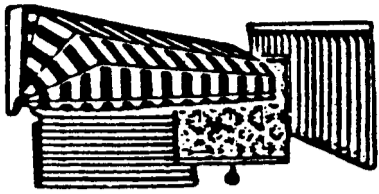


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LOCAL NEWS

Museum reopens with 'Brook Meadow Through the Ages' exhibition

Frances Jannaway

There was a good turn out for the reopening of the Emsworth Museum on 26 March. Members and visitors were welcomed by Cdr Williams, the Chairman of the Museum. The Museum was then formally opened by David Willetts MP. Brian Fellows, chairman of Brook Meadow Conservation Group (BMCG), was asked to open the David Rudkin Room where the 'Brook Meadow Through the Ages' exhibition was housed.

Brian also formally handed over Marian Forster's painting of Brook Meadow to the Emsworth Museum where it will be on permanent display. This painting was commissioned by BMCG to provide the artwork for two interpretation boards at Palmers Road car park and Seagull Lane entrances.

A resounding success

Visitors to the Brook Meadow exhibition were very impressed, both with the photographs of wildlife and group activities on the walls and the historical information on the display boards. The recordings of bird song and sounds of Brook Meadow made everything come alive. There were also two very well-attended

guided walks through Brook Meadow on 10 April. A total number of 320 visitors came to the Brook Meadow exhibition over a period of five weekends. Overall the exhibition was a resounding success.

A copy of the historical research will be given to the museum at a later date. In addition, BMCG plans to publish a booklet containing historical data, memories of local people, maps and photos serving as a permanent record of 'Brook Meadow Through the Ages'. It is hoped that the booklet will be on sale later on this year.



Wild life displays

Fantastic Funday in Brook Meadow - part of Havant 9 days in May Arts Festival

Frances Jannaway

With a team of 22 very willing and hard working volunteers, five dedicated and very enthusiastic workshop leaders and glorious weather, the 4th annual Brook Meadow Wildlife Funday was set to be a great success. And with at least 460 visitors - it most certainly was! This year's Wildlife Funday was part of Havant Borough's 'Making Waves' Arts Festival 2005 and was funded by the Peoples Places Award Scheme.



Happy nature hunt collector

instruments from natural and/or recycled products and singing songs to celebrate the earth. It was really lovely to hear music and song in the meadow. Meanwhile, Johnathan Huet held an audience of adults and children enthralled with his colourful and enchanting **Tales of the Wildwood**.

Other traditional funday events included the ever-popular **Wishing Stars** decorated with glitter and hung with a wish on our wishing tree, the **Nature Hunt** and the **Nature Trail**. All the activities proved very popular, particularly for families with young children. Thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped to make this such a Fantastic Funday.

For a selection of the beautiful photos taken by Brian Fellows go to the website at: <http://www.hants.org.uk/brook-meadow/bm-photos-work-events.html> Friends

Willow Weaving workshops were expertly given by Ganesh Kings with a choice of making bird feeders, stars, vases, snails or wreaths. **Animal Sculpture** workshops by Jo Tester assisted by a student on a work experience course at HBC offered a choice of making a Water Vole or a Stickleback fish. **Music and Song** workshops given enthusiastically by Christina and Rachel and included making simple musical instruments from natural and/or recycled products and singing songs to celebrate the earth. It was really lovely to hear music and song in the meadow. Meanwhile, Johnathan Huet held an audience of adults and children enthralled with his colourful and enchanting **Tales of the Wildwood**.

Access to Nore Barn Woods being improved

Roy Ewing

A programme to improve access to Nore Barn Woods is continuing, spear-headed by the Friends of Nore Barn Wood (FONBW), with much of the work being carried out by Havant Borough Council

For the safety of walkers using the coastal footpath, two dangerous drops have recently been converted into ramps.

Over the last two years a horse path has been created along the southern edge of the woods. Horse riders are encouraged to use this path rather than the open grassed areas. The footpath along the western edge of the woods has also been improved, a path that was several inches underwater in winter.

The paths mentioned above have already improved access for the less-abled. Discussions are taking place to find ways to improve the Wayfarers Walk - the muddy path along the northern perimeter of the wood. Extensive leaf raking of all paths is carried out by the Friends during the winter to ensure that they remain accessible. Dragon's teeth (large wooden spikes) have been installed to prevent 4WD vehicles attempting to cross the stream at the eastern end of the wood. This inevitably led to the vehicle becoming bogged down - amusing to onlookers but not to the driver!

Despite the enhancements described in this article, FONBW are striving to ensure that the character of the wood remains unaffected - that of a peaceful wild wood.

Friends of the Mill Pond

John Mant

A new conservation group, the 'Friends of the Mill Pond' is being formed in Emsworth. The objective is to keep it free of rubbish and looking its best for the enjoyment of residents and visitors and the safety of its bird population.

A walk around the Mill Pond brings a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment, but the rubbish that accumulates around the margins frequently spoils this. Havant Borough Council clean the pond four times a year and whilst they generally do a good job it requires more frequent attention.

The "Friends of the Mill Pond" group is being formed to undertake this and other work associated with keeping this wonderful part of our coastal scenery in good visual condition. The 'Friends' will also be able to keep a close eye on the pond and it's environs to ensure it gets the support and maintenance it needs.

Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray, has arranged with the council to provide the necessary tools to enable volunteers to collect and put the rubbish into sacks, that the council will collect when filled. This work will be done from "dry land" around the pond and will not require anybody going into the water!

We hope that many people will feel able to support this community project. Whilst there is a need for people able to undertake physical activity, there are many other ways of helping and all residents are welcome to join.

John Mant will be coordinating the formation of the group. If you are interested in assisting with this project or just finding out a little more about it, please contact him on 01243 373987, email JandAMant@aol.com or write to 47 Bath Road Emsworth PO10 7ER.

Short-term work at East Head nears completion

compiled by the editor

By the time you read this, temporary work should have been completed to strengthen the 'hinge' at East Head. The terminal groyne on West Wittering beach will also be shortened and lowered to allow more material to naturally reinforce the 'hinge'.



Work starts at East Head

The threat - These works are only a temporary solution - East Head and potentially Chichester Harbour as a whole continue to be under threat. A tidal breach would result in the mobilisation of a great deal more material resulting in changes to harbour sedimentation patterns, thereby reducing the navigability of large parts of the harbour. If East Head was allowed to disappear altogether, changes to the harbour could be so severe that the viability of Emsworth, and the rest of Chichester Harbour as a leisure and fishing centre would come under serious threat.

The long term challenge - A solution is needed that preserves the value of East Head to the community, in particular it must meet the requirements of: public access; flood defence; harbour navigation; nature conservation; viability and cost effectiveness, such that it attracts private and other funding.

The various agencies: English Nature, Environment Agency, National Trust (the landowner) and Chichester District Council, are committed to working together to achieve this in the long term.

Future funding - There is little risk to human life from the erosion taking place at East Head. The protection of East Head may therefore be a lower priority for government funding than other coastal areas. Any future works may, therefore, have to be funded by the public with contributions from other agencies.



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