

THE EMS

EDITOR

Richard Jannaway, 75 Bosmere Gardens,
Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7NR
Telephone: Emsworth 430361
Email: editor@the-ems.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Sue Granville-George
537 Southleigh Road, Emsworth.
Telephone: Emsworth 373421
Email: distribution@the-ems.co.uk

ADVERTISING

R. von Westarp, Redlands House,
Long Copse Lane, Emsworth PO10 7UR
Telephone: Emsworth 376888

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The views and opinions expressed by contributors to The EMS do not necessarily reflect those of the editor or the Emsworth Residents Association (ERA).

The ERA is a non-political body acting on behalf of all the residents of Emsworth.

Note to readers: Although every advert is accepted in good faith, the ERA does not accept liability for adverts placed in The EMS nor does it endorse any services either in the Newsletter or in any inserts.

EDITORIAL

Richard Jannaway

Cycling is getting more support - sort of

Users of the Southleigh Road route into Havant will, hopefully, have noticed strange red patches on the road and strips across the junctions with white painted bicycles in them.



The idea is presumably to warn cars that there are cyclists about. I would like to hear from any cyclist who regularly travels that way if these markings have made any difference to the speed of traffic or the level of consideration shown by car drivers. Letters or emails please.

Letter controversy

Our letters page this quarter is showing the beginnings of a healthy diversity of views. Please let us have your thoughts about life in Emsworth whatever they are; but keep the letters short,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLASSIC CARS - TWO OPINIONS!

Weekend from Hell in Emsworth

I think that most of us will wonder what we have ever done to deserve last weekend when our town was descended upon by hundreds of noisy, polluting old American style cars. Not only was the constant noise all weekend excessive, the pollution to our air must have been off the scale, and the congestion, particularly on what should have been a peaceful Sunday morning was downright dangerous. I actually saw motorbikes undertaking the queues of cars on the Havant Road by roaring down the pavement! Even in the evenings when congestion was not a problem, these awful polluting cars were seen doing speeds well over 50/60 mph in the supposed 30mph limit of Havant Road. Of course, there were no police to be seen anywhere and I am sure that the only people to benefit over the weekend were the Texaco garages.

I also note with great concern that these cars were actually headed for Thorney Island army base where they were allowed to stay despite the fact that this started only a day after the London bombings and when the base should have been at a heightened security state (something called 'Bikini Amber') - did the CO at Thorney really feel safe letting all these strange cars/passengers stream onto his base?

The events of the weekend sum up the awful state that Emsworth is in danger of falling into - famous for congestion and pollution rather than being a quiet coastal town, ecologically aware and renown for events such as the food festival and artists trail. How bad does the traffic have to get along the A259 before something is done? I would point out the existing cycle lanes are of no use whatsoever - they only exist where it is easy to fit them in; as soon as the road becomes too narrow then it all seems too difficult to provide safe access for cycles (come on - is that really a valid excuse?). The sheer danger of cycling in Emsworth causes many people to drive and increase pollution further. The speed of traffic along the A259 is ridiculous - why are there no speed limit signs, too few crossings, and no traffic calming measures whatsoever?

J J Bowley
Havant Road, Emsworth

preferably less than 250 words, or I will need to cut them to get everybody in.

Unsubstantiated rumour?

I keep my ear to the ground as much as possible and have heard a rumour that people within the aviation industry are seriously looking at the Thorney Island army base as a possible overflow airport for Southampton when, and if, the army decides to pull out. This is because Southampton airport is getting too busy for the comfort and tolerance of the surrounding population and Thorney, with its disused airfield, is an obvious target. There are no formal plans published anywhere and I am sure that if such a thing is proposed many people will be up in arms. If anyone knows anything more solid please let me know.

Advertising rates

Nothing stays the same forever! Advertising rates in The EMS have been effectively constant since 2002 with most advertisers paying the discounted rate of £95 a year. To keep in line with rising costs we need to increase charges. In future the full rate will be £110, still a great deal for a paper that is distributed four times a year to every household in Emsworth. As a bonus we are hoping to increase the number of streets covered in Southbourne from next January.

