

**Emsworth Forties Flashback**  
a real success - albeit a soggy one



This Sunday Dispatch headline in Vitalise window really summed up the day!

For a week before the event day itself, the shopping centre was awash with forties memorabilia with some 18 shops entering the Window Display Competition. And what fabulous, imaginative, informative displays there were too. On the day they provided the perfect setting for the WWII jeeps and trucks.



It was unfortunate that the weather on the day caused the cancellation of the Emsworth Concert Band which had been rehearsing a programme of swing music to greet the Mayor and Mayoress of Havant as they arrived through the rain in a convoy of jeeps. But Angel Radio's Tony Smith and Martin Kirby really came to the fore, comping the day beautifully both musically and vocally. TS Unity turned out on parade in the afternoon and gave us some stirring military music.

The Soup Kitchen was a real hit too. A Chef from the Royal Logistical Corps from Thorney Island kept his home-made soup bubbling and spirits warm even though the bodies were bedraggled and cold!

The Mayor, Cllr Victor Pierce-Jones together with his wife Margaret entered into the spirit of the occasion and toured the shop displays beneath an umbrella and awarded first prize to Evelyn Pearce of Emsworth Delicatessen. A well deserved prize and she was justifiably thrilled.



A big thanks go to Solent Overlord Executive for turning out in their military vehicles, to the guys from Baker Barracks of Thorney Island for their attendance and for all the groups, businesses and individuals for all their support, sponsorship and participation. All the efforts raised another £704 towards Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden and their work to create Emsworth's own memorial garden.

Verdict on the event - many requests for a re-run and for it to be an annual affair! Don't breath a word but - there's a whisper of maybe something in the pipeline. Sshhh - careless talk spoils surprises.

Brian Edwards-Picknett



Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden

We now have a Memorial Garden that really looks like a garden. The sculpture 'Absence' looks as if it's meant to be there, the perennials and shrubs we planted in April are blooming and the grass is greening fast.

There is, however, one thorn in our side - the flooding which most of you will probably have seen. The rain this spring has been incredible not so much that it has been so frequent, but that when it does rain, it is like a monsoon. The water surges down the path bordering the playing field and empties itself into the garden. At first, it collected in the lower south-western corner and seemed to soak away quite quickly. However, more recently, the flooding has spread and is taking longer to soak away into the already sodden ground.



This has obviously been of great concern and has resulted in our putting 'on hold' any work in the lower part of the garden; there is no point planting hundreds of bulbs only to have them rot away. We are, of course, in discussion with the engineers at HBC but will have to be patient whilst they explore various avenues for a solution.

We are also anxious that the 'Names of the Fallen' should not be subjected to long immersions in water. Consequently, we are concentrating our efforts on getting the higher part of the garden and the large raised bed planted out and looked after. We now have a monthly maintenance session in the garden, starting at 10am on the second Monday of the month. Please come along, meet some of 'The Friends' and lend a hand.

However, undeterred by the flooding, the 'Friends' will most certainly be holding a Remembrance ceremony in the Garden on 11 November.

**Fund raising**

Fund raising efforts for both the Garden and the Name Plaques are still continuing. The 'Friends' are delighted to announce that the Co-Operative Funeral Directors presented the group with a giant 1m-long cheque for an amazing £2,000 on Wednesday 18 June. This money will go towards the 'Name Plaques of the Fallen'. The cheque was presented by Stuart Wilders, Head of Sales and Marketing, and Pauline Lympany, Manager of the Emsworth, Leigh Park and Waterlooville branches. We will also be having a stall at the Emsworth Show on August bank holiday Monday.

Virginia Wilson-Smith and Sarah Sanderson

**Roll of Honour**

A roll of honour is now being compiled for the name plaques that will be installed, hopefully in the near future, in the Emsworth Memorial Garden. As a starting point, the list of names now being vetted are those names on the roll in St. James' Church and those on a list archived in the Emsworth Museum. Both these sources of names are very similar, but already a name has been added to the final list that was from neither of these sources. As these name plaques will be cast in solid bronze, it is important that the final roll of names is as complete and as accurate as possible.

The list of names being compiled is from both World Wars and also includes those from later conflicts. However, those names for the roll must only be for those who lost their lives in carrying out their duty for their country and who had been Emsworth residents at some time in their lives or had an association with Emsworth.

To this end, if any resident knows of any person from the armed forces who gave their life for their country from the first World War onwards and whose name is not included on the Church roll or Museum archive, could they please contact Dave Lee email: tansylee2000@yahoo.co.uk or phone 377929.

Dave Lee

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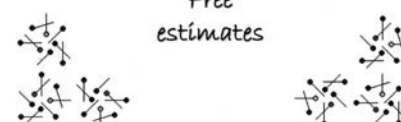
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