

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

David Jones

This contribution to The EMS is my last as your Chairman. My three years will be completed at the AGM on 30th January and I wish to thank the committee members, our MP, David Willetts, our Councillors past and present, and many others, most of whom work unseen in the background, for all their help and support to ensure that your association functions so well. The one thing that stands out to me is the very large number of people who live and/or work in Emsworth who in many different ways help to make it 'tick'. The page in The EMS headed 'Local Groups and Societies' lists 62 entries and there are many others, including our shops, businesses, pubs and restaurants, that all contribute to Emsworth's Community Spirit. This is the essence of Emsworth and worth cherishing.

In looking back over the past three years, the significant events in or affecting the 'village' have been the Public Inquiry, the long drawn out saga of our Cottage Hospital, the Post Office, the success of the Food Festival and perhaps even the little matter of our notice board, which has certainly improved our ability to keep you better informed. This is not to forget the Emsworth Design Statement project, discussed in a separate article, the draft of which is now approaching completion. In all a few successes, more disappointments, and many problems and issues still to be resolved.

We have lost the long-appreciated in-patient facilities at our Cottage Hospital, with little expectation of having the new hospital in Havant before 2010. On 17 November, approval was given for 33 new dwellings in New Brighton Road to replace one house (No.96) and, behind it, some derelict buildings. As is now usual, what began as an application for 24 has ended up 37% greater. When challenged, the response was that building 33 dwellings does not exceed government density guidelines! This is symptomatic of the battles to be faced in the future. In-filling is to be preferred to any building on green-field land, which in Emsworth would mean building in the Strategic Gaps.

At the same meeting, approval was also given for the development of the Interbridges site (east), between the railway and A27T in New Brighton Road, to provide units for light industry. This will entail traffic lights, as well as disturb another group of residents. I make no apology for repeating the significant threat posed by the Council's intention to also develop directly opposite, i.e. to the west. As has been stated frequently, this stretch of road and North Street is the only road between North and South Emsworth. It also provides a funnel for south-bound traffic for a large area north-east and north-west of Emsworth. So far we have failed to persuade the Council to even recognise the potential problem, which is steadily growing as traffic inevitably increases, let alone carry out a comprehensive traffic survey of that area so that they are aware of the present spare capacity between the bridges.

Parking in the centre of Emsworth remains a delicate issue. Opinions vary on the impact since last April of the new regime, depending largely on where you live and your shopping habits. The 'great debate' when, next autumn, the Council come to consider the details of future changes to parking arrangements, will be most important for Emsworth, from everybody's point of view, be they resident, shop keeper, publican, or restaurateur, to name a few.

The future of Emsworth will be largely dictated by the demands of the South-East Plan, which is not likely to receive government approval before early 2007. The incoming Chairman and Committee will deserve the support from all the residents, as you have given me, to preserve 'our village', and I wish them well.

Market Town Initiative (MTI)

Brendan Gibb-Grey

MTI groups have, with the assistance of Sarah Snowdon, the MTI coordinator, begun work collecting statistics and background information in order to establish the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities facing this community and the surrounding area. The initial phase of this work will be completed early in 2006 and we are making every effort to ensure that the exercise is inclusive and gives a comprehensive picture of life in the area. Following this we will have a clear idea of important issues and the MTI team will prepare a range of projects for consideration. Professor Andy Clegg from the University of Chichester is assisting us and some of his undergraduates have already conducted initial studies in the town. We are grateful for his support.

In addition, Emsworth Primary and St. James' school children are giving their views on the project through debate at their respective School Councils. Litter on our streets and graffiti in the town are already emerging issues, as well as the belief among children that the library is too small and often overcrowded. In the future, they would like the train station to be improved as well. I am sure that as the weeks go by, other interesting issues will emerge. If you have any ideas to help improve the facilities in Emsworth, it is not too late to become involved and we will be delighted if you join us.

Emsworth Food Festival Prepares for 2006

John Tweddell

Planning for the next Food Festival, to be held from 8th to 10th September 2006, is already underway, and promises to be the most innovative and exciting to date. For example, one important attraction will be the official re-launch of the 'Terror' Oyster Boat, with a number of related events taking place on the first day.

The organisers are asking for volunteers to help plan and put some new ideas into action. For example, the EFF team is looking for a videographer who would be prepared to give time and expertise to help on a project they are developing.

Anyone interested in helping in this capacity or in any other way can contact the Food Festival via its 'contact us' page on the website www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk

Emsworth Design Statement - An Update

Ann Davis

Since the exhibition in February 2005, the core group has been assimilating the responses to the questionnaires and other data. Until July our approach had been to incorporate all input unless it was obviously way outside our scope. Though this ensured that ideas were not lost, it inevitably meant that the resulting document was much too long, lacked focus and covered some topics that were probably beyond our remit.

