

EMSWORTH TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Steve Pearce and Brendan Gibb-Gray

More than 15 local voluntary groups including the Community Board, Churches, Residents and Business Association, Havant Council of Community Service (HCCS) the Museum and Food Festival Committee have agreed a Constitution and formed a Community Interest Company (CIC). This follows the extensive work and Report compiled by the Market Town Initiative (MTI) team. This is good news for Emsworth as we will now be able to concentrate our efforts on funding and implementing the recommendations of the Report. It is hoped that Chichester Harbour Conservancy will join us in the near future.

One of our projects is to seek better community use of the South Street Emsworth Centre (owned by HBC and currently leased to HCCS).

The Centre offers exciting prospects and whilst plans are at a preliminary stage, it should be stated that there is no intention to exclude any group or organisation that currently uses the facility. We hope that by working together we can make the premises a real "centre" of community and business life in the town. We are preparing a Business Plan for its future use which will be submitted to the Council shortly and in the meantime we invite any group or organisation in the town not yet signed up to the Partnership to contact Brendan Gibb-Gray. Emsworth is a great place to live, work and of course to visit so we hope to include some kind of Visitor Centre and Cafe in our plans.

Emsworth Councillors support Havant Credit Union

Ken Gilchrist

HASCU, the Havant Area Savers Credit Union, set up in 1996, offers the local community an alternative to loan sharks but does much more. Initially the Leigh Park Credit Union, in 2005 the Financial Services Authority, which also regulates banks and building societies, agreed it could cover all Havant.

Money from HASCU savers is lent to local borrowers often so they can avoid the loan sharks and their interest rates of 300 - 1000% per annum. These local borrowers live in all parts of Havant Borough including Emsworth. Leigh Park is not the only place in the Borough where residents struggle to make ends meet.

New members will not be able to get loans immediately. If they start saving a regular amount, say £5 per week, after six weeks they may borrow £30. If they continue saving, a further loan of two times their savings i.e. 5x6x2=£60 is available and with regular repayments continues up to a limit of five times the savings made.

At the ERA's Quarterly General Meeting, we will hear from John Butler, a key figure in HASCU since it started. John, an Emsworth resident, was until recently Chief Executive of Portsmouth Housing Association and now runs a Housing Consultancy Business.

The six Havant Borough Councillors living in Emsworth have said they will come to the meeting and speak briefly in support. Three represent Emsworth and three represent Leigh Park wards. At the QGM, we hope to persuade you to invest in HASCU, or perhaps give some time in the office or deliver marketing leaflets - but we promise we won't pressurise you as you leave.

For more information phone: 02392 499798 or go to the head office at 32 Greywell Road, Havant. Opening times: Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm and Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Memorial Garden celebrates Double Success

Brian Edwards-Picknett

The Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden are honoured and delighted that Mrs Mary Fagan JP, HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire has agreed to be their Patron. It was Mrs Fagan who performed the unveiling of the Sculpture "Absence" on 11th August 2006.

In the year since then, much has happened, including the formation of the 'Friends' to create and maintain the Garden and Sculpture in the Jubilee Park Recreation Ground. Initial plans for the area have been drawn up including an artist's impression of the planned improvements. Clearance of the ground has started with the removal of several diseased trees, some temporary planting in the raised bed and the 'Friends' carry out regular work sessions in the garden.

A programme of fundraising events is underway. A stand at the Emsworth Show created a lot of interest, new members joined and some very generous donations were made. During the Food Festival weekend, stands in the Memorial Garden itself and the town centre, raised awareness even further. A group of Chelsea Pensioners visited the Memorial Garden on the Friday of the Food Festival (see photo on page 1) and laid a wreath on the Memorial. There will be a 'Memorial Garden' event in The Square on Saturday 27 October (for more information see page 9).

The Emsworth Show was the occasion to break the exciting news of the National Lottery 'Awards for All' grant of £10,000 which was obtained by treasurer Frances Jannaway. This huge financial boost means that work can now commence with the hard landscaping, including drainage, walls, entrances, paths and paving.

The Friends' efforts are now focussing on raising money for the permanent planting and the memorial plaques to complete the Memorial Garden. So far we have had very generous donations from two local organisations, the Emsworth Horticultural Society who gave more than £500 from Emsworth Gardens Open Day and the EBA who donated £300. We have also had generous donations from individuals which are very much appreciated. If you would like to join the 'Friends', please contact: Maurice Clarke (Secretary), 575 Southleigh Road, Emsworth, PO10 7TE; Tel. 01243 377389; Email: mclarke@japh.co.uk



Stall at the Emsworth Show manned by three of the 'Friends': Maurice Clarke (Secretary), Sandra Clarke and Virginia Wilson-Smith (Chair)



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Act now to Support St. Richard's - Your guide to action

Write now to: John Wilderspin, Chief Executive,
West Sussex Primary Care Trust, The Causeway, Goring by Sea, Worthing, BN12 6BT.

LETTERS MUST ARRIVE BEFORE 14 NOVEMBER.

Please state which of the three options you support and why. You may also complete a questionnaire on the PCT website. Follow the link on the website: <http://www.supportstrichards.co.uk/> where you can also find details of public meetings in the area.

The options are:

- A. Worthing Hospital to become the Major General Hospital for West Sussex. St Richard's to be downgraded to a Local General, thereby losing all acute facilities this would mean amongst many other things **NO** A & E, **NO** maternity or paediatrics and **NO** emergency surgery. Princess Royal at Haywards Heath would be downgraded to a Community Hospital.
- B. St Richard's to become the Major General Hospital for West Sussex. Worthing and Princess Royal would be downgraded to Local General Hospitals. This is the only option that leaves West Sussex with two Local General Hospitals.
- C. St. Richard's to become the Major General Hospital for West Sussex. Worthing to be downgraded to a Local General Hospital and Princess Royal to a Community Hospital.

Both options **B** and **C** will retain St Richard's as a major general hospital but only **B** will retain two local general hospitals. Option **B** is therefore the preferred option in the view of the Save St Richard's Campaign.

Losing this campaign will mean that:

- Major injuries would have to go to Portsmouth or Worthing;
- Closure of the intensive care unit;
- Mothers would have to have their babies in Portsmouth or Worthing;
- Children would be treated and transferred to Portsmouth or Worthing;
- Friends and family will have to travel many miles to visit patients;
- No training of medical staff at St Richard's.

Winning this campaign will mean that:

- The hospital will be able to keep its full Accident and Emergency Service and Maternity Services;
- St Richard's can keep all its other major facilities;
- St Richard's very high levels of care to the local community can be safeguarded;
- Neither you, your family nor friends will have to travel miles away from Chichester for acute care or to visit patients.



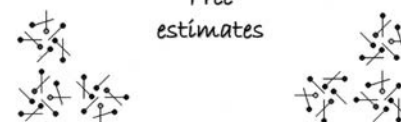
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