

## THE EMS

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## EMS Copy Date

The deadline for the October issue of

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Articles can be submitted by  
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services either in the Newsletter or in any inserts.

Emsworth Residents'  
Association

## QGM - Monday 28 July

Emsworth Community Centre,  
Mountford Room, 7.30 pm

## Flooding in Emsworth

Steve Hale of the Environment Agency,  
Hampshire Division, will talk and  
answer questions about sea defences  
and the risk of flooding in Emsworth.

## K R JENKINS

GENERAL PROPERTY  
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HAVANT

023 9247 4271

Kevin Jenkins  
70 Knightwood Avenue  
Havant PO9 5SB

## Letters to The Editor

Hampshire Farm Development  
and Agricultural Land

We live in an age when the spectre of famine  
is becoming real in many parts of the world.  
There are 850 million chronically hungry  
people. The world wheat price has risen by  
118% in the last year. Riots which began in  
Mexico City over the price of maize have now  
multiplied elsewhere, from Ivory Coast to  
Indonesia, from Burkina Faso to Bangladesh.  
In Australia, droughts have made the 2008 rice  
crop the smallest for 80 years. For the first  
time in its history the USA is rationing a food  
item – rice.

Meanwhile in this country, our own agri-  
culture has been contracting. In 1996, 68.6%  
of all food consumed in the UK was produced  
here. By 2006, that had fallen to 59.5%. The  
land dedicated to cereal production fell from  
3.4 million hectares to 4.9 million in 2006.  
Head of cattle fell from 11.7 million to 10.2  
million and pigs from 7.9 million to 4.9  
million. (source The Times 24 April 2008)

At the same time in many countries farm  
land is being converted from food production  
to meet the sudden and highly lucrative demand  
for biofuels, a policy currently being encour-  
aged by the EU which is itself contributing to  
climate change.

In these circumstances, when not just this  
country but the entire world needs all the food  
it can get, it beggars belief that the government  
is exerting pressure to convert Hampshire Farm  
– good quality agricultural land – into a gratu-  
itous housing estate in order to get itself out of  
a mess which is entirely of its own making.

This proposal is short-sighted, parochial  
and immoral to the point of being grossly  
irresponsible. Emsworth should resist it.

Dr Martin Mosse

## Mill Pond Planters

Thanks to Emsworth Business Association.

I along with local residents have for the last 7  
years endeavoured to keep flower displays by  
the seat in Bridgefoot Path at the bottom of  
School Lane. It has been a long losing battle.

Whatever we put there was destroyed by  
weekend YOB behaviour. The planters were  
ripped out of their bases, thrown in the mill  
pond, and the flowers ripped off. If they could  
not remove the planters then they would kick  
them to pieces.

On the eve of Mother's Day, one planter  
was taken with the plants, some Mother had a  
nice gift!! I felt like giving up the project, it  
seemed to be a losing battle.



The problem was presented to Emsworth  
Business Association. We now have two hand-  
some planters in situ. Donated by Emsworth  
Home Hardware.

David Wagg and David Sly did a grand job  
bolting the planters to the ground. So hopefully  
these extra strong wooden tubs will survive  
and people can continue to enjoy the flower  
displays in this area.

## Editorial

The double whammy: Peak Oil and Global  
Warming

Anybody who watches the news is bound to be  
aware that things are changing; energy and food  
prices are rising and the climate is changing. The  
evidence of vast ice loss from both polar regions,  
for example, cannot be denied.

Energy price rises have multiple and disputed  
causes but the underlying logic of a finite supply  
and rising demand as India and China industrialise  
is undeniable. Similarly, food prices are rising,  
productive land is getting less, oil is used massive-  
ly in the production of fertilisers and the demand  
for biofuels is taking land from food growing.  
Starvation looms in many parts of the world.

So how does all this affect Emsworth and what  
can we do to combat it?

We are more fortunate than many places. We  
have a relatively benign climate, a good commu-  
nity spirit, fertile soil nearby and a range of  
independent retailers able to take advantage of  
this. We don't need to burn lots of fuel to go  
and buy food. We have reasonable rail and bus  
services so we can easily get to many places  
without total dependence on our cars. Flooding,  
from more unstable weather patterns and sea  
level rise, is a big concern. How, or whether, this  
can be combated is uncertain.

