The hunt led each group to Westbourne via the recreation ground, Belle Vue Lane, Wickor Way and Westbourne Avenue. The return journey followed the east river Ems past the alpaca café, over the A27 and down Lumley Lane. Waiting to mark the question sheets were Anne Adamson, Terry Stubbington and Gordon. Refreshments were available for the competitors, many of whom welcomed a soft drink. One of the four groups of

Scouts completed the course in record time having run most of the way!

In the adult groups, Him and Her came first with The Trio of ladies being runners up. The winning scout team were Woodpeckers with Ravens a close second.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and to the adult winners who plan to devise next year's treasure hunt.

Thank you to The Friends for allowing us to use their garden, to the volunteer markers and to Steve Banham, Vince O'Connor and Keith Mitchelson for trying out the route and feeding back useful suggestions.

*Christine Bury and Gordon Braddock*

## Diary Dates

Summer Evening Walks (duration approximately 90 minutes) £5.00 per person. Walks start from outside the Museum at 6pm. Please register prior to the day by emailing Nigel Brown at brown.150@btinternet.com. Walks plus Museum visit outside opening hours £6.00 per person.

Exhibitions listed below are held in the David Rudkin Room.

July 12th – Aug. 25th	<b>Exhibition</b> “Emsworth’s Forgotten Insurrection” by Neil Spurgeon
August 6th	Summer Evening <b>Walk</b> led by Nigel Brown
Aug. 29th – Nov. 2nd	<b>Exhibition</b> “Portsmouth to Chichester Canal” by Nigel Gossop
November 2nd	<b>Museum Closes</b>

**Emsworth Museum normal opening times are Saturdays, Bank Holidays and Fridays in August  
10.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays 1.30pm to 4.30pm**



### From the Chairman

#### Emsworth’s Women

As I draft this message in early July, the temporary exhibition “Emsworth’s Women” curated by Phoebe Atkinson-Eberle is coming to a close. Phoebe’s work has been much admired. It has also succeeded in bringing a number of first-time visitors into the Museum to see what has been written about their friends and relatives. The selection of the women was always going to be a tricky task – primarily because what they did was not always well-documented. So, the exhibition was driven to some extent by the information available. Nevertheless, both Phoebe and I are grateful to all those family members who contributed from their personal archives. Truly, the exhibition has demonstrated the symbiotic relationship the Museum strives to have with the Emsworth community.

#### Emsworth’s Forgotten Insurrection

The next exhibition opens on 12th July. Titled “Emsworth’s Forgotten Insurrection”, it traces the events surrounding the Swing Riots of November 1830. Emsworth Museum has Emsworth history as its clear focus. Nevertheless, there are times when Emsworth plays a significant part in national and international events. The Swing Riots were one such, involving the Duke of Wellington (the Prime Minister of the day) and Robert Peel (Home Secretary). The exhibition traces the local impact of the insurrection. There are also remarkable similarities with some of the social conditions of today – climate change; the poorest members of society struggling to survive; the unintended consequences of legislation; the frustration of young men because of the lack of

prospects. This exhibition is part of a wider project to research and record the events around the Swing Riots ahead of the 200th anniversary in 2030.

#### 50/50 Club

Recently, I have had to write to those of you who were members of the 50/50 club with the sad news that we had taken the decision to close the club. Updated legislation means that we now require to register the club with Havant Borough Council in order to run the 50/50 club. A corollary of the licensing regime requires us to have a formal set of rules in place which must be submitted as part of the registration application.

I am deeply grateful to Peter Morse who has run the 50/50 club quietly and efficiently for many years, according to a simple set of rules, with which everyone was happy. Peter has wanted to retire for some time, and we have so far failed to find a replacement for him. So, it seemed self-evident that if we wished to continue with this successful fundraising endeavour, we would have to have a completely fresh start.

In my letter, I asked the members of the 50/50 club what they would like us to do with the balance of their subscriptions. Those who replied, universally chose to donate the money to the Museum. Accordingly, we will take the view that this approach applies to all 50/50 club members with outstanding balances. We have now closed the accounts, and if you have not taken action to cancel your standing order, it will not be processed by your bank.

#### New Gifts to the Museum

As you know, the Museum is cautious about accepting gifts. They must have a strong Emsworth provenance. Fulfilling this criterion, we have recently

accepted:

- A 1947 receipt for an X-Ray at Emsworth Hospital for £1. 11s and 6d – one and a half guineas – equivalent to more than £50 today.
- A photograph of the sailing boat Condor off the Isle of Wight. Condor was an Emsworth boat. She was designed in Emsworth by John Sharp; she was built in Emsworth by Bowman Yachts in what is now known as the John King Shipyard; she was sailed by Emsworth resident Sir Peter Blake. In 1979, skippered by Peter Blake, she took line honours in the otherwise disastrous Fastnet Race.

