

## EMSWORTH IN TOP 10 IN NATIONAL SURVEY

*Richard Jannaway*

Emsworth has always been known for its independence - a characteristic which according to a recent national survey has prevented Emsworth from turning into a 'Clone Town'. The fact that well over 80% of retail businesses in Emsworth are independently owned, contributes towards Emsworth's unique identity. This enables both residents and people from the surrounding area to benefit from the sort of quality and personal service which is becoming increasingly rare all over Britain.

The New Economics Foundation's survey of Britain placed Emsworth as the sixth most viable 'Home Town' out of the 103 towns surveyed. At the other extreme are towns, which have been almost entirely taken over by multiples resulting in shopping centres that are almost identical from one end of the country to the other.

The data for this survey was collected last February by members of the Emsworth Residents Association and Emsworth Business Association working together. Both organisations are committed to maintaining the 'Home Town' character of Emsworth.

Too many high streets are dominated by giant multiples. The end result is a bland sameness and anonymous impersonal

service where interaction with the customer is reduced to a bored "have a nice day" as they hand you your receipt.

To preserve our identity, Emsworth needs to ensure that independents can find sufficient premises at affordable rents to stay in business. The Clone Town Britain report gives guidelines on how communities can use planning law to create opportunities for locally-owned stores. For example, planners can require developers to include affordable retail premises in their developments.

The new shop that is part of the Harbour Court development in South Street is now ready and 'For Sale'. Let us hope that a local independent retailer will find it economically viable to set up shop there.

## Walk to School Week

**- a resounding success**

*Anne Stunt*

*On behalf of the Road Safety Action Group*



**St James School took part in National Walk to School Week from 23 to 27 May 2005**

This government initiative, encouraging school children nationwide to walk or cycle as a safe and environmentally friendly way of getting to school and as an alternative to the car where possible, was taken on board enthusiastically by the pupils of St James' Church of England Primary School in Emsworth.

Initiated by Hampshire County Council and organised by the school's Road Safety Group, part of the Parent and Teacher Association, and the teachers themselves, all children in the school received a logbook for the week with stickers every time they walked, cycled or used the walking bus. At the end of the week they were rewarded with a certificate.

Parents got involved by signing off their child's logbook and encouraging children, where possible to walk or cycle or to use the walking bus.

What is a walking bus? To ease congestion and to reduce traffic in the vicinity of the school, parents were asked to park in the nearby recreation ground during the week. From there a "walking bus" led by a number of teachers walked the children through the park and over the road to St James' School. Many car drivers on Hordean Road slowed down and stopped to admire the snaking length of the walking bus and it was great fun for the children too!

The fun did not stop there. A competition was held with questions on general road safety ranging from the speed limit on roads close to the school (30 mph) to the correct head protection when riding a bike (a cycle helmet) to safe road crossing places (at Zebra crossings or with a lollipop man/woman). Local business sponsored some great prizes, which were presented to the winners by local councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray on the last day of the Walk to School Week.

The whole week was a resounding success with more than 150 out of 240 school children in the school walking, cycling or bus-walking every day of the National Walk to School Week.

*... Well done everyone!*

## A Memorial for Emsworth

*Maurice Clarke*

*Emsworth Community Board Member*

Unlike most towns and villages Emsworth does not have a War Memorial. Instead the bus shelter in St. Peter's Square has two small brass plates, which are difficult to read. And direct people to a list of 194 names of those who died in the two World Wars inscribed on stone tablets in the gallery of St. James' Church.



*St Peter's Square*

One of the projects the Emsworth Community Board has been considering is creating a Memorial for Emsworth. A budget of £15,000 has been allocated to this Memorial project which must be completed by March 2006. An early design for a stone surround to the replica lamppost in The Square was strongly rejected

by several members of the public at a Community Board meeting earlier in the year.

### Exhibition in June

An Exhibition was held at the Pastoral Centre on 16th and 17th June at which four options were displayed.

**Option 1:** A traditional War Memorial in Portland stone proposed by Mr Harold Groom to be erected in The Square. This would contain a list of Emsworth's 194 War dead.

