

## FOOD FESTIVAL SPREADS UP NORTH STREET

*Richard Jannaway*

Emsworth's annual Food Festival went with a swing this year with the usual mixture of great food, large crowds, music and jollity. There was a magnificent input from food producers and vendors both local and from further away, so many things that it is only possible to give a fleeting and very personal impression. The pictures we are printing this year show a different side too with the emphasis on North Street.



*Festival crowds flock to North Street*

For the first time the North Street area between the railway and the A259 took a really active part thanks to the energetic activities of, amongst others the Railway Inn. The theme was the Victorian Village and businesses along the road had their staff dressed in Victorian costume.



*A Victorian welcome from the Railway Inn staff*

Non-food businesses were also involved; Emsworth Car & Cycle Ltd's staff dressed up for the festival and a bicycle made of food was displayed in their window.



*Emsworth Car & Cycle Ltd go Victorian*

In St Jame's Church garden, I was able to get away from the bustle for a while and relax with a cup of tea and listen to swing era tunes from the Langstone Big Band. That was after an extensive



*Langstone Big Band*

delay, sampling free real ale from the Hogs Back Brewery, which had been delivered in a magnificently restored steam lorry.

The food stalls were even better than last year, with an even stronger emphasis on fair trade, organic and/or free-range produce, much of it from local sources, such as Three Marshes Farmers and Rother Valley Organics. This trend began in Emsworth about a year ago when Treagust and Sons started selling organic pork from a local producer in West Sussex and organic lamb from Devon.



*Steam delivered refreshment*

There were terrific cheeses, scrumptious organic bread from Dorset, an organic fruit and veg box scheme from Devon, more real ale, marvellous wines, organic free range burgers to die for supplied by Rother Valley Organics and too many other great tastes and smells to list. The music was great here too with the New Forest All Stars playing some marvellous New Orleans Jazz, which caused many of those present to think of the poor people of that city, and soothing us with smooth melodies on the Saturday afternoon.



*New Forest All Stars in The Square*

## 300 houses a year for Havant Borough!

The target number of houses to be built in Havant Borough between 2006 and 2026 is planned to range between 280 to 305 p.a. This compares with an average of 227 houses p.a. between 1996 and 2004 and 168 houses p.a. between 2001 and 2004.

These proposals are made in a consultation document: Where Shall We Live, published by Hampshire County Council. All residents have an opportunity to make their views known as part of consultation processes set out in the South East Plan. In order to have your say, you can request a copy of the document and complete a questionnaire; **but you have to get your response to them by 21st October.** See page 7 for more information.

## Emsworth Show

*Richard Jannaway*

The 2005 Emsworth Show was better than ever. The events seemed more appropriate this year; without last year's noisy helicopter and motorcycles we were able to really enjoy the other attractions. There was a wide variety of events in two arenas including: Brass Bands, American Saddlebred Horses, Flying Hawks, Dog Agility, Bourne Footballers and Taekwondo.

All this, plus a wide variety of stalls, tea and food outlets and children's attractions including, train rides, roundabouts, fun house, a Venetian juggler, Mr Mix n Mingle and Punch and Judy.

In the small arena, there was a very successful Dog Show, which delighted the visitors together with displays by various traditional dance groups.



*American saddlebred horse and rider show their paces*  
Picture: Grant Thomas

The Devoil Blue Riband for the best in show was won by Mr R. Woods for his wonderful leeks, which also won the National Vegetable Society Medal.

This was a very successful day with families enjoying the sunshine and the fun of the show. The running of such a Show depends on a large team of volunteers and the organisers extend their thanks to all those many people who gave their time and energy to making it such a success.

**Collectors of ERA subscriptions are urgently needed in ALL areas.**  
**If you can help, please contact**  
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## HOSPITAL CLOSURE THREAT

*Brendan Gibb-Gray*

As most people will have heard the Health Authority have plans to close the Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital. The ERA and other concerned organisations in Emsworth have not yet given up the fight to save it. Here is the latest information as The EMS goes to press and a summary of the arguments.

We are coming to the end of the consultation process undertaken by East Hampshire Primary Care Trust. (EHPCT). This has revealed the strength of feeling in Emsworth regarding the possibility of the closure of "in bed" facilities in the village. Many people have asked searching questions of the PCT and frankly many of their answers have been unconvincing. They place a great deal of emphasis on "care in the community" as a replacement for a much loved local hospital. Social Services in Hampshire and indeed West Sussex are under great strain as they try to cope with their workloads. Funding as well as the human resources are not available to meet the current demand, let alone any future demand.

We consider that the consultation process has not been partic-

ularly robust in taking into account our concerns and it is not in the interests of health services locally for the wards in our hospital to close. We are trying to get this matter considered by the Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a view to them referring the matter to the Secretary of State for Health with a request for an independent review.

Many people in Emsworth have said they would be willing to give financial support to an appeal to keep the hospital open pending Oak Park Hospital coming on stream. This will require a huge effort, but many of us think it is feasible. The Friends of Emsworth Hospital and indeed other groups and associations in Emsworth are supportive of this idea. To this end we have written to the chief executive of the PCT, asking that in the event they decide upon closure, this idea is given serious consideration. Of course we would need the cooperation of the PCT and a breathing space to see the kind of financial response we would get to the appeal. At the time of writing no reply to this proposal has been received.

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