

Trees, Trees, Glorious Trees

Frances Jannaway

Trees are a precious part of our natural heritage and a particularly important feature of the environment of Emsworth. This environment is under threat; by becoming a tree warden you can help counter this threat.



Mature trees - New Brighton Road

Tree-lined avenues are characteristic of all the main entrances to Emsworth. Trees are a very important part of the town conservation area. The wooded shoreline at Nore Barn Woods is characteristic of the landscape of Chichester Harbour. Hollybank Woods, covering 61 hectares, is the largest unspoilt natural area within Emsworth. The small wooded areas and old Crack Willows along the banks of the River Ems in Brook Meadow are a haven for wildlife right in the middle of the town. Many gardens have large trees which were planted long before the area was developed, for example gardens in Record Road and Park Crescent have large trees which were originally in the grounds of a grand mansion, Emsworth House. Trees contribute to Emsworth's identity as one of its distinctive characteristics.

Some of these trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) but not all! Many mature trees are in danger of being lost for ever especially when a large property is sold to a developer who immediately moves in with chain saws and bulldozers and cuts down many of the large trees so that higher density housing can be built. This has happened recently, for example, on the land behind 20-22 New Brighton Road. This destruction will increase in the future unless we, the residents of Emsworth, do something about it. The trees in large gardens and on areas of undeveloped land are most at threat.

We need to take action now if future generations are to enjoy the beauty and variety of our landscapes. To be most effective, this action should be taken by local people who have most to gain from the protection and enhancement of their immediate environment.

Tree Warden Scheme

You may well think, "What can I do?" or "I can't make a difference." Well, you can ... by becoming a Tree Warden. The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative, founded by the Tree Council in 1990, to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods.

Tree Wardens do not have to be tree experts; wanting to learn about trees and how they can protect them is enough. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) runs a series of free one-day courses, in conjunction with local authorities, covering topics such as surveying woodland and non-woodland trees, summer and winter tree identification, tree planting and aftercare, woodland ecology and management, seed collection and tree law.

The Tree Warden's role.

As a Tree Warden, you could be:

- gathering information by doing surveys, for example where trees are in a particular area, their condition, size and suitability for TPOs
- spotting trees and groups of trees which are or might be threatened by development, damage, neglect or disease
- informing the local authority's Tree Officer of threats to trees and unauthorised tree felling
- helping to ensure compliance with TPOs by getting to know the TPO trees in your area and reviewing the planning applications list to see if the owners are applying to fell or lop them

You could also be involved in:

- organising or encouraging others in practical projects such as tree planting or woodland management.
- working with schools to create conservation areas
- giving guided tree walks
- giving talks to local groups
- working with children and youth groups to help control vandalism.

A new scheme for Emsworth - Emsworth would be divided into about six manageable areas with at least two wardens cooperating to look after each area. Tree Wardens are encouraged to work together and support one another.

Jamie Gargett, the Tree Officer at HBC, is willing to come and talk to anybody interested in the Tree Warden Scheme to explain what is involved. He is also willing to give guided tree walks. Jonathon Huet of 'Walk with Trees' fame is also interested in being part of the scheme; he is giving a Tree Identification walk in Hollybank Woods on 16 July.

If you are interested in finding out more about a new Tree Warden Scheme for Emsworth, please contact me, Frances Jannaway, 75 Bosmere Gardens, Emsworth, PO10 7NR. Tel: 01243 430314, Email: brettelf@ntlworld.com

Community Responders are coming to Town!

Brendan Gibb-Gray

Following the closure of Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital in September 2005, we have been working hard to start a local Community Responders scheme.

A Community responder group in Emsworth will provide invaluable support to the professional ambulance service when dealing with life threatening incidents and give vital clinical care. The first few minutes following a cardiac arrest are absolutely vital in saving life and volunteers aim to be at the patient's side within 5 minutes of being called. Community Responders are trained in the use of a defibrillator for without this piece of equipment the chances of survival decrease by 10% for every minute that goes by.

Janet Barradell, a respected and well-known local resident, is doing a terrific job convincing those showing interest, about the vital benefits of supporting patients in the first few minutes following a heart attack or other life threatening conditions. We now have 18 volunteers and a scheme coordinator and as soon as the necessary statutory checks have been completed, they will go to Winchester to undertake training in the use of the defibrillator and learn other basic life support techniques.