**Option 2:** A series of 6-8 metal or stone waymarkers sited at various places in Emsworth to form a trail starting at the Quay and ending at St James' Church where the names of the 194 World War dead are inscribed. These markers could celebrate the lives of those lost as well as taking a view into the future by containing words and images of peace and hope.

**Option 3:** A stone sculpture symbolising the past, present and future. Providing a focal point for pause and reflection. This could be in the garden of St James' Church or St Peter's Square. This would be non denominational and could cover other conflicts, not just the two World Wars.

**Option 4:** Any other options for an appropriate Memorial suggested by the public.

### Still time to give your opinion

If you did not manage to get to the exhibition, you can still have your opinion taken into account by sending your 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th choices to: Gerry Wall, Public Art, Community Initiatives, Havant Borough Council, Civic Offices, Havant, Hants PO9 2AX or by email to [gerry\\_wall@bopenworld.com](mailto:gerry_wall@bopenworld.com) (NOT The EMS) by Friday 15th July.

Copies of the display at the exhibition will be placed on the ERA website under the 'Latest News' link. Feedback from the exhibition will be discussed at the Community Board meeting on **4th July** where the public will be given another chance to comment.



*St James' Church garden*

## Over 1000 join in the fun at the Emsworth 'Sea and Shop' Trafalgar event

*John Tweddell*



*Beat to arms in the square*

Over a thousand people joined in with the village's latest community event, held to herald the start of the Trafalgar celebrations in the area. Organised by Emsworth Business Association, the 'Sea and Shop' evening was held on Thursday 9th June. The special late night shopping evening brought together family entertainment, as well as about fifty special promotions and themed events throughout the village.

Historical activities included a special opening at Dolphin Quay boatyard, which allowed the public to follow the progress of the restoration of the Terror, a Victorian oyster boat that was originally built in Emsworth and is now being restored with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A display charted the history of the vessel and those working on her were available to answer questions.

There was also a re-enactment of 'Beating to arms' using actors dressed in the naval marine uniforms of Nelson's days. This included a demonstration on 'The Emsworth Hard' at 6 pm, where visitors were treated to the sights and sounds of the fife and drums with displays and marching at the water's edge.

The 'Sea and Shop' evening heralded the start of the area's celebrations for the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson. The Emsworth evening marked the start of a host of remarkable events taking place during the summer and autumn of 2005 all over the UK.

About fifty businesses in Emsworth joined in the festivities with special promotions and offerings in most shops in the village centre, as well as themed events in many of the local pubs, restaurants, cafés and hotels. Entertainment included sea songs sung by local school children from Emsworth Primary School, as well as Portsmouth Festival Choir, the Blarney Bands, and a number of street entertainers.

"The Sea and Shop event provided an excellent opportunity for Emsworth businesses to extend awareness of their offerings for busy families when they finish at school or work", said Brendan Gibb-Gray, chairman of the Emsworth Business Association. "Coupled with a great programme of entertainment, special events and meals, as well as retail promotions, over a thousand visitors joined in with this hopefully exciting and enjoyable community event."



**EMSWORTH**  
FOOD FESTIVAL

## Emsworth Food Festival

**- fifth successive year!**

*Chris Allwood*

This year's Emsworth Food Festival, **Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September**, features the winners of the **Pub Chef of the Year** competition. The competition is sponsored by Natures Way Food and Chichester District Council.

This is a new competition designed to bring together local producers and pub chefs. The idea is that the local food economy is helping to sustain itself whilst bringing locally grown fresh ingredients to the consumer.

It is also hoped that unusual cuts of meat will add a new dimension to pub food. Cuts such as pork hock and shoulder bacon should go down very well with customers.

A free seminar in June kicked off the competition. This seminar included talks by local food groups, A Taste of Sussex and Hampshire Fare, on how to get the best from local produce and where to source the best local food. Local organic meat producers Shon and Simon Sprackling of Rother Valley Organics demonstrated how to choose the best cuts of meat for pub dishes as well as recipe suggestions to give chefs inspiration.