The group wanted a clear, concise, well designed document that focused on the design points with other text and illustrations very much in a supporting role. We started a major process of revision of content and structure and in this we were aided by HBC, who undertook an informal review.

Once the content had been re-focused, a single member of the group re-wrote the text so all sections have a similar feel and structure. This re-write is now being refined and a revised draft (minus illustrations) will be passed to HBC, and some other parties for review. While this is happening the group will be selecting illustrations and designing page layouts.

Community Board Elections

Thursday 14th April 2006

Your Chance to be Involved

Virginia Wilson-Smith

The Community Board now meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Mountford Rooms of the Emsworth Community Centre. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and there is always a public forum for comment and questions.

Elections for new Board members will take place at the AGM on 14 April. Some of the original 15 board members will be standing for election but at least five new members will be needed. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in being on the Board, please contact either Zita Hobbs at Havant Borough Council, or me on 01243 373744.

Why not come as a member of the public to any or all of the meetings between now and April to see if you like the feel of what we do? We really do need to have a wider input to the Board and it is a great chance to be influential in promoting ideas to enhance our way of life in Emsworth. The new board will appoint a Chairman and other officers required.

Lumley sluice update

Frances Jannaway

As a result of a cooperative venture between the Environment Agency and Emsworth residents, I am very pleased to be able to announce that the Lumley sluice will be replaced early next year.

The Environment Agency have agreed to supply the hardwood and store it until required. In addition, a design, in keeping with the original, is being drawn up which I am informed will be ready shortly after Christmas. The EA will also give advice about the installation including inspection and approval of the finished sluice. Lastly, the EA have agreed to operate the sluice in the event of flood situations.

In response to the article I wrote in the July 2005 issue of The Ems, several local people have offered to support this project by helping to make and install the sluice as well as to operate it in normal weather conditions. However, many hands make light work and we still need a few more volunteers to help, particularly with the installation of the new sluice. If you can help, please contact me on Tel. 01243 430314 or email brettellf@ntlworld.com.

If all goes well, the new hardwood sluice should be up and running by May 2006.



BORLAND & BOUND
AWARD WINNING
INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENTS
9a High Street, Emsworth
01243 377655

ALSO

BORLAND & BOUND
LETTING AGENTS
5 High Street, Emsworth
01243 374005
www.borlandandbound.co.uk



M. Reed Tree Service

All aspects of Tree Surgery undertaken

Felling · Pruning
Deadwooding · Shaping

Ornamental & Fruit Tree Pruning
Trained and Fully Insured
Replanting and Disease Control

For Professional Advice &
Free Estimate contact:

Michael Reed, 30 Christopher Way
Emsworth Hants. PO10 7QZ

Emsworth (01243) 375434 & 376906

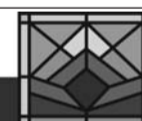
Lillywhite
BROS LIMITED
40 Queen St, Emsworth, Hants

M.O.T TEST CENTRE
ACCIDENT REPAIRS

SERVICING
TYRES
EXHAUSTS

(01243) 372336

e-mail: lillywhitebrosltd@yahoo.co.uk



CLASSY COOKS

We are a small independent cookshop with friendly, knowledgeable staff, selling a wide range of products for the discerning cook. Whether you want to buy a kitchen essential, a present, or a treat for yourself, we have something for anyone who enjoys cooking and good food.

CLASSY COOKS

4 Central Buildings · North Street
Emsworth PO10 7DU
Telephone 01243 377518
www.classycooks.com

THE COMPLETE DECORATING SERVICE

R. C. DECORATORS

17 Years Exp.

Painting & Decorating · Wall Papering
Artexing · Coving · Maintenance

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

All Work Guaranteed

Dulux Approved

(01243) 372337

Mobile 07771 628188

6 The Crescent, Emsworth



Enjoy Bed & Breakfast
in the elegant surroundings of

Hollybank House

Also an ideal setting in Emsworth for
wedding receptions and private functions

Contact: Anna Williams 01243 375502

anna@hollybankhouse.com

www.hollybankhouse.com

See website for villa for 10 in Nerja, Spain

C. W. HAYNES

Landscape Gardener
and Fencing Contractor

All Garden Work
Undertaken

From Complete Design
and Layout down to the
smallest job

Emsworth 376351

Tax Returns . . .

without tears
(or tantrums)!

Ring Chris Dyer-Smith, F.C.A.
on Emsworth 377037

Home Visits
always
a pleasure



7A HIGH STREET
EMSWORTH PO10 7AQ