

THE EMS

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

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EDITORIAL

Richard Jannaway

This quarter I have been somewhat self obsessed as I am now the proud possessor of a new right hip joint, courtesy of St Richards Hospital. I am rapidly getting used to it and it is going to be great. This means that the production of The EMS has taken longer than usual and had to be started earlier. As news kept on coming in anyway, we have ended up with a very full issue and have had to leave some articles out.

John Crookshank

I never met John Crookshank, Emsworth Sailing Club Commodore from 2003 to 2005, who passed away at the beginning of May after a period of illness. But I was very interested in his memories of sailing in Emsworth in 1945 which we carried in the last three issues of The EMS. Had I known earlier, I would have marked his passing in conjunction with the articles.

Unfortunately, an error crept into the third and final part of his account. I have been asked to point out that James Gordon Parham, not his brother Frank Parham, was the boat builder who built the Emsworth One Design boats.

Hard Sell

Like me, you probably get a lot of junk mail full of fantastic special offers. One that recently came through my door, and which I noticed especially because of my impending operation, was from 'Prestige Mobility' and it offered a chance to win a free mobility scooter.

On investigating the company on the internet, I found they had a reputation for the 'hard sell'. The salesman calls after a person responds and persuades them to buy a scooter for a very expensive £2,500. Should the customer have second thoughts, it is very difficult to cancel your order and get your money back.

Mobility scooters can be a great boon for those who can benefit from them. If you think one might suit your needs, then in Emsworth we have Shopmobility. For a very small fee you can hire a scooter for a day or a week to see if you like the idea. If you decide you want to buy one, Shopmobility can arrange this for a very reasonable price. For further information telephone Bruce Hailstone 01243 373777.

Website

I have recently revamped the ERA website, www.emsworth-residents.co.uk, to include more news and make it easier to access. Have a look and tell me what you think.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A27 Development Site

Thank you for the report in your October 2006 issue of the current situation with regard to the A27 Site. I also read the Chairman's remarks in this context with gratitude and agreement.

I see the proposed development of the A27 site as being considerably more threatening to the good - indeed the existence - of the village than the factors which have already been discussed. The congestion in the bottleneck between the two bridges will undoubtedly be so heavy as to discourage the residents of north Emsworth from using the facilities south of the bridges. As residents of New Brighton Road, my wife and I are already considering the relative convenience of going to shop in Havant via Southleigh or even Bartons Road rather than face such congestion.

I thus hope that the Havant Borough Council, with whom the decision for or against the development of the A27 site will ultimately rest, but within whose jurisdiction Emsworth is only one among many local areas, will be as concerned to preserve the identity of this village as I am.

Captain P.R.D. Kimm OBE, Royal Navy
(This letter has been edited for reasons of space Ed.)

Yet another survey?

I see from the EMS Valley Gazette that yet another "Listening to your Views" survey is about to be inflicted on the Borough. If members of the Council are incapable of learning residents' views without recourse to costly surveys, in my opinion they are not doing their job properly. Is it any wonder that so few people bother to vote?

If I am unfortunate enough to receive one of these surveys, I can assure David Gillett that I will not return it. In fact I will put in through my shredder so that the remnants cannot be recycled.

M.S. Thomas (Mrs)
Brook Gardens

Tesco Havant expansion - a threat to Emsworth shops?

Residents will probably be aware that Tesco are planning a massive expansion of their store in Havant. This comes at a time when the development at Potash Terrace also nears completion. These developments will significantly increase the pressure on independent and small businesses in Havant and Emsworth town centres.

The Emsworth Business Association (EBA) does have serious reservations about the massive supermarket growth and edge-of-town developments currently taking place in Havant and the implications for small businesses in the area. The proponents of the Tesco scheme state that the expansion will bring with it more jobs and whilst a number of unskilled and low paid jobs may well be created, it may be at the cost of long established and much loved local concerns going out of business.

