

## Olympic Flag over Emsworth

At approximately 4.30pm on Sunday 24th August, the Olympic Handover Flag was raised on the museum flagpole in North Street, Emsworth to celebrate the moment when London became the official Olympic Games host city. The 6ft by 3ft flag with its white background, logo in union colours and Olympic rings, fluttered proudly in the brisk breeze.



Before the flag was raised, four young people from the Havant Athletic Club ran with it round the centre of Emsworth to show it to residents and visitors. A fifth member of the Club carried an Olympic torch from the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Boys and girls from 1st Emsworth Scouts, Baptist Church Girls Brigade and other local sports and youth groups then watched the flag being raised by Chris Wilkinson (tennis player at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics).

The flag was flying again the following day at the Emsworth Show on a pole provided by the Emsworth Scouts. It will now be held in the museum archive as a record of a special occasion in the history of our town together with



pictures and information about the events of 24th August.

Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust applied for, and were delighted to receive, one of only 600 flags specially commissioned by LOCOG



(London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games). The flags were distributed to Armed Forces and Embassies around the world, City Halls, British Council offices and Foreign and Commonwealth offices.

### Olympic Torch

The torch was loaned to us for the event by Havant Athletic Club. It came to England when it was presented to the Southsea Fire Brigade by a Fire Brigade in Germany when they each took turns to host visits to their respective countries. For a number of years, the Southsea Brigade housed the torch in their trophy cabinet but then decided that it could be put to better use and donated it to Havant Athletic Club where one of the officers of the Southsea Brigade was a member.

Havant Athletic Club use the torch as part of their annual presentations. It is awarded to anyone who has gained a full international vest. Past winners have been Debbie Noy (Commonwealth Games, marathon), Tom Buckner (Olympic Games, steeplechase), Zara Hyde (Olympic Games, 10,000m) and Dan Turner who represented GB in an international match in the high jump.

*Dorothy Bone*



Havant Athletics Club members, left to right: Liam King - Alice Reynolds - Corin Reynolds - Amy Bream - Josh Kelly.

### Christmas in Emsworth

Sunday 30th  
November



Come along and celebrate. A new exciting plan is a-foot so keep the afternoon free - look out for details to be posted around the town. Event organised by the EBA.

## Army helps hospice fund

Rotarians in Havant have achieved their aim to spearhead a community effort to raise £25,000 for the two children's hospices which serve the area.

The Going for Gold campaign has topped £27,000, with one of the last big cheques coming from one of the Royal Artillery batteries based at Baker Barracks, Thorney Island who ran and rowed their way to contributing a total of £5,423.



Staff Sergeant Danny Groves (left) hands over a cheque for £5,423 to Havant Rotary Club's immediate past president Colin Hunt with Battery Sgt Maj David Wise

They and others who have earned gold awards by supporting Havant Rotary Club's initiative to celebrate its 50th birthday by raising much-needed funds for Chestnut Tree House near Chichester, and Naomi House, just north of Winchester.

The hospices provide crucial care services, free of charge, for children with life-limiting and life-threatening illnesses and their families but receive very little Government funding. The awards were presented by the Mayor of Havant Councillor John Smith on Thursday 31 July at the Civic Offices.

Anyone who has raised funds for the cause and who has not yet sent them in is asked to do so as soon as possible. Please contact appeal organiser Bryan Bouch on (01243) 782774 for more details. *Eve Fuller*

## Christmas Market

In the last issue of *The EMS* we wrote about the prospect of the Food Festival returning in 2009. The response to the idea of Sunday Markets has been positive and we have decided that subject to a successful outcome of the Christmas Market to run three, possibly four one day themed Festival Markets in 2009. This will be in partnership with others, including Havant Borough Council and include the best elements of the food festival format.

The Christmas Market will take place on Sunday 14th December in South Street car park and give businesses that are not food based the opportunity of joining in. Road closures will be kept to an absolute minimum and in this way we hope to lessen disruption and disturbance to residents. Admission to the market will be free. Full details will be announced nearer the time.

We are keen to ensure this is an inclusive event with as many groups and organisations as possible becoming involved in what should be a new and exciting era for the town. The indications are that members of the Community Board and Residents Association will assist in the management of the events as they unfold in 2009. The Christmas Market will give us an opportunity to assess the new format and take the very best into the themed festivals in 2009.

*Brendan Gibb-Gray: Emsworth Business Association*

## Rotary Halloween auction to raise funds

Ghoulies and beasties may be about but the support of the community is essential if one of Havant Rotary Club's biggest fundraisers of the year is to be a success.

The club, which meets each Monday evening at the Bear Hotel, Havant and draws about one third of its membership from Emsworth, is holding a charity auction on Friday 31 October at Hayling Island Community Centre. It is hoped that John Cameron of *Cash in the Attic* fame will be the auctioneer.

It will be an auction with a twist: the dress code is black tie/lounge suits or, with due regard to the date, appropriate Halloween attire.

The programme for the evening will start with viewing the lots and a champagne and smoked salmon reception, followed by dinner and the auction.

The club is asking for the help of sponsors such as businesses, and individuals or groups to provide an auction lot, which can be a promise, an item or a service that they or someone they know can provide.

Please ask your friends and family to come along. It's £25 a head but all the cash raised will go to local charities and projects supported by Havant Rotary Club and the evening promises to be a lot of fun.

If you can help, would like to order tickets or obtain further details, log on to havantrotary.com or contact Eve Fuller on 01243 375197.

Bargain hunters can also view lots and bid on line at

\*\*\* [www.havantrotary.com](http://www.havantrotary.com) \*\*\*

*Eve Fuller*

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