

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE EMSWORTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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Emsworth Business Association in partnership with the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden are organising events to celebrate our national patron saint, St. George. The planned events will begin on Thursday 23rd April and run through to Sunday 26th April when we are holding a St. George's market in the South Street car park.

The purpose of the event is three-fold, one is to give the people of Emsworth the opportunity of showing their appreciation of the unstinting duty and bravery of men and women of the 47th Regiment stationed at Thorney Island whilst serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Secondly, we wish to support the Army Benevolent Fund, Help for Heroes and our local Memorial Garden in Horndean Road.

Finally, we hope it will bring people into the town to enjoy a number of events aimed at promoting our culture and history. We are extremely grateful for the financial support given by Springfield Nursing Home.

Thursday 23rd April

In the morning of St George's Day, about 90 men and women from 25/170 (Imjin) Battery will march from the County border in Queen Street to St. Peter's Square to be met by the Mayor of Havant and their Commanding

Officer. Soldiers will receive the Imjin flower from their C/O and a Citation signed by the then president of the United States of America marking the bravery of their predecessors during the battle. The Commanding Officer will also receive a scroll from the Mayor expressing the appreciation from the people of Havant for the work carried out by the Army on our behalf. We also hope a small contingent of Chelsea Pensioners will travel down from London for the day. They will certainly add colour and nostalgia to the proceedings!

The Battle of Imjin took place in the Korean War when the Gloucester Regiment took heavy casualties defending a ridge near the Imjin River against a sustained Chinese assault

Children from our local schools, including Thorney Island Primary, and residents will be able to enjoy the ceremony and meet the soldiers. This promises to be a unique occasion and quite a spectacle in the life of our community and an opportunity for us to forge closer links with our neighbours (both soldiers and their families) based on Thorney Island.

In order to carry out this event safely, road closures will be in operation between 10.40am and 12noon. Details will be distributed to residents and businesses in time to plan alternative arrangements.

During the period of the celebrations, cafes, restaurants and public houses will decorate their premises and offer traditional English fare which will add significantly to the atmosphere and enjoyment in the town.

In the evening, two talks will be given; one on the *Battle of Trafalgar* by a former captain of HMS Victory and another on the *Land Army Girls* by Jill Clark, a well known local author. Both talks will be illustrated and take place in The Brookfield Hotel.

See page 5 for events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Silver Award for Clean & Tidy Emsworth

In its first ever entry into a national cleanliness competition, Emsworth was recently awarded a very high score for its efforts in making the town stand out in the 2008 Clean Britain Awards.

Residents were praised by the inspectors for their efforts in achieving the very impressive scores and comments were made regarding what a very welcoming countenance we present to visitors.

Credit for the award goes to the Emsworth Business Association for its support, as well as to the Havant Borough Council team for all their hard work, as well as you, the residents, who look after and take good care of our environment.

Jim Cottis



Blooming Emsworth

The EBA has purchased and planted three large tubs/planters at the top of Queen Street (under a licence granted by HBC). They are outside The Old Pharmacy and the flowers look quite stunning and add significantly to the street scene.

The project was completed on Sunday 1st February and already residents/visitors have passed complimentary comments about the improvements. Indeed one resident has donated £50, anonymously.

We are sure this will bring a great deal of pleasure to residents and visitors alike as they either approach or leave the town centre.

Brendan Gibb-Gray.

Memorial Soon to be Complete

We started 2009 with a monsoon downpour, which caused the biggest flood we've had to date. HBC have been very helpful trying to contain the water with sandbags and pumping out water to help get the level down. It was a great relief to hear that Southern Water have agreed to the installation of an emergency drain to allow water entering the garden to drain away. HBC will be undertaking this work in the next few weeks.

Thanks to a grant of £2,000 from the Cooperative Funeral Directors and a £5,000 Grassroots grant from Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF), we now have sufficient funds to install the memorial name plaques and finish most of the planting.

The order for the plaques has now gone in to Tealwoods, a local firm with offices on Sultan Road. The plaques will be made of marine quality stainless steel and will soon be ready for installation along both sides of the path leading to 'Absence'. Hopefully by the time they are ready, the emergency drain will have been installed.

Due to the inclement weather, we have not been able to do very much in the garden recently but through this summer, I am sure it will blossom forth. The notice board is now looking very nice, with a great deal of information and pictures.

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 4th March when I had the great pleasure of announcing that the committee had overwhelmingly agreed to ask Harold Groom to be our Hon. President in recognition of his tireless campaign for a Memorial in Emsworth. Thelma Carpenter was voted on to the committee. Stella Rutter, a local author, gave us a talk about her family in times past and some of her experiences in leading up to D-Day. After which, we all enjoyed a glass of wine.

Virginia Wilson-Smith



Tree Planting

With a generous donation from the ERA, the Tree Wardens have had two semi mature Oaks planted alongside the new footpath/cycleway in the Horndean Road recreation ground. With money from the sale of Tree Trail booklets, the ETW paid for and planted a third Oak in Hollybank Park off Southleigh Road to fill a gap in a line of Oaks planted about 150 years ago marking a field boundary (see photo bottom left).

We have also planted 150 Hawthorn whips to fill some of the many gaps in the hedge along the eastern side of Horndean Road recreation ground (photo right). The 'rootrainer' plants were obtained from a nursery near Winchester which grows native trees from seeds collected all over the South of England.



More good news - Emsworth Tree Wardens have received a grant of £3,200 from County Councillor David Gillett's Devolved Budget to plant at least 30 trees in Emsworth to improve the street scene. It may not be possible to complete the project in the current tree-planting season, we may have to wait till later in the year. But with the money in the bank, it will happen!

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... And lots more



Win Some, Lose a Lot

That's a fair summary of what's been happening to trees in Emsworth recently. Emsworth Tree Wardens have been planting trees in Horndean

Road and Hollybank recreation grounds while Havant Borough Council have been decimating trees and the hedgerow further up Horndean Road, just north of Southleigh Road. The paradigm of fell one and plant two will not be enough. This net loss of trees is happening all over Hampshire and the rest of England.

