

COMMUNITY NEWS

May Day in Brook Meadow

(Continued from page 1)

Two in Accord (accordion players from Worthing) started off the entertainment in Palmers Road car park at 12 noon. Wickham Morris and others, including a Breton Dance group, on a tour round South Hampshire, were the main attraction in the car park from 12.30 to 1.30pm. The Morris Dancers gave excellent dance displays, and got lots of the audience dancing too. This very colourful and successful event was followed later on in the afternoon by a youth percussion band 'Tuned N Trashed', playing on instruments made from recycled materials. Charlie Fletcher of Music Fusion, who lives in Emsworth, did a fantastic job to get the band ready to give their first public performance only five weeks after they were set up.

The afternoon entertainment started in Brook Meadow at 1.30pm with Jonathon Huet's May Day stories which kept the large audience spellbound. This was followed by Maypole dancing by the 4th Emsworth Brownie pack led by Amanda Southall. A second storytelling session was followed by Circle Dancing led by Claire Wilton of Chichester. Both dance groups were accompanied by Two in Accord. Maurice Thomas on flute accompanied the accordion players for the circle dancing. Both dance displays attracted an incredible number of people.

The aim of the May Day in Brook Meadow event was to celebrate May Day as a community event in the traditional way as well as to increase the vitality of the shops in North Street. Some comments which I heard afterwards seem to show that we went some way to achieving this aim: "Very good community event", "Encouraging event for North Street", "Good opportunity, gets us out of our shops", "Opportunity to meet people in a different environment", "Pleased and proud to be associated with it", "Would not have missed it for the world", "My family enjoyed all of it".



Dancing with the Morris Men

Thanks are due to Elaine Clarke (Arts coordinator at HBC), Richard Galloway and Trevor 'the van' Nightingale (Havant Rotary), Carl Inman (Railway Inn and EBA), Brendan Gibb-Gray (EBA), Sheilagh Marchment and Shirley Wenman (EHS), Amanda Southall and the Emsworth 4th Brownie pack, Claire Wilton (Chichester Circle Dance), Charlie Fletcher and TNT (Music Fusion) and especially to all those BMCG volunteers (press-ganged or persuaded) who helped to make this such a successful community event to celebrate May Day in Emsworth. Here's to next year!!

The Emsworth Show 2006

Dennis Doye

Six hours of family entertainment, with an entrance fee of just £1.50 (accompanied children under 12 free), can be enjoyed at the Emsworth Show on August Bank Holiday Monday. From 11am, the Jubilee Recreation Ground in Horndean Road will be the place to be for a continuous programme of events including, in two arenas, Bands, Dancers, Sheepdog and Farmyard Displays, Fly Fishing Demonstrations, Kung Fu, Kick Boxing, Youth Football, and a Fun Dog Show. In addition there will be an abundance and variety of stalls, side shows, entertainment, children's rides, magic show, etc., and for a refreshing break with home made cakes, a warm welcome awaits you at the Tea Tent.

Should perchance the usual fine weather experienced over the last few years desert us at any time during the afternoon, you can always make for the giant marquee which opens at 1pm and savour the displays of flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery, photographs, handicrafts, plus the enthusiasm and ingenuity of the younger exhibitors in their own 45 competitions. Details of these and all other competition classes open to EVERYBODY, can be found in the Show Schedules widely obtainable FREE from the library and retail outlets in the area. There are some 240 classes to choose from, more than 700 1st/2nd/3rd cash prizes on offer, and over £1000 to be shared amongst the winners - kindly donated by mostly local sponsors whose names appear in the Schedules. Do collect a Schedule and

6th Emsworth Food Festival

Features New Attractions and a Quality Food Focus

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 September 2006

The Emsworth Food Festival now in its sixth year, and firmly established as one of the UK's leading food and drink events attracting thousands of visitors from far and wide, will be held between Friday 8th and Sunday 10th September from 10am until 5pm on each of the three days.

This year promises exciting new culinary delights for everyone, with even more emphasis on quality of produce, products, suppliers, attractions and activities. Additions to this year's programme include an innovative 'family fare' area to the north of the village centre, as well as improvements to the traditional festival centre, including a new high quality demonstration kitchen, plus upgraded facilities across Emsworth during the event.

Local retailers, cafes, pubs and restaurants all play a leading role in the success of the food festival, actively participating along with local community groups and schools.

The Emsworth Food Festival is a non-profit community event organised by a committee of volunteers, and this year is placing greater emphasis on being involved with helping local projects. To achieve this aim it is now set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC).

The first day of the food festival will feature the re-launch of a renovated 100 year-old oyster boat - the "Terror". Originally built in Emsworth during the 19th century, it has been rescued and restored through the effort of Chichester Harbour Conservancy with the help of Heritage Lottery funding. The restoration work is being carried out at Dolphin Quay Boatyard in Emsworth, using traditional methods. The quay in Emsworth will become a centrepiece to celebrate the event, with a range of educational and entertainment activities during the day and evening. Children from local schools will, in the afternoon, perform a play and songs about the village's maritime heritage. The day will close with entertainment in the evening, culminating in a firework display.



The restored "Terror" nearing completion

Following the outstanding success of the many activities which took place in North Street during last year, plans are in place for a new 'Family Fare' area encompassing the Emsworth Community Centre and two associated car parks, as well as St James' Church grounds and parish hall. Devoted to families, it will feature a 'Kids Kitchen Academy' cookery school aimed at promoting healthy foods through an interest in cooking to children of all ages. An exciting arts and craft show will offer works designed by local artists to enhance your dining area.

This year, the number of stalls has been limited, and they will be spread over a larger area of the village, to increase quality and variety of produce, and comfort of the event - helping to reduce the pressure of visitor numbers.

With no admittance charge, the 2006 Emsworth Food Festival will offer a great day out for all the family. It is an essential date for every food lovers' diary. You can keep in touch with the latest news and entertainment programme by visiting the festival website www.emsworthfoodfestival.co.uk

Christian Aid Week

Jill Allum

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Emsworth in Christian Aid Week, £7,276 has been sent from them to Christian Aid. This is about £800 more than the 2005 collection.

Christian Aid sends your contributions to people who know and can help in local situations where help is needed. Many thanks to givers and collectors.

have a go. A comment often overheard in the marquee is "I've got better ones than those at home" - but, 'you've got to be in it to win it', so bring them along this year and do just that.

Incidentally, apologies to the avid vegetable growers who have been frantically, but vainly, seeking the prize-winning variety of the children's potato competition winner in 2005. The potatoes were described as 'Isle of RHUM' in the caption to the photograph in the April issue of The EMS, and no, it was not an 'April Fool', but just an unfortunate typographical error. However, as a result of the photograph and also the Horticultural Society's liaison with local youth organisations, 150 seed potatoes and buckets have been handed out to children for this year's competition. Rumour has it that there is great rivalry between the Brownies and Rainbows, and the Cub Scouts and Beavers. (Battle of the Sexes?)

The Show will be officially opened by the Mayor of Havant, with Radio Solent's 'Top Soil' panellist and BBC's 'Easy Gardening' magazine acting editor, David Hurron, winding up the day by presenting the Cups and Trophies at 5pm.

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