Many local people are justly concerned about the enormous power exerted over the local economy by one major retailer. There is little doubt that an enlarged Tesco will act as a magnet to shoppers from here and other parts of the Borough, drawing trade away from local centres. Many independent and specialised shops in Chichester disappeared following the opening of a Tesco Extra on the edge of the city.

In the USA, local communities are beginning to rail against Wal-Mart as their growth has seen the almost total disappearance of local shops and professional services. This could happen here and we need to be aware that massive supermarket expansion will bring unwelcome consequences for smaller town and community centres.

Emsworth is a community with strong roots where the business aspirations and those of the residents are broadly in harmony. Whilst most of us use supermarkets, it is important that viable alter-

natives remain. If our town is to maintain business prosperity and continue to offer the extraordinary range of shops and services, we might all have to make a conscious decision to use them a little more often in the future.

Brendan Gibb-Gray

(This letter has been edited for reasons of space Ed.)

The Havant TESCO

In response to Ray Cobbett's article in the October EMS, I respectfully submit the following responses to the question 'Does Havant really need a larger Tesco?'

1. The redevelopment proposals appear to be confined to the existing site with retail use which makes efficient use of the land
2. The store is near the fringe of the town centre not out of town
3. There is a need because shoppers like Tesco-logy and vote with their feet
4. The Green parties comments apply equally to all supermarkets
5. Non food items are welcomed because it enables 'one-stop shopping' and saves time and travel.
6. Tesco is popular because shoppers like value for money
7. Jobs created in Tesco might well be offset by job losses elsewhere, however, the question of job availability should embrace the wider work-field not just the retail sector. With many new developments in hand and proposed within Havant and the surrounding area the overall prospect of job loss due to a larger Tesco appears remote.
8. The volume of trade attracted to the current Tesco appears to justify the decision to permit the development in the first place and by seeking to invest in a replacement store Tesco are demonstrating confidence in Havant as a thriving town.

J.H. Ellis

(This letter has been edited for reasons of space Ed.)

Crabbing on the Jetty?

Has Victor Meldrew joined Chichester Harbour Conservancy? Maybe not, but this would seem to be a plausible explanation for the notices that have gone up on what the Conservancy itself describes as the 'Emsworth Public Jetty'.

Crabbing, perhaps the favourite pastime associated with Emsworth for many children and their carers, is now banned. Also banned, from what is probably the safest and most suitable location in the harbour, are swimming, diving and fishing.

So are unaccompanied 'children' which presumably means that a young soldier, fresh from battle in Afghanistan, will require an adult escort before being trusted onto such a dangerous structure.

Apparently there have been a few problems. The solar boat, moored to the end of the jetty, was set adrift. Swimmers have clung to moored boats and climbed on harbour markers. Crabber's and fishermen's buckets are alleged to have occasionally inconvenienced other users. One might think that it was unwise to leave such a conspicuous, valuable and 'hi-tech' vessel accessible and unattended anywhere, and why swimmers prevented from using the jetty should actually be less likely to



Notice on the new jetty in Emsworth

cling to boat or marker is unclear. According to the police, some youths have been 'spoken to' and since 'the word has got around' there has been little trouble.

Rather than the present restrictive notices "FOR ACCESS TO VESSELS ONLY", which most people seem to ignore anyway because they are seen as officious and unreasonable, would it not be better to replace them on the new bigger jetty, with "at your own risk" notices and a polite request that users give priority, when necessary, to actual boat activity? From our windows we are able to see that, in reality, such activity normally amounts to no more than minutes per day.

Otherwise the Conservancy, which recently claimed "that no single interest should prevail over the others" and has done so much good work in the harbour in other ways, is likely to alienate the very people upon whose goodwill it will depend in future years.

P J Colbourne
Swan Close, Emsworth

Additional letter see page 4
"A Development Near You".

EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the April issue of
The EMS is 28th February.

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 - AGM - Monday 29 January 2007

Emsworth Community Centre, Mountford Rooms, 7.30 pm

Speaker: **John Davis Harbour Master**
'Chichester Harbour 2003 to 2009'

There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

K R JENKINS

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