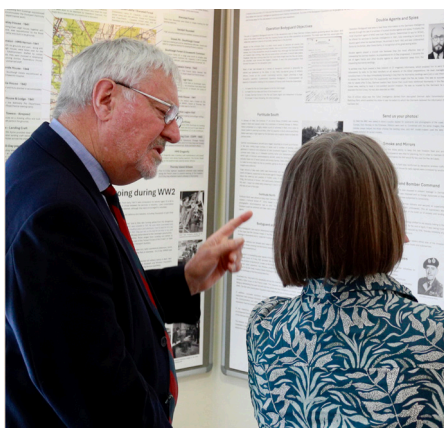


Emsworth's D-Day Exhibition Opens



Jane Kidd and Vice Admiral Dymock discussing the exhibition

Local resident Vice Admiral Sir Anthony Dymock spoke of the honour he felt at being asked to open Emsworth's 80th Anniversary D-Day exhibition in the Museum's David Rudkin Room. He toured the exhibits with exhibition curator Jane Kidd on Saturday, 6th July and recalled that the largest amphibious invasion in history was assembled along the south coast of England including right here in Emsworth.

The invasion of Europe on D-Day, 6th June 1944, had required meticulous planning. The support of the local population had been vital in securing the success of D-Day and the subsequent Battle for Normandy. If the actual invasion could be thought of as the spear head then Emsworth and the surrounding areas provided the shaft on which that spear head could thrust forward.

Jane Kidd is the daughter of Bob Duncan who masterminded the 2014 70th Anniversary exhibition in the Museum. Several of the personal stories recounted in today's exhibition were collected by her father. Like Bob Duncan, most of the people he interviewed in 2014 are no longer with us, however, we are lucky to have written accounts and some video footage that can be viewed in the Research Room. Following a local appeal we have several more remarkable stories.

Jane tells the story of D-Day from the overall picture with its colossal logistical problems to local comments and stories. She evokes memories of tales our parents and grandparents told us of life in a wartime south coast that ended up on the front line. Displays of photographs, newspapers, medals and models are among the memorabilia on show.

As early as 1941, as the initial concept of invasion was promulgated, Emsworth and the neighbouring towns and villages became dotted with military establishments. Properties were requisitioned and movements restricted. Civil defences were built up and a large home guard unit was formed.

The first Canadian troops arrived in Hampshire and Sussex in Autumn 1941 and by 1943 and 1944 more and more troops were flooding into the area.

Most of the manufacturing locally was geared to the war effort, including building sections of the Mulberry harbours, Horsa gliders and the repair of landing craft.

*76th
(Highland)
Field
Regiment RA
in Emsworth
preparing
'Priests' for
action*

*Photo:
Imperial War
Museum*



Continued on the back page

Diary Dates

Talks are held in the Mountford Rooms, North Street Community Centre, Emsworth. Admission £5.00 per person. Tickets (cash please) only available in advance from Bookends, 7 High Street, Emsworth.

Summer Evening Walks £5.00 per person starting from outside the Museum at 6.15pm.
Walks + Museum visit outside opening hours £6.00 per person.

July 6th – Aug 18th	Exhibition “80th Anniversary of D-Day” by Jane Kidd
Wed, August 7th	Summer Evening Walk led by Nigel Brown
Aug 23rd – 26th	Exhibition “Reflections” by Elizabeth Saunders and Hampshire Visual Marks Textile Artists
Aug 30th – Oct 27th	Exhibition “Emsworth Fire Brigade” by Trevor Davies
October 3rd	Talk “Lost Ship – Found” by Dr Ian Friel
October 27th	Museum Closes
November 7th	Talk “Cross-dressed to Kill” by Vivien Morgan
December	Christmas Thank You Tea Party

Dorothy Bone

**Emsworth Museum opening times are Saturdays, Bank Holidays and Fridays in August
10.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays 1.30pm to 4.30pm**

