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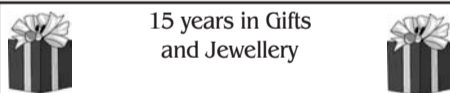
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Getting Around Emsworth Safely Without using a Car

Steve Pearce (Chair of Emsworth Community Board)

Would you like cycling, walking and travelling by mobility scooter to become easier and safer in Emsworth? If so, please consider supporting the Emsworth Community Street Audit being launched jointly by Emsworth Community Board (ECB) and the Emsworth Market Town Initiative.

The aim of this project is to identify and document all existing and potential routes for pedestrians, cyclists and users of wheelchairs or mobility scooters. It will identify the improvements needed to develop these access routes to a consistently high standard. The resulting document is termed a Community Street Audit (CSA) by transport policy experts. The aim is to have the CSA incorporated into a Town Access Plan to be adopted jointly by HCC, HBC and the Community Board in order to attract funding and ensure the consistency of future development with cycling and pedestrian needs.

Of course, there has been much action recently to improve cycling and pedestrian routes in Emsworth. Readers will have noted the recent changes to road layouts, pavements and crossings in Emsworth, which were carried out by Hampshire County Council. This work is now complete although we are still working with HCC to address concerns raised by ECB and local councillors. There is still hope that funding can be found for an extension of the cycle lane on the A259 as far as Bridge Road in place of the unsatisfactory 'red patches'.



Dropped curb being installed

The ECB in conjunction with Friends of the Earth has submitted a report to HCC and Havant Borough Council setting out a strategy for developing cycling routes in Emsworth. In addition, local councillors and action groups have been campaigning for the establishment of safe routes to schools within the town. Planning of some of these routes is well advanced and funds are being identified to implement them.

The Community Street Audit is designed to build upon these efforts and produce a comprehensive route plan for all types of non-motorised travel around Emsworth. We shall need volunteers to conduct surveys, walk routes and document the results on maps and in reports. If you would like to help, please contact me by email (steve.pearce@btinternet.com) or phone (01243 431615). We would particularly like to hear from pedestrians and those with physical disabilities.

Pavements in Emsworth

Ann Lanchbury

As promised, the Hampshire County Highways Department has honoured its agreement to repair pavements in Maismore Gardens, Brook Gardens and Westbourne Avenue. I would still like some assurance that this programme for 2007/8 will be ongoing and that the level of finances available will be increased, thus meeting the necessary funding for more pavement maintenance.

The BBC has revealed, via the Freedom of Information Act, that some councils have paid out £6m, excluding legal fees, in compensation to people who have been injured by tripping up on poor pavements since 2001. Is this not enough reason to make maintenance a priority? How does this comply with health and safety regulations? Surely it's better to spend the money on pavements than compensation and legal fees.

Emsworth Memorial Garden

Richard Jannaway (publicity officer FEMG)



People who pass the memorial sculpture in the park at the bottom of Hordean Road can be forgiven for wondering what is going on. 'Absence' still stands alone in the middle of its patch of rough grass and the garden around it still has to take shape.

The more observant will, however, have noticed that changes are taking place, trees have been pruned and damaged or unhealthy ones removed by the Council. The Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden have cleared weeds and sown poppies and cornflowers. If we get any rain, they will be sprouting by the time you read this. The work is being done voluntarily by the 'Friends' in order to create a fitting setting for the sculpture and to make the garden a pleasant place to be, while we wait to hear whether we have obtained the funding applied for to pay for the landscaping and permanent planting.

Please join the 'Friends' and get involved with their activities. You don't need to be a gardener to join in, as there are many other things that need doing, such as helping with fundraising. Even if you can't do the practical work, your support is still very much appreciated.

We will be having a stall at the Emsworth Show where you will be able to view the plans including an artist's impression, meet the 'Friends', ask questions and become a member. You can find out more about the 'Friends' by having a look at the folder in Emsworth Library, or visiting the Emsworth Memorial website: <http://www.emsworthmemorialtrail.org.uk/> To contact the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden, telephone or write to: Maurice Clarke (Secretary), 575 Southleigh Road, Emsworth, PO10 7TE. Tel: 01243 371486. Virginia Wilson-Smith (Chair), The Old School House, 5 School Lane, Emsworth, PO10 7ED. Tel: 01243 373744, or use the email links on the website.



Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden clearing the main bed to plant poppies. Left to right: Jayne, Sarah, Dave, Richard and Frances

Oral History at Emsworth Museum - Heather Lewis

The Museum has approximately 50 Oral History recordings of conversations with mainly local people, covering many aspects of life over the years in this area - education, many different occupations, WW2, hobbies, shops, sailing, etc.

We also have several video recordings of local events that have been made over the years. For details see the list in the museum, Emsworth library or visit our website at: www.emsworthmuseum.co.uk. You need to be a member of the Maritime & Historical Trust, which holds the copyright, to borrow the audio recordings.

Were you working during WWII? - Laura George

Testimony Films, a Bristol television company, is making a commemorative six part series about men and women who worked on the Home Front during the Second World War in the South West - "The Worker's Finest Hour". I would like to hear from anyone who lived or worked in the West Country (Bath, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire) with a story to tell especially if you were working in the following industries:

- On the land - (land girls, forestry workers, farmers)
- By the sea - (dockers, around the harbour, fisherman)
- Railways - (firemen, conductors, drivers)
- Mines - (miners, bevin boys).

If you have exciting, interesting or poignant experiences of working for your country during the war please contact me, Laura George on 0117 925 8589, email - laura.george@testimonyfilms.com or write to me at Testimony Films, 12 Great George St, Bristol BS1 5RH.

Where Modbury goes today could Emsworth follow?

Ray Cobbett



*Pete the Pelican died at Kiama after swallowing plastic bags.
(photo 'Planet Ark' : www.planetark.com)*

To many people Modbury might as well be Timbuktu but less well known. For green campaigners it has become a place to praise and hail as the future. In April, Modbury (population 1550) in Devon became the first plastic-bag-free town in Britain.

Some people sail around the world single-handed. But Sarah Hoskins, Modbury born and raised and a BBC wildlife camera-woman, launched her own one-woman expedition into the plastic bag supply chain. While filming in the Pacific she saw how some of 1.2 trillion plastic bags we throw away every year damage and kill the world's marine wildlife. Apparently, many seabirds mistake the plastic bags for jellyfish. The UN has worked out that there are 46,000 pieces of plastic debris for every square kilometre of sea. 100,000 turtles, seals, birds and whales are wiped out and Greenpeace reckon 250 species are affected. Most bags do not degrade but break into smaller and smaller pieces over centuries.

Back in Modbury. Ms Hoskins showed traders the film she made in the Pacific and then went off to speak to everyone and win their support. Remarkably, almost everybody backed the idea and on May Day plastic-bag-free Modbury became a reality. This was no easy task. 43 businesses had to be convinced and then their customers. 2000 official Modbury bags-for-life have been produced and imported from Mumbai, India to retail at £3.95. Modbury now boasts almost every kind of bag biodegradable, organic, fairtrade, unbleached, recycled - but not plastic. A plastic bag amnesty has been declared. Old ones are gathered up and sent off to a factory in Durham to be made into plastic chairs. More than 60 towns all over the country have already asked Modbury how they did it. Could it happen in Emsworth? There are certainly no doubts about the town's green awareness through its Nature Conservation Groups, thriving Horticultural Society, Tree Warden Scheme and enthusiastic support for last year's Green Fair.

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