

# THE EMS

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## EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the April issue of The EMS is 28th February.

Articles can be submitted by e-mail or by mail to: 75 Bosmere Gardens, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7NR

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## ERA AGM, Monday 25 January

7.30pm, Mountford Rooms, Emsworth Community Centre, North Street

After the AGM business, David Willetts, MP for Havant, will talk about: *Current and future focus areas in the constituency*. This will include, resisting over-development in Emsworth where roads, schools and medical infrastructure are not in place – preserving the Conservation Area – fighting to save Oak Park Hospital and improve doctors surgery facilities between Emsworth and Westbourne. He will be happy to take questions.

A team from NHS Hampshire will then provide a brief update and welcome questions from residents on the Oak Park Hospital project, the difficult challenges faced and the options considered to keep the promises made over at least the last decade to provide facilities much needed in Havant Borough.

The team will be: Marie Preston (Project Manager), Mel McKeown (Communications Manager), Inger Hebden (Director of Capital Planning) and Michael Johns (Cowplain GP and Practice Based Commissioning Chair).

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## Letters to The Editor

### Havant Borough Council and PUSH - Who shoved whom?

There is an abiding perception that government bureaucrats bully local councils like Havant to build an exact number of new homes over the next 20 years. In Havant's case we're told the number is precisely 6301. As a student of planning matters I tried to imagine how this number was calculated. Governments have always provided indicative numbers through the regional planning process. But, if anybody knew how many homes it could accommodate, it must be the Local Authority itself rather than remote officials.

The trail led me to PUSH, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, a group of Local Authorities working closely together on a sub-regional strategy as part of the South East Plan. Their approach was to commission a major study by consultants, DTZ, on how many new homes South Hampshire needed to create to achieve economic growth. DTZ's conclusion was 80,000 new homes.

The government had originally talked about 100,000, so the DTZ number appeared to be quite a reduction. There followed negotiations on the distribution of the 80,000 between PUSH member councils and Havant subsequently signed up for 6301.

Earlier studies by the council of potential land capacity had suggested a figure nearer 4500. Meanwhile Havant's offer was later confirmed by the then South East Regional Assembly (SEERA) most of whose members were of a different political colour to that of the government.

If these events prove anything it's that top down planning doesn't work. True, the work of PUSH actually reduced the original number but how much better to have started at the bottom in the first place. In Havant's case a lower number may have meant that sites at Hampshire Farm, Havant and Horndean Roads would remain green.

*Ray Cobbett  
26 Beach Road*

### Petition FOR parking restrictions

On 15 October, Daphne Meryon of Beach Road presented a petition for yellow lines at the junction of Beach Road and Havant Road in Emsworth.

Increasing amounts of traffic turning in and out of Beach Road conflict with parked cars outside 64 Havant Road and a collision is imminently feared. Martin Leach of HBC received the petition with over 360 names on behalf of the council.

*Photo shows:*

*From Left: Martin Leach, Daphne Meryon, Christine Nash and Brendan Gibb-Gray*

*Richard Jannaway*

### Run Aground

**I hate to pour cold water on anybody's public spirit. But, to this ancient mariner at any rate, the clinker-built boat now beached on the port hand as one enters Emsworth from the westward on the A259, earth-filled and used as a planter (which is obviously intended to advertise the maritime nature of the village) actually gives to the seaman who sights it the painful impression of a serious grounding caused by exceptionally bad navigation.**

**I am so sorry to criticise, but that is how it seems to me.**

*Peter Kimm  
Captain Royal Navy Retired*

*Who, by the grace of God, rather than through any merit of his own, has successfully avoided such a contingency in any of the five of His - and later Her - Majesty's Ships he has had the honour to command.*

### Buses Late and Full

In answer to the article in the October EMS regarding the 700 bus. Twice last week (13th and 15th October) I had need to use the bus that was meant to arrive in Havant at 10.27am. It arrived 15 minutes later. This is guaranteed to be the most busy bus of the day (bus passes start at 9.30am). Yet on both occasions this was a single decker. It seems almost deliberate - why?

I live on the western side of Emsworth and the buses that serve us as compared with the Square in the town centre make me despair from using public transport.

*Mrs M. Mckie  
Victoria Road*



### Editorial 2010

We will all have challenges to meet in the new decade and this issue of 'The EMS' tries to reflect both the positive strengths of Emsworth and the coming problems.

The ERA is rising to the occasion with plans afoot to venture into new fields in cooperation with the great variety of groups and organisations, which flourish in our rather special town and

## A Tree in Memory of Shirley Wenman

On Wednesday 16 December, a tree was planted in memory of Shirley Wenman, who died suddenly in October 2008. Shirley was the much-loved former President of the Emsworth Horticultural Society (EHS), who is sadly missed by all her friends. Shirley was unstinting in her efforts for the Society, which she joined in the 1960's. Since then she has filled many roles in the EHS including, chair of the Society as well as retail coordinator of The Hut; ground manager, arena events manager, manpower manager and judges steward of the Emsworth Show. Daphne Tomsett (current chair of the EHS) said, "Shirley could always be relied on to answer all my questions about the Show and was a great recruiter of volunteers for the Society". Shirley was also an active member of the Emsworth Community Association and one of the Emsworth Tree Wardens. So it is befitting that a tree has been planted in her memory near the entrance to the Horndean Road recreation ground – the site of the Emsworth Show.

Daphne Tomsett, chair of the EHS, dedicated the tree in memory of Shirley in the presence of Shirley's husband George, her son Hugh Baxter and her grandson Neil Baxter (see photo) as well as Margaret Jay (president of the EHS) and numerous other members of the EHS.



Preparations for planting the tree were made by Andrew Skeet of HBC who also supplied the tree, compost and stakes on behalf of the EHS. The tree which is called 'Sweet Gum', *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Warplesdon', has been chosen for its impressive autumn colour, the maple-like leaves turning purple, crimson or yellow in the autumn.

*Frances Jannaway*

whose activities are reported in 'The EMS.' Plans are still in the early stages but already there is a new sense of energy in the air.

### Greening my house

All I have managed to complete in the last quarter is our wood store with a green roof. We now have a place to keep our logs dry and aired which actually looks a lot better than an expanse of concrete driveway. The roof is planted with sedums and alpines, which seem to have taken well, the spaces between are packed with bulbs which are already coming through. (see picture).

There is now one task to complete - insulating our loft to full modern standards. The problem here is that it is full of stuff - some Brook Meadow stuff, Tree Warden stuff, old computer stuff, possessions from other members of the family and general clutter. The task of moving all this is pretty daunting but I will try to get around to doing it this year and then Freegle (see p 9) will be busy.

*Richard Jannaway*

## Gardens & Grounds

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