At the same time as the search for volunteers goes on, we are also seeking financial help from community groups and individuals to fund the scheme. Whilst the training given by Hampshire Ambulance Trust is free, each community has to buy all the medical equipment, including at least one defibrillator. We are advised that a minimum of £2,000 is required to get going and another £400 to cover annual running costs. Small amounts when set against the life saving potential of the scheme!

Thanks to the generous support of Rotary Havant, the Emsworth Residents' and Business Associations, Mrs. Jo Thomas and her friends and other groups and individuals, funding is falling into place and the scheme becoming a reality.

Co-op supports Community Responders

Under the scheme, each local community votes for the charity that will receive 3p out of every £1 spent in their Co-op store when a card is presented at the till. This time round Emsworth has voted for Community Responders to receive the money. So get your card from the Co-op and start earning those 3ps.

Please do consider becoming a Responder, no previous medical experience is required and the training is straightforward and enjoyable!

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the scheme however big or small, please contact Janet on 01243 430289 or Brendan Gibb-Gray on 01243 377355.

Community Responders will be giving their time to save life in our community, so please be generous in your support of this work.

Emsworth Community Board update and AGM

Frances Jannaway

The Emsworth Community Board (ECB) was set up in August 2004 "to enable local people to influence the quality of life for their community." Since then, the ECB has achieved two major community projects for Emsworth.



Emsworth Skatepark nearing completion 10 March

The first is a new *Skatepark* on Hordean Road Recreation Ground. The official opening ceremony with displays by professional skateboarders is planned for the end of April. The second major project is a *Memorial Trail* with the main sculpture in a Garden of Remembrance to be planted in autumn 2006 on the south-east corner of Hordean Road Recreation Ground and four Waymarkers at various key places in the town. The date of the official opening ceremony of the Memorial Trail has not yet been finalised but is likely to be in May or June. Smaller projects such as installing two interpretation boards at the entrances to Nore Barn Woods and Hollybank Woods have also been completed. In addition, members of the ECB have been very much involved in consultations on the Liveability capital project in Emsworth to *upgrade the A259 junction* with North Street, including the main underpass and

roundabout, and pedestrian access to/from Palmers Road car park. All Community Board and Liveability Scheme projects in Havant Borough should have been completed by April/May 2006.

The future

The Emsworth Community Board will continue to identify and obtain funding for projects to improve the quality of life in Emsworth. Examples of such projects could range from improving disabled access, footpaths and cycle paths including 'Safe Routes to Schools', upgrading public toilets in South Street and the other underpasses in Emsworth to providing seats and combating litter and graffiti. The community will be invited to put forward suitable projects to promote a sense of pride in our environment.

The Emsworth Community Board is keen to work together with other community groups and organizations, such as the Emsworth Residents' Association, Emsworth Business Association, Emsworth Horticultural Society, Emsworth Community Association and Market Town Initiative for the benefit of Emsworth. The Community Board is a two-way conduit for communication between the Community and Councillors and Officers of Havant Borough Council.

Election of new board members

In line with the Terms of Reference of all 6 Community Boards, one-third of board members will step down in April and four new members will be elected at the AGM to be held on **Thursday 13 April, 7.45pm, Emsworth Community Centre**. The present Chairman Virginia Wilson-Smith will be stepping down after the AGM. A new chairman will be elected by the Board at the May meeting. A councillor to be appointed by HBC will sit on the Board.

This is your chance to make a difference and have a say in what happens in Emsworth. If you would like to put yourself forward as a candidate, please contact Virginia Wilson-Smith, Tel. 01243 373744; Email vwsmith@onetel.com. An information pack including a nomination form will be sent to you. You will need to write a letter

giving your name, address, and other contact details as well as your present/past occupation, interests, concerns, what other organisations if any you belong to, why you want to be a member of the Board and what you feel you can bring to the Board. You also need to get two residents of Emsworth to sign your form as proposer and seconder.

Even if you do not want to be a member of the Board, please come along to the AGM on 13 April and cast your vote. All residents of Emsworth Ward are entitled to stand for election and vote but they must be present at the AGM to do so.

**Emsworth Community Board
AGM
Thursday 13 April 7.45pm
Emsworth Community Centre
Come along and vote for the new Board Members**

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