Emsworth - Something for Everyone

What an interesting and enjoyable place Emsworth is. There is a bustling yet relaxing atmosphere and the many community events are punctuated by occasional larger scale 'different' happenings.

The latest of these was the 'Motor Show' hosted by the Army base on Thorney Island. The event clearly attracts followers from a wide area and it was a joy to see enthusiasts arriving in their beautifully prepared Classic cars. One could not help admiring the justifiable pride the owners (and their families) place in their vehicles.

Clearly there are many hours of hard devotion and much money spent in bringing them to such condition. (One cannot help making the comparison with the screeching tyre brigade who share their mind-numbing, booming, vibrating 'music' with everyone in a 50 yard radius in an effort to attract attention. Sad really.)

Seeing the cars around Emsworth during the weekend, is a sign that money was spent in the local economy, which is to the good of local traders too.

Full marks to the Army. It's good PR for them in difficult times and an interesting different event for Emsworth.

Brian Edwards-Picknett
Church Path, Emsworth

Parking

Mr Edwards-Picknett's idea of democracy as expressed in The Ems, July 2005, is not exactly in accord with ours. At the meeting in May, the votes of Church Path residents counted for little because they were greatly outnumbered by people from the surrounding area.

Our concern - and that of our neighbours - is that both current and proposed parking restrictions are not adequate to allow the passage of emergency vehicles. For instance, the local Fire Service tells us that a fire engine requires a width of 3.1m (10ft 2in); in our narrow road the measured distance between two small cars parked on either side is never greater than 2.8m (9ft 2in).

We are asking for a double yellow line on the west side of Church Path (where all residents have off-road parking) so that fire engines and ambulances have unimpeded access to everyone, including the block of flats. The Glen. In fire and health emergencies every minute counts.

In Kingston-upon-Thames not long ago a mother and her child died because parked cars impeded the passage of a fire engine. Parking in

that borough has now been thoroughly surveyed and regulated so that no such death can happen again. Surely our own local council does not demand a similar precedent before it is prepared to act, not just in Church Path but throughout the narrow streets of Emsworth.

Brian and June Pegg
Church Path, Emsworth

Now That's Community !

The subject of the Victoria Cottage Hospital closure is a real 'hot potato' issue attracting a lot of community passion.

Because the first public meeting held in the Community Centre was packed and overflowing, Rev Simon Sayer offered his church as a subsequent venue for the follow-on meeting.

I thought that was absolutely brilliant. Exactly what churches should be I think - at the centre of community issues.

Well done Simon Sayer.

Brian Edwards-Picknett
Church Path, Emsworth

Brook Meadow

A few days ago I walked round Brook Meadow, that lovely wild area right in the heart of Emsworth looked after by a band of keen volunteers, and noted the newly planted trees and the cleanliness of the River Ems. which brings me to the point of my letter.

I feel it would be nice to see the river (or Race) on the East side of the meadow as well as the West side. How lovely it would be to see the meadow totally enclosed by water. This would only mean cutting down bushes and scrub, which the council could do in one day. Bushes and small trees could be left on the Lumley Road side to hide the houses. I feel that this would greatly enhance the meadow even more.

Brian Boak
Valetta Park, Emsworth

EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the January issue of The EMS is 27th November.

Articles can be submitted by e-mail to editor@the-ems.co.uk

or by mail to:

75 Bosmere Gardens, Emsworth,
Hants PO10 7NR

We do not publish anonymous letters or emails but will withhold name and/or address if requested. Editor

ERA QGM Monday 31 October 2005

Emsworth Community Centre, Mountford Room, 7.30 pm.

Water, river and stream management in and around Emsworth.

Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are predicted to rise, widespread building is causing increased water run-off and more and more water is being extracted from our rivers and aquifers for homes and industry.

To discover what these changes mean for the people and wildlife of Emsworth, come and hear the experts give an informed talk on all aspects of water management in our area.

A team of four speakers from the Environment Agency will be covering:

- Flood risk management and catchments overview.
- EA regulatory powers.
- Water quality and pollution issues.
- Flood incident management.

This meeting is being organised in conjunction with the Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association.

There will be opportunities for questions.

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