

COMMUNITY NEWS



The Subway's Open - that's Official

Brian Picknett

February 17th saw the official opening of the rejuvenated A259 underpass area by Mayor of Havant, Cllr Richard Brown.

The occasion was hosted by Emsworth Community Board at International House in the Square with tea and coffee available and exhibition displays by both Havant Borough Council and The Board. Now almost completed, the overall improvements make town centre pedestrian access much more attractive and safe.

The footpath from Palmers Road car park is easier for all to use with its gentle slope and the subway approaches and surroundings are much cleaner.

The focus is, of course, the subway itself which has been transformed from a dingy, intimidating hole in the ground into a bright, colourful town centre walkway access with photo murals of waterside Emsworth. Ray Smith, the mural's designer was present to see his work 'officially opened'.

The opportunity was taken to also improve the footpath towards Brook Meadow and re-surface the Ems footbridge.



Unveiling the Plaque

New street lighting to both sides of the roundabout is due to be installed soon to bring the finishing touch to the whole area.

Funding for the project came from the 'Liveability' scheme accessed from Central Government by Havant Borough Council who consulted closely with Emsworth Community Board during all stages of the project's planning and creation.

Two Sporting Ambassadors for Warblington School

Caroline Peters

Sarah Watkins and Joe Churchill have been selected as Young Ambassadors for Warblington School. Havant and Waterlooville School Sports Partnership held interviews in December to select Young Ambassadors for the Partnership. Sarah and Joe will be role models for other young people across the Partnership, but especially across the Warblington family of schools. They will have the opportunity to attend training and networking sessions, where they will meet with other Young Ambassadors. They will be actively involved in festivals and other activities organised for the Infant, Junior and Primary Schools within our 'family'.

Students at Warblington have continued to enjoy increased sporting opportunities this academic year. Callum Giles has been coaching hockey again this term to students both in lesson time and in an after-school club. Through this opportunity, hockey is gaining in popularity with many students. Girls' football has continued to be popular. Ex pupil Danielle Burgess, who works for the Partnership as football coach has run an after-school club. This has been continuing this term with Portsmouth Football Club.



Young Ambassadors Sarah Watkins and Joe Churchill

Dance is going from strength to strength this year, after its introduction last year. Clubs are run to enable students from all year groups to participate. In the Summer Term, the students will be participating in the Havant and Waterlooville School Sports Partnership Dance Festival.

More opportunities to participate in sporting activities after school are being offered with more inter tutor group competitions. These have been very popular already this year with year 7 football and netball competitions.

Warblington School is hosting multi skills festivals for year 2 pupils from Emsworth and St. Albans primary, Fairfield and Bidbury infant schools. This gives these pupils the first opportunity to come to Warblington and join in a sporting festival. Year 9 students will be running the activities for the young children.

In the summer the School will again host the Warblington Family Activity day. There will be over 200 pupils from our junior and primary schools participating in a day of activity, all the activities are led by Year 10 students. We look forward to these events; as they are always very popular for the primary pupils and the students from Warblington who act as Leaders at these events.

News In Brief

Emsworth Trefoil Guild

Calling all ex Brownies, Guides, Leaders, or anyone involved in the guide movement. Come and join us on the first Wednesday of every month at: International House, The Square, Emsworth 7.30 -10 pm. Activities and fun include bowling, walks, bbq's, craft, singing, keep fit, interesting speakers, meals out.

We keep in touch with fellow guilds and the guide movement. Contact: Chairman Audrey Fawke 02392 469230; Secretary Marion Lea 01243 376886.

Stop all the clocks ... Brendan Gibb-Gray

Many observant residents will have noticed that the clock on the Central Buildings (above Lloyds Chemists and Classy Cooks) has stopped and efforts to get it going have stalled. The Emsworth Business Association (EBA) has taken up this matter with Henry Adams and Co. (agents for the property owners) and we are assured that remedial action will now be taken to repair or replace the mechanism. The EBA offers a bottle of wine to the first hawk eye who notices the clock in full working order again!

"The Emsworth Directory"

Residents will have received copies of a booklet called "The Emsworth Directory" over the past couple of months. This publication is produced in Petersfield and has absolutely no connection with the Emsworth Business Directory or other community booklets issued by the Emsworth Business Association.

Blooming flowers!

During 2006, Havant Borough Council (HBC) provided beautiful stands of flowers that graced St. Peter's Square. They are willing to work with us again to repeat these displays during the coming seasons. The EBA hope to be able to make significant contributions to extend these efforts and slowly restore the centre of the town to its former flowering glory. Could it be that hanging, or even clamped baskets are on their way back?

The EBA are proud sponsors of the town roundabout and the improvements that include the removal of unnecessary clutter have helped to enhance the visual impact of the floral displays managed by HBC. We are grateful for their continued support.

Music and lunch at the Emsworth Centre - Brian Boak

Live keyboard music is now being played on most Wednesdays from about 11am for the lunch club at the Emsworth Centre in South Street.

May Days Art Trail & May Day Festival

Elaine Clarke (Arts Development Officer at HBC)

The Emsworth Arts Trail was successfully expanded across the Borough in May last year. The trail will run over four weekends again this year, starting in Emsworth, where it all began, on 5-6 May, Havant 12-13 May, Hayling 19-20 May and Waterlooville 26-27 May. A record number of Artists and Makers are taking part again this year from painters to sculptors, jewellers and ceramists. Trail brochures are available from Emsworth Library, Havant Arts Centre and all the other main libraries.

May Day moves to Havant Park!

Following the success of 'May Day in Brook Meadow' last year, a May Day Festival will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 7 May. This year's wildlife and art funday will be held in Havant Park from 11am to 4pm.

A varied programme of events and activities is being put together for all the family to enjoy and will include willow weaving workshops, art and craft workshops and accordion music. It is also hoped to have maypole dancing, circle dancing, a youth band as well as very unusual street theatre.

Several nature conservation groups in Havant Borough will have displays and information about conservation areas around the borough and the wildlife to be found in them. Entrance to this event is free but there will be a small charge for the workshops.

Look out for posters, leaflets and other publicity material nearer the time. For further information, please contact Elaine Clarke, Arts Development Officer at Havant Borough Council on 023 9244 6421.

Emsworth Open Gardens Day - Sunday 1st July

Sarah Sanderson - Emsworth Horticultural Society

Please mark Sunday 1st July in your diaries as the day Emsworth Horticultural Society is holding their Open Gardens Day. The number of gardens opening has not yet been decided but there will be some new ones as well as some of those who opened last time in 2004.

We are hoping for better weather this year, as those of you who valiantly went round in the pouring rain in 2004 will appreciate. Details will be available nearer the time, please look out for posters. If anyone would like to get in touch about opening their garden, I would be grateful if you could contact me. (Tel 01243 373831).

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