

All Ages Came to Remember



This year, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month carried a special significance. 2008 marked the 90th anniversary of the signing of the armistice, officially bringing WW1 to an end.

The bright, chilly Tuesday morning brought the impressive sight of a large contingent of 47th Regiment Royal Artillery from their base on Thorney Island marching up North Street heading for the Memorial Garden.



Pupils from both Emsworth and St James' Primary Schools also joined us, with a total of some 100 young people. It was quite moving and rewarding to see the newly award-winning garden filled on all three sides by people from all generations.

The Rev'd Simon Sayer conducted the ceremony and included contributions made by young people from both schools and the Regimental Sergeant Major.



Wreaths were laid by the 'Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden', 47th Regiment and Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service and countless poppy crosses were placed by adults and children. The result was a poppy-lined avenue leading to 'Absence' - the focal point. The 'Last Post' and 'Reveille', carried clearly in the wind, sounded by ex Royal Marine Jonathan Capes, marked the 2-minute silence.

Memorial Trail Waymarkers

Did you realise that the base of the four Memorial Waymarkers around Emsworth has a different bronze casting each depicting an historic trade of old Emsworth? To draw attention to this fact, bronze title strips have been designed and fitted by Michael Johnson, sculptor of 'Absence', to each Waymarker - Oysters, Market Place, Working Trades and Rope Making.

Emsworth Primary Community Project

An exciting new development is due to take place at Emsworth Primary School in 2009. Head teacher, Rosie Law, has secured funding in the region of £100,000 to re-develop two classrooms.

Mrs Law said, "We want to use this wonderful opportunity to offer a wide range of services to our children, families and the wider community. Our vision is that we could use the space to offer fun breakfast and after-school clubs; family and adult learning opportunities and support and information for families. We know that by extending the services we offer and working in partnership with parents, a wide range of organisations and the local community, we can help children achieve and excel".

The school is keen to involve local people in the design of the new space. Two informal open afternoons are taking place in January to hear people's views about the redevelopment and the sorts of services they want to see offered at their local school. The feedback from the events will then be used to help the architects and planners from Hampshire County Council with the designs. Anyone wanting to help shape the future of Emsworth's children is invited to drop into the school between 3pm and 5.30pm on 8th or 15th January.

Lisa Strutt

Plinth and Dedication Plaque

Those of you who have visited the Garden recently will have seen that the dedication plaque, also designed by Michael Johnson, is now finally in place on its reconstituted Portland stone plinth. Thanks are due to Wraight & Son for their generosity in setting the plinth in position and fixing the plaque without charge just in time for the Armistice Day ceremony.

Social/AGM with a Dash of Spice

Those attending the Social/AGM of the Friends of Emsworth Memorial Garden Wednesday 4th March, 7.30pm, Emsworth Centre, will leave with some very revealing information. Local author Stella Rutter will be lifting the lid on her experiences working for General Montgomery - specially seconded as a member of his wartime staff. Details she will reveal have, until recently, been kept officially secret under the 50-year rule and have been recorded in her book 'Who Goes Where?' Additionally, she has unearthed some fascinating information regarding her ancestor's involvement in a 17th century intrigue! Bring your friends, share some wine and nibbles and sit back in amazement. We're in for some fascinating insights.

St George's Day

April 23rd is quite a significant day. Yes - it is St George's Day. But it is also accepted as being Shakespeare's birthday and, in addition, marks the anniversary of the Battle of Imjim when, in 1951, 700 gallant Royal Gloucesters stood against an opposing Chinese force of 10,000.

We are planning to bring all these together and join forces with Emsworth Business Association (EBA) to produce an event running over several days around 23rd April under the banner:

'St George's Day - A Celebration of Englishness'

There will be a varied programme of activities during the days and evenings at a variety of locations around the area including a military parade by 47th Regiment Royal Artillery. Watch out for breaking news about this exciting event nearer the time.

Brian Edwards-Picknett

Emsworth Tree Planting Project

Emsworth Tree Wardens have initiated three Tree Planting projects to help maintain and enhance the stock of trees in Emsworth for future generations. This project follows on from a very successful year during which we encouraged residents and visitors to appreciate trees in their immediate environment.

We are very fortunate in Emsworth that many of our roads are lined with large mature trees, most of which are in private gardens, with others in verges, pavements and recreation grounds. Several of these roads, such as Horndean Road, are designated 'Roads with Special Character' in the Local Plan because of these trees.

Recreation Grounds and Parks

Our first planting project is to enhance the tree-lined nature of Horndean Road by planting trees on the eastern edge of the recreation ground. There are only a few large trees between the two Horse Chestnuts near the Memorial Garden and the northern end of the recreation ground. Ideally, at least six new trees are needed.



We are making a start with two container grown standard Oak trees which will be planted along the western edge of the new cycle/footpath in the Horndean Road recreation ground, just north of an existing Oak tree (see photo). Many thanks to the ERA for generously providing the funding for planting these two Oak trees. We will also be planting an Oak tree in Hollybank Park (off Southleigh Road) to provide shade to the children's playground and to complete the line of Oak trees running north/south along an old field boundary. The cost of planting this tree will be borne by the Emsworth Tree Wardens. The three Oak trees will be planted by HBC approved contractors, hopefully before or shortly after Christmas.

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Published at last and well worth waiting for See Page 7.

Food Festival directors offer £25,000 to an Emsworth project

The Directors of the Emsworth Food Festival are delighted to announce that they have decided to donate £25k from the Food Festival Reserve Fund to a large project that will benefit the Emsworth community.

Applications are being invited from individuals or groups within the town and surrounding area that can offer a proposal which will provide something special to the town and the residents who live here. An independent panel will look carefully at all submitted proposals and choose a project, based on its merits.

All proposals should reach Lulu Bowerman at the Brookfield Hotel by 28th February 2009. Proposals should include an outline of the project, its benefits and appeal to residents and community.

The reserve fund was accumulated over seven years to provide for emergencies during the large three-day Food Festival events. The new look one-day Festivals will be much lower key affairs and thus do not need such a large fund.

Many Good Causes have already benefited from Emsworth Food Festival.

Over the last 2 years, Emsworth Food Festival has donated to various good causes and projects within the town and local area. These include the annual maintenance of the restored Emsworth oyster boat, Terror, both local hospices, St Wilfreds and The Rowans, Hayling Wheelchairs and they recently donated a new Police bike for use in Emsworth. Funds have also been donated for wheelchairs to Emsworth Red Cross.

Would you like to be part of the new Emsworth Festivals?

Following the success of the traditional Christmas market on 14 December, enthusiastic, positive individuals with the ability to project manage are being sought to help run the 'new look' Emsworth Festivals.

Four exciting themed events are planned over the year to take account of the changing seasons, and involve all aspects of the community. Each Festival will have over 40 producers and crafts, with live music and entertainment.

Please contact Brendan Gibb-Gray on 01243 377355 to discuss how you can play a part. Your involvement could be essential for the future of these events!

Lulu Bowerman

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