- The shop sign of Charles Bailey, Clockmaker, Jeweller and Optician. We already have one of his clocks, so this object will add to the story.

### **Volunteers thank you party**

Historically, we have held this gathering in December, just before Christmas. In recent years we have found that a number of volunteers cannot attend because of the plethora of events at that time. So, we have decided to move this event to one afternoon in January 2026, when the weather is gloomy and we all need cheering up.

*Trevor Davies*

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## **Emsworth's Women in the 20th Century**

What do we know about them? They were our neighbours, friends, possibly people we had heard of but often they were unknown to us. Phoebe Atkinson-Eberle's exhibition in Emsworth Museum has helped to bring some of their lives and legacy to a wider audience. Her display in the David Rudkin Room ran from 31st May to 6th July and highlighted just some of the women in the town who made a substantial difference to the life of Emsworth. One criterion had to be that they were no longer alive.

Frustratingly, little is known about some significant people and the purpose of the exhibition was to showcase a few of these individuals and to ask visitors to add to our knowledge. For example, while we have some information about Margaret Foster who bequeathed the RNLI £2 million on her death, little is known about local band leader Kathleen Leslie who entertained troops at QA hospital in WW1 and at naval bases around Portsmouth in WW2.

**The women featured on the display boards in this exhibition were women who “looked a challenge in the eye and gave it a wink” – Gina Carey. They were:**

**Representatives – Rivka Cresswell, Jo Dyer, Virginia Wilson-Smith, The Sisters of St Anne of Bethany**

**Pioneers – Mary Bray, Janna Cundall, Christine Phillips, Margaret Rule**

**Creators – Hope Corbett-Wilson, Lizzie Dymock, Ella King-Hall, Betty Leggatt, Kathleen Leslie**

**Role models – Pat & Eileen Carty, Daphne Else, Daphne Laycock, Eunice Marley, Eunice Sanderson, Isobel Silver**

**Stansted's women – Moyra Browne, Helen Crewe, Roberte Ponsonby, Elspeth & Ruth Tomalin**

**Guardians – Elisabeth Kinloch, Molly Way**

**Historians – Valerie Bacon, Jane Jewell, Daphne Meryon, Linda Newell, Ada Treagust**

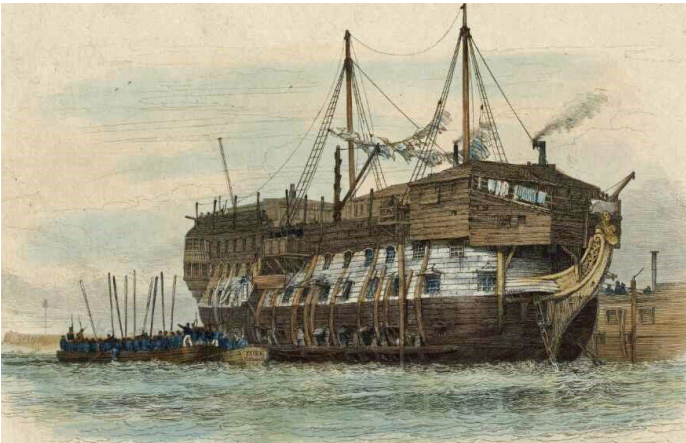
**Nurses – Constance Anderson, Elizabeth Braithwaite, Edwina Bristow, Ethel Dingle, Doris Griffiths, Daisy Wyncat James**



*Members of the Emsworth Mothers' Union photographed in the early years of the 20th century*

# Emsworth's Forgotten Insurrection

## 1830 Swing Riots



*The Prison Hulk York, moored in Langstone Harbour. Image courtesy of The National Library of Australia*

Opening on Saturday, 12th July, the current exhibition which ends on 25th August in the David Rudkin Room is on the Swing Riots that occurred in the local area. What was the cause and what happened to the young rioters? Neil Spurgeon, local historian and exhibition curator, set out to answer these questions.

The price of corn rose in the 1820s but while farmers grew richer their labourers were paid poorly. This meant that the advent of the new threshing machines was a sensitive issue as traditionally threshing was done in the autumn and winter when there was little alternative employment. The harvest had been subject to disastrous weather for the previous two years, limiting farm incomes. Mostly, the rioters wanted to be given a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. The 200-year old Poor Law was a deterrent to a fair wage because ultimately the parish would have to look after the men born in the locality. The Swing Riots began in East Kent and spread along the south coast.