We will need to adapt by greatly reducing the  
amount of fossil fuel energy we use, and varying  
its source. Some uses we cannot individually  
control, see *Oak Park Hospital sustainability on*  
*p4*, others we can. The kind of car we drive and  
how much we use it. Our home, how well insu-  
lated it is and how we heat it. The food we eat,  
by choosing wherever possible, locally produced  
organic food in season and avoiding food inten-

sively produced with masses of petrochemical  
fertilisers, artificial heat, and long distance  
shipping. With increasing energy costs, the cost  
difference will reduce too.

Tree cover is also important, trees fix CO<sub>2</sub>,  
provide shade, release rainwater slowly into the  
ground helping to prevent surface water flooding  
and provide wildlife habitats. As we move away  
from an oil-based economy, trees will also  
provide carbon neutral fuel. In order to gain all  
these benefits, trees need to be planted and  
managed well.

## Greening our homes

In order to put our own house in order, literally,  
Frances and I will be, firstly insulating it to the  
highest standards and secondly changing our  
heating system to absolutely minimise our fossil  
fuel usage. I will report progress on this in a  
future issue.

Many people, in rented accommodation, or  
with cash flow problems find it difficult to  
make such changes. This is why we also need to  
campaign for a better grant system and have  
rented houses upgraded to the highest standards.  
There are grants available, no longer through  
the council so don't go hassling them. The  
people to contact are: Energy Advice Centre  
0800 512012 and the Warm Front Team 0800  
316 6011. More details on the HBC website  
[www.havant.gov.uk/havant-7834](http://www.havant.gov.uk/havant-7834)

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have appeared on websites without my prior  
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to put a formal copyright notice on The EMS.  
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material.

Richard Jannaway

I would like to convey my thanks to  
Emsworth Hardware for their generosity. It is  
such a good example of the local residents and  
local businesses working together. Maybe we  
should look at doing more of this. We must  
support our local traders. They help make  
Emsworth the unique 'village' it is.

Sheila Morris  
School Lane

## Station Access

I read with interest the article in 'The  
EMS' April 2008. (*Community Street  
Audit p4*).

As an able bodied person I cannot fully  
appreciate the hurdles handicapped  
people have to overcome when travelling  
the streets.

Last year when walking from my home  
in Horndean Road I marvelled that the  
Railway board had provided a lovely  
ramp to the South Platform at Emsworth  
Station, but not one for the North  
Platform. What are people in wheelchairs  
expected to do when arriving from  
Portsmouth faced with only a set of stairs?  
The lack of this facility must prevent  
people coming to Emsworth by train and  
missing out on the Food Festival and  
Emsworth Show.

I sent an enquiry about this to the  
Railway authorities (probably the wrong  
one) and never got a reply.

Would this not be a marvellous community  
project to get a ramp built for the North  
Platform?

Brian Gillbanks  
Horndean Road

## New EBA Website

Back in the spring, I was asked to take on the  
job of redesigning the Emsworth Business  
Association (EBA) website. The brief was  
to make it far easier for people to find the  
members and the services they offer. In  
addition, the site was to have a fresh new  
look and be genuinely interactive.

The site is now up and running. A central  
feature is the Members Directory database,  
designed to enable visitors to find the product or  
service they want, quickly and easily. The EBA  
has around 100 members covering everything  
from garage services to hotels, food retailers to  
hardware stores and yacht chandlers to shoe  
menders. To fully appreciate what the site can  
offer, visit:

<http://www.emsworthbusinessassociation.co.uk>  
and click Directory of Members on the menu  
bar. The details of all the EBA member  
businesses are just two clicks away.

Some members have only just renewed and  
still have a 'basic' listing, others show their  
products and services in detail. When you join  
or renew, I will send you all you need to make  
your entry really effective. An entry of up to  
200 words, two pictures and a link to your own  
website comes free with membership – so make  
the most of it.

If you own or run a business in Emsworth  
and are not currently a member, please consider  
joining or renewing, it only costs £45 a year.  
As well as direct benefits to your business, the  
EBA works hard for all the businesses and  
residents of Emsworth. By joining, you can  
help the EBA make a difference.

Richard Jannaway

## Gardens &amp; Grounds



Old hedges renovated  
& fences repaired.  
New planting schemes, turf,  
paving & gravel.  
Problem trees reduced or removed.

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