



St. George's Day celebrations

St George was well and truly celebrated this year when Emsworth Business Association and Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden joined forces to bring almost a week of spectacle and events to our town. The scene was set with bunting and flags flying and shop windows dressed with creative displays.



Imjin Flower presentation

The 23rd of April was blessed by brilliant weather as residents and visitors enjoyed a unique opportunity to show their appreciation of the unstinting duty of the men and women of 47th Regiment, Royal Artillery, Baker Barracks, Thorney Island. It seemed that the idea of troops marching in the town and receiving their 'Imjin flower' struck a cord with people during a short but emotional ceremony. Together with the serving soldiers were 16 veterans of the "forgotten" Korean War who also received the 'Imjin flower'. The red roses were presented by 47th Regiment Commanding Officer Lt/Col. Mike Kelly, assisted by Harold Groom, Hon President of the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden, and the Mayor of Havant, Councillor John Smith.

Children from all our primary schools attended - some dressed as St. George, some as his Dragon - and gave a rendition of the popular song 'How the knight won his spurs'.



Saturday's celebrations

Saturday was the town's day, a full day of fun launched by TV celebrity John Cameron of BBC's 'Cash in the Attic' who also judged the window displays. Not an easy job. First prize was won by Grate Fyres with their innovative, flame-spurting dragon.

From then on it was non-stop action all the way. We had it all: local majorettes, the Red Twirlers, strutted their stuff; South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society turned out in force to stage a show of both classic and vintage cars in the Square and the Crown car park (I just loved the Bull Nose Morris and Austin 7 Chummy); Emsworth Concert Band (all 51 of them) gave us a full hour and a half of fabulous feel good, foot tapping music. And there was yet more.

Tony Wright (yes the famous one) of Music Matters stepped in at short notice to give us some real cool, bluesy jazz. As a bonus, a passing gentleman by the name of Brendan (no not that one) brought his flugelhorn along hoping for a jam session and got it! Well done Brendan. An old world rural flavour was given by the Fishbourne Mill Morris Men and the day was wrapped up in cultural style by Geoff Pye from the Royal Armouries who gave us renditions and readings from Kipling, Tennyson and Shakespeare. The final words to echo around the streets of Emsworth were, of course, "... cry God for Harry, England and St George."

The day was completed by *The Proms ~ Emsworth style* that took place in St. James' Church with an audience of about 300 people. Sarah Pinnell, Director of Music at St. James, directed a dazzling performance by young and old musicians who at appropriate moments were supported by a most enthusiastic audience! A barn dance in the Community Centre made an alternative end to the day.

Throughout the celebrations there were also talks and exhibitions, including one of the Women's Land Army at the Springfield Care Home.

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Photo's anti-clockwise from top left: Lt Col Mike Kelly and Harold Groom present Imjin Roses, 47th Regiment parade in The Square and Thorney School children arriving on Emsworth Bus.

May Fayre Fun

The annual May Fayre was held at St James' School on Saturday 16th May. The pupils, staff, parents and friends were invited to enjoy the stalls, activities and performances to raise money for the school funds.

Many local businesses were very supportive and made donations to the raffle and lucky squares draw. The event commenced with a Fancy Dress Parade. The Dance Club, recorders and performers entertained the crowd who then enjoyed the many stalls, crepes and barbecue. Maypole Dancing by the children was the excellent finale to the Fayre. The weather was kind, very windy but the rain held off and tremendous fun was had by all!

This is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the PTA and this year's takings of £3500 will be spent on the outside areas of the school. New playground markings are already giving great pleasure to the children.

Rachel Bowns



Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden On the Home Straight



Goodbye to the Flooding! and at long last, the Names of the Fallen are now in place in the Memorial Garden.

We have been able to go ahead with the installation of the plaques at last because we now have a drain in the lowest part of the garden to prevent flooding. Many thanks to Steve Martin of HBC for negotiating with Southern Water and organising its installation. They still have to undertake remedial works to stop the (considerable amount) of water flowing into the garden from the playing field. This is not going to be straightforward, and will not be undertaken yet.

Tealwoods of Sultan Road, who made the plaques, have now been able to fit them onto concrete bases installed by Caroways of Rowlands Castle. The names are on eight sections of engraved satin finish, marine grade stainless steel, designed to complement 'Absence'. The work was completed on 15 June in good time for the Dedication Ceremony.

The photo shows Muriel Mose (96) resident of Avalon Court reading the newly installed memorial plaques.

Sarah Sanderson

Core Strategy 2009

The Havant Local Development Framework (LDF) is being re-assessed from the beginning. The new Core Strategy is now out for consultation, including proposals for between 690 and 800 houses in Emsworth over the next 20 years.

Deadline for comments 24 July.
See page 7 for details



Discover one of our most precious resources - Water!

Hampshire Water Festival will be held in the Borough of Havant for the first time this year. The event takes place in Staunton Country Park between 10am and 5pm on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July. Entry to the Festival is **FREE of CHARGE**, as are the ornamental farm, glasshouses and gardens of Staunton Country Park which are also open over the weekend.

Children can enjoy the entertainments programme and activities, including pond dipping and sports activities. Thought-provoking workshops will examine the way in which water resources are managed across the world - and in our own local area.

Aquatic and drought resistant plants alongside water sculptures will be showcased by local plant nurseries. Staunton's famous glasshouses will also display the world's largest waterlily - the Victoria Amazonica, and guided tours through the glasshouses are offered over the weekend.

Food lovers will also be catered for, with over 50 local producers selling water themed food from watercress to fish. A range of food and drink vendors will also ensure visitors don't go hungry or thirsty during the event.

Education is high on the agenda with local schools running the water theme through their summer curriculum. Over the weekend, schools will run a series of workshops and performances to showcase the projects the students have been working on.

Organiser Lulu Bowerman said: "We are keen to make the event as fun as possible whilst ensuring there is a strong educational message running through. We would like visitors to think about their environment and just how easy it is to save water plus of course strengthen the bond to the fantastic coastline we enjoy here."

www.hampshirewaterfestival.co.uk

Edited from press release

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