The local rioters may have assumed that as there were two magistrates who had jurisdiction in Havant and who differed in their approach to settling disputes that they would not act in concord. In this they were mistaken. The magistrates were Sir John Theophilus Lee of Bedhampton and Captain Henry Leeke RN of West Leigh, Havant. Politically, Lee was a Tory and Leeke a Whig Radical.

The Swing Riots broke out in the district on 18th November 1830. In addition to considerable destruction of farm machinery and incidental damage in Emsworth, extensive damage was caused in Warblington and East Leigh.



*Traditional threshing flail*

Throughout Hampshire some 300 men were arrested including 8 from the Havant area – this number included men from Emsworth, Hermitage and Westbourne. Only one of them, George Todd (or Tadd), escaped transportation to Van Diemen's land (Tasmania). Along with over 200 others the perpetrators were sent to the prison hulk, York, in Langstone Harbour and then transferred to the ship, Eliza. Conditions were harsh on board both vessels. Once having served their sentence or been pardoned the rioters were free to start new lives and some prospered.

Remarkably, some of the underlying causes of the social unrest in 1830 are similar to social issues today; namely, low wages, unintended consequences of legislation and climate change.



*Edward Fennell (right), overall co-ordinator of the 200th anniversary of the Swing Riots, discussing the story of the 1830 riot with exhibition curator Neil Spurgeon*

### Ems Valley Memorial Arboretum (EVMA)

An In Memoriam binder was placed in Emsworth Museum by Kate O'Rourke and Yvonne Copeland of the EVMA Trust in May. It is one of three, the others are in Emsworth Library and Westbourne Parish Church.

All are available for public viewing.

# Emsworth Arts Trail

## Land, Sea, Figure and Form

Nic Cowper was the artist in residence in the David Rudkin Room during the Arts Trail which ran over two weekends, 26-27th April, and the Bank Holiday weekend, 3rd-5th May. The sunny weather, not too hot nor too cold, brought out local residents and visitors to view the artwork on display.

Passionate about watercolour, Nic shares his enthusiasm through exhibitions and teaching. This exhibition featured over five years of work. Some paintings were framed, others unframed, some pictures could be viewed in books while others were available as greeting cards. Nic paid homage to trees, the local rolling landscape and the ever changing seascape. His figure studies portrayed the human landscape.

Many of the paintings that could be seen in the current exhibition featured trees. Nic has always been fascinated by them not just as living organisms but that they remind us of our past, present and future. He sees them as being essential to our survival, both spiritually, physically and mentally. They are part of our heritage, a living legacy.



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## Mea Culpa

It's all my fault. The income from the 50/50 Club has declined over the past few years as, unfortunately, many of our longstanding members are no longer with us. I was looking for ways to reinvigorate the club and looked at the rules of similar organisations. I knew that, as a 'small society lottery' we did not need a licence but, where I was wrong, the 2005 Gambling Act did require us to register with the local authority. To my horror, the penalties for running an unregistered gambling den are substantial and the thought of Trevor Davies and I serving up to 51 weeks in prison with a top level fine caused us to cease all operations of the Club with immediate effect. Of course, it wasn't gambling in the usual sense; no one ever joined just for the prizes. Membership was a bit like the RNLI, the National Trust or even the Emsworth Museum. You knew that it was a good cause and it gave you a warm feeling.

As a result of the abrupt stoppage, several of our members were offered a refund for the unused portions of their annual subscription and it says much for their generosity that none applied for this.

When I took over from Liz Smythe in 2007 I was given two lists. The first was a list of members with their holding in tickets and the second was a list of tickets held by members. Needless to say these lists did not correspond. Ticket prices remained at £6.00 though the cost of administration has risen dramatically. The first prize on the monthly draw was

£30 with a second prize of £15 but with the increase of ticket sales we were able to increase these in 2021 to £40 and £20 respectively. In all this time only two members have won first and second prizes in the same month. Some members have never won.

In the 36 years since David Rudkin, our Founder Member and first Chairman, created the Club we have raised over £20,000 for the enhancement of the Museum or about double this when adjusted for RPI. Not a vast amount but it has helped to make decisions when money was scarce – in particular during Covid.

Looking back over 18 years it has been fun running the Club and I am sorry to see it go.

Perhaps a future David Rudkin will dream up a financial scheme for enhancing the Museum. We could call it a 50/50 Club. I do hope so.

