

Skatepark a success with Emsworth Youth

Jayne Emery

It's great news that the skatepark has now been completed by the contractor and has passed safety checks by R.O.S.P.A. Young people seem delighted with the park given how many of them are using it every day. There are also a considerable number of spectators of all ages enjoying the varied skills being so well demonstrated.

Sadly, litter became a problem around the area but action has been taken and Havant Borough Council have installed two new rubbish bins and clearance of the rubbish is being undertaken on a regular basis.

The lighting for the park is scheduled to be installed during June, weather permitting, which will enable the park to be used during the darker evenings later in the year.

Recently I was stopped by a lady who asked directions to the skatepark and also where the shops were. Apparently she had driven from Liss and was dropping her son and his friend for the morning whilst she went shopping in Emsworth. It seems there are unexpected benefits to the village in having this facility. Also it was interesting to know that two men in their 30s have recently travelled from Guildford a couple of times to use the facility because they thought it so excellent. This skatepark is already proving to be a great facility for Emsworth and as a means of entertainment for young people.

The skatepark will be officially opened on **15 July, 12 to 4pm**. The launch event is organised by Tribe Enterprises Ltd.



In-line skater Gavin Hayter of Victoria Road, Emsworth in mid flight.

NHS Organisational Changes

Chris Curry

As Peter Allen wrote in the last issue of The EMS, there are changes planned for the organisation of the NHS in our region. Thanks to the vigilance of Tony Lowes we are now able to report that some of these changes have been agreed.

Strategic Health Authority (SHA)

The Department of Health has announced that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight SHA will merge with Thames Valley SHA. The south east of England is the only English region to be split in this way.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)

It has been confirmed that, with effect from 1 October, there will be one PCT for Hampshire. This will be the largest PCT in England. From our point of view in Emsworth this means that the opportunity to meet with and contact the PCT will be more difficult as it is likely to be based at some distance from Emsworth and its subjects will obviously be Hampshire-wide.

Ambulance Services

At the time of writing, no decision has been made about the organisation of this service.

Hospice facilities available to people in Emsworth

Brendan Gibb-Gray

Since the sad closure of the In-Patient facilities at Emsworth Victoria Cottage Hospital ways are being considered to better promote our two local hospices St. Wilfrid's and The Rowans.

Representatives from both Hospices will be present at the Emsworth Residents Association meeting on Monday 31st July offering you the opportunity to learn more. A short presentation will be made and members will be given the chance to ask questions.

In addition we hope that questions about the pressing need of respite care in this community might be answered as well.

The article below was submitted by **Sophie Sinclair** on behalf of the two hospices.

Your Hospices

St Wilfrid's Hospice is based in Chichester and looks after patients and their families from the area stretching between Emsworth and Arundel and up to the edge of the South Downs. Services are free to our patients and include specialist palliative care at home, in Nursing Homes, in the Hospice and Hospital as well as Day Hospice care, complementary therapies, bereavement support and also education to other health care professionals and the public. Patients with any disease may access our services as long as they have complex needs. The Government contribution towards our total costs represents just 12% leaving us the rest to find from independent and voluntary sources.

The Rowans Hospice in Purbrook, is purpose built, in a beautiful rural setting where people can rest with the security of having specialist care for 24 hours a day. We provide to patients and their families from Emsworth up to Petersfield and Liss and from Gosport to Portsmouth, over 600,000 residents in all. Care is given to the whole person, delivered by a comprehensive multi-professional team, aiming to meet all needs – physical, emotional, social and spiritual.

All of our services are free and we need to generate £2.6 million each year to support this with only 22% of that sum coming from Government support. We believe that the end of life is just as important as the beginning and that everyone should have the best care of their choice.

Doctor's surgeries usually refer patients to one or other Hospice, referrals depend on where the GP rather than the patient is. However, the Rowans Hospice would not provide a service to patients living in West Sussex as this is outside their catchment area.

Please come along on 31st July to hear more or contact the Hospices directly:

St Wilfrid's Hospice Tel: 01243 775302 website: www.stwh.co.uk

The Rowans Hospice Tel: 023 9225 0001 website: www.rowanshospice.co.uk

Community Board: elections and new projects

Ken Gilchrist

When the Community Boards were founded in the autumn of 2004, their members were drawn from invited representatives of as wide a selection of local community organisations as possible. At the recent, deferred AGM of the Emsworth Community Board (ECB) four members, one third of the board, stood down and an election was held. Next year four more members will stand down and after two more years the entire board will consist of elected members.

There was keen interest with six candidates standing and a ballot was held at the well-attended meeting. Virginia Wilson-Smith our first Chairman thanked the retiring members for their hard work during the year.

At the meeting the following month, I was elected chairman and Frances Jannaway vice chairman. On behalf of all those who worked to complete our first tasks during the first 'year' I now thank Virginia for steering us through our introduction to Community Boards. Virginia remains on the ECB as the nominated councillor.

Funding for our first year's projects came as part of a 'Liveability' fund obtained by Havant Borough Council. Future projects will have to be funded by money we raise ourselves; there are many organisations that make grants for worthwhile projects. The borough will continue to provide support, by providing clerical assistance and paying incidental expenses such as hall hire. In addition, Havant Borough Council will be using the Community Boards as a channel through which to consult the community.

We already have some ideas about what is needed in Emsworth, for example more cycle paths, improved footpaths, much less litter, encouraging local young talent to improve the appearance of the skatepark and the maintenance and development of our successes (skatepark, memorial trail, interpretation boards for two nature conservation areas) - but we would like to hear your views too!

The Board meets on the second Thursday of the month, and is pleased to welcome all people who live and work in Emsworth to our meetings. We meet in the Emsworth Community Centre at 7.45pm. Forthcoming meetings are on: 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October. Apart from the Community Board, other active members of the community are frequent attenders. You could meet our local 'beat bobby', a 'HBC Environmental Ranger', HBC project officers', youth workers, and possibly even the Editor of 'The EMS'.

Do please come and tell us what you like about Emsworth, and also what could be improved. Or if you prefer - just listen. We hope you will enjoy the meetings and find them interesting. The EMS will 'advertise' the dates of future meetings.

Ken Gilchrist is chair of the Emsworth Community Board

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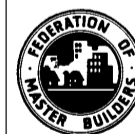
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