*Peter Morse*

## Congratulations to the 2025 50/50 Club winners

Month	No	Name	Prize	Value
January	9	Mr R Savage	First	£40.00
January	110	Mrs R Williams	Second	£20.00
February	184	Mr A Fox	First	£40.00
February	113	Mr M Knowles	Second	£20.00
March	130	Mr N Craig	First	£40.00
March	126	Mr N Craig	Second	£20.00



*Dr Nick Pamment holding part of an illegally imported elephant tusk found at Heathrow Airport*

## Wildlife Crime: A Global issue

Dr Nick Pamment, Director of Innovation in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Portsmouth\*, gave the final spring talk in the Community Centre on Thursday evening, 1st May.

Nick's interest in wildlife started as a child growing up in the Outer Hebrides. His anecdotes included one of him fly fishing with friends in one of the lakes of a game estate. The keeper caught them but let them off with a caution little knowing that they had already caught a salmon. Nick now finds ways to catch poachers.

Wildlife crime is any illegal activity that violates international, national or regional laws designed to protect wild animals, plants, and their habitats. This includes actions like poaching, illegal trading of protected species, and damaging or destroying wildlife habitats. Rhino horn, for instance, is more valuable than gold. It is a highly lucrative criminal industry. Nick travels all over the world to help combat this activity.

### UK Wildlife Crime Priorities

1. Birds of Prey Persecution. 70% of prosecutions relate to gamekeepers. Shoots have to be profitable. There is a trade in peregrine falcons to the Middle East.
2. Hare Coursing. Links to organised crime. Betting on how many times a dog will get the hare to change direction. In the pursuit of it criminals will attack farmers and thief machinery.
3. Deer Poaching. High powered crossbows and firearms are often used. Criminal links to the illegal meat trade.
4. Fish. Links to organised criminals netting entire rivers. Use of explosives.
5. Freshwater Pearl Mussels. They are slow growing and can only be found occasionally in pristine rivers. They are a barometer of water quality. Criminals smash mussels indiscriminately trying to find the elusive pearl mussel.
6. Bat Persecution. Linked to fraud whereby unscrupulous land owners can obtain false bat surveys stating that there are no bats on a particular site.
7. Badger Baiting. Individuals will find a badger set, disable the badger which will then be torn apart by dogs. Takes place on South Downs. Injuries to both dogs and badgers can be horrific.

### Areas of Concern in the UK

1. Grey squirrel. It is a non-native species which is out competing the indigenous red squirrel
2. Release of North American crayfish into UK waterways
3. Worldwide illegal trade of birds
4. Fanatical egg collectors
5. Seals being shot for straying too close to fish farms
6. Trapping of finches
7. Illegal timber trade

### Why focus on wildlife crime?

- Animal cruelty. Poachers take rhino horn out with an axe
- Destroys balance of nature if animals go extinct
- Link between wildlife crime and the cause of COVID
- Lucrative source of funds

### Can forensics save the world's most endangered mammal, the pangolin?

When poachers pluck the scales to use them for medicinal purposes, they leave fingerprints. Nick passed out gelatine lifters developed at Portsmouth to members of the audience. These gelatine patches can be used in the field to lift off fingerprints which can then be viewed using an oblique angled light source such as a torch.

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\* The University of Portsmouth has the largest criminology unit in Europe. Nick teaches about wildlife crime up to post graduate level.



*Geoff could often be found hard at work in the Museum*

## Geoff Higgins, 1935-2025

Geoff who died in March this year aged 90 was a Museum stalwart who was known to many of you. He undertook several roles but his most enduring legacy was as treasurer of the Trust from 2000 until 2016. He was only the third treasurer to take on this financial responsibility.

When he handed over the treasurership to Phil Sharpe, Geoff took on the task of documenting and archiving the immense amount of material bequeathed to the Museum by honorary archivists Roy and Sheila Morgan. To this end, Geoff built bookshelves at his home in Maisemore Gardens to house the records and spent years sorting it before the data was available for research in the Museum's archive room.

Family history and local history were two facets of research that intrigued Geoff. He contributed short items to the newsletter and longer articles to *The Emsworth Echo*. Making use of the census returns, he also helped put on a 2012 exhibition in the David Rudkin Room showcasing "Emsworth People Over Seven Decades".

He was a great help to me as editor of the Museum periodicals because he masterminded the distribution of both the newsletter and the annual bulletin. He did that until well into the 2020s and knew all the distributors.

When Geoff died earlier this year many of his friends from the Museum, including his longstanding friend, Peter Morse, were present at his funeral which was held in the Oaks Crematorium at Havant.

*Christine Bury*



## Sheila Morgan, 1929-2025

Impressed by their research and accurate record keeping, David Rudkin appointed Sheila and her husband Roy to be honorary archivists to the Trust. They helped set up the Archive, now the Research, Room with extensive files about Emsworth properties and people. *The Emsworth Echo* included regular updates of their research.

Sheila Morgan died in Emsworth on 28th April, aged 96, just a few weeks after Geoff Higgins.

Sheila married Roy in 1950, initially living in Stafford, but moving to Emsworth in 1953 where their only daughter, Pat, was born. In 1956 they moved into a new house in Beacon Square. Roy died in 2020, and Sheila moved to White Lodge care home in 2023.

Always curious, the duo enjoyed classes in art and music appreciation, and local history research. Their house filled up with all the research files. Always questioning and with a very wide general knowledge acquired from lectures and reading, Sheila was an avid crossworder. Her great skill was an eagle-eyed attention to detail which is clear in her work for the Museum. She was always very unassuming about that work, but the evidence of it is her legacy.

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## Curator's Corner Extra

Our thanks to Janice Uttley, retired weights and measures inspector, EMHT member and reader of the May newsletter who shed further light on curator, Phil McGrath's article on the milliner's brass rule. Janice added:

"The Crown VR 559 mark is a weights and measures inspector's verification stamp. 559 is the inspector's personal number. The stamp mark has to be placed as close as reasonably possible to each end of the measure to limit the possibilities of tampering to reduce the verified overall length of the measure. The mark verifies the equipment as 'fit for use for trade' and would still be valid except that it is no longer legal to trade in imperial yards. The stamp mark could have been applied by the inspector for the area where it was manufactured or by a local inspector where the measure was installed."

## The Lumley Letters

The Museum holds transcripts of 15 letters written by Eunice Terry about the childhoods she and her six sisters experienced in Lumley Mill. They make delightful reading.

One of the sisters, Elise, wrote an introduction to the package and I can do no better than reproduce the first half, slightly trimmed.

*“The Lumley Letters were written in response to the lively curiosity of two small nieces, Judy and Kay, who in the summer of 1952 came to us on holiday from Johannesburg. Whilst with us they were taken to see our old home, ‘Lumley Mill’ where, as children, we spent seven happy and exciting years.*

*Eunice was besieged with questions. With no time to answer them fully, she promised to write to them giving an account of our youthful adventures during that time. It was a promise that she kept, writing 15 letters in all, beginning with our move from 3 High Street to Lumley in January 1907 to the tragic fire in May 1915, which completely destroyed the old (wooden) mill but left the main house virtually unscathed.”*

The Terry family owned and milled at Lumley from James in 1860 to James A (his nephew) until March 1915 when it was sold to A E Everall, a major local farmer. Servants included maids, gardener, farm hands, groom, poultry man, miller, carter, racehorse trainer and more.

The letters tell of the wonderment of arrival day – would the coach get through as the tide was up and of finding that the only lighting was candles. Of everyday events like going to church – but very early 1900s style – and with the excitement of fighting the ‘Pink lady’ trying to steal their hassocks. Of ‘Daring Do’, when the sisters explored roof tops and attics and found blocked off rooms used by a deceased, reclusive relative. Of nature – hand catching (and bitten by) a pike – being told the prize new calf was dead. Of the vividly imagined ‘Celestial City’ (on the roof) reached by their ‘Pilgrims Walk’ including



*Six of the seven Terry sisters at Lumley Mill. For more information about other 20th century Emsworth women, please see the exhibition review on p3*

the ‘Hill of Difficulty’. Of the secret floor used by smugglers with its withdrawable ladder. Of inventing their own ‘Girl Scout’ group and having knickers and a straw hat eaten by a racehorse. Of Grandad saving the miller’s job by selling one of his racehorses.

In the letter recording the night of the fire, there is a most poignant moment when Eunice, watching, remembers that they all scratched their names in stonework amongst the roofs of the Mill, wondering how long it would be before anyone saw them, and the realisation that now – no-one would.

My particular interest was in finding references to Curly Collins, the last millwright of the area. Eunice writes of seeing a vision of ‘his happy face bobbing up and down amongst curtains of wood shavings’ during the nightmare of the fire. The most intriguing is a brief comment in Letter 10 about her telling of a time when an older sister had got stuck halfway over the working machinery and Curly saved the situation.

Please, please, if anyone has more information regarding this incident – I would love to know.

The letters are now in Folder 204 (Lumley Mill) in the Research Room. If the reader has David Rudkin’s book on the *River Ems*, a taster can be obtained from p62, where he reproduces most of Letter 15 about the night of the fire.

**Roger Wilding**

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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.

Printed by SRP Design & Print, Leigh Road, Chichester, PO19 8TU Tel: 01243 782988

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