Preview of Exhibitions

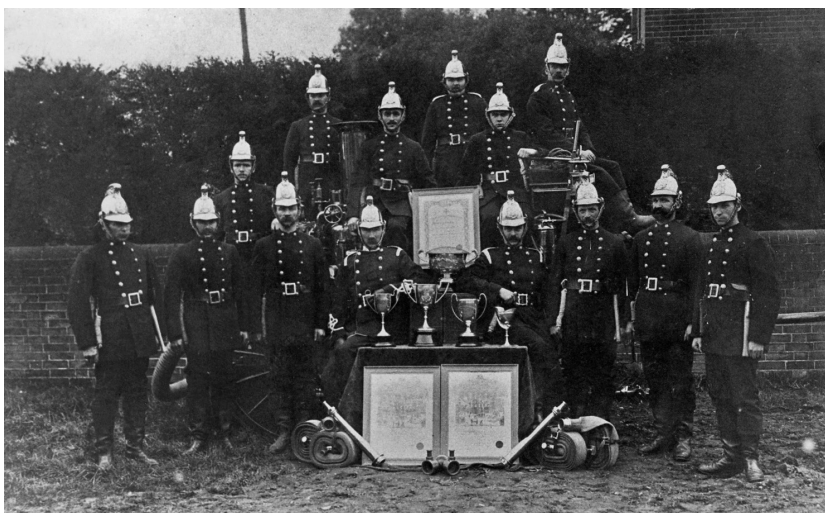
23rd – 26th August “Reflections” by Hampshire Visual Marks Textile Artists

This display is part of the Hampshire Open Studios event and each artist has created work based on their own interpretation of reflections. One member of the group will be present each day to talk to visitors about the work on display.

30th August – 27th October “The History of the Emsworth Fire Brigade” by Trevor Davies

Using pictures of early equipment and uniforms this exhibition will trace the history of the Emsworth Fire Brigade from about 1885 when the fire engine was horse drawn and hand pumped. An appliance such as this was used to fight the Stansted House fire in July 1900 and from pictures of the event it appears that uniforms had changed very little since the mid 1800s.

On Saturday 31st August, in conjunction with the exhibition in Emsworth Museum, the Emsworth Fire Station will hold an open day with fire engines old and new on display in the car park alongside the Museum.



Autumn Talks 2024



3rd October “Lost Ship – Found” with Dr Ian Friel

The talk is about some of the shipwrecks Ian researched as a historian – an English ship from the 1400s, a Dutch vessel from the 1600s, and a British passenger liner from the 1850s. The last of the three remains lost, and its story has odd resonances with that of the Titanic, nearly 60 years later.

With a lifetime’s enthusiasm for history and archaeology, Ian is committed to helping people appreciate how important it is to understand the past as a way of understanding the world. He has many years of research and writing experience, and a specialist knowledge of maritime history that ranges from the Middle Ages to modern times.

7th November “Cross-dressed to Kill” with Vivien Morgan

An exploration of women in the 17th to 20th centuries who went to war dressed as men. There were hundreds of known women cross-dressers in Britain, Europe and the Americas, yet they have been erased from both social and military history. Vivien tells some of their fascinating stories.

Portsmouth – Harlots, Dung and Glory Part 2, 1750 to 1880

The final talk on 2nd May of the 2023/24 season was Part 2 of Andrew Negus’ entertaining illustrated history of Portsmouth.



Development took place on both sides of the harbour during this time, with the growth of Gosport boosted by the move of the gunpowder store across the water from the Square Tower to Priddy’s Hard in 1777. Various wars kept the dockyard busy building and repairing ships, and with many small bumboats ferrying supplies (and harlots!) out to ships anchored at Spithead. Transportation of prisoners to Australia began in 1787 and continued for 50 years, with old hulks moored in the harbour used to house them. As the British Empire grew more guns and ships were needed and the new Gunwharf was built.

The Press Gangs were active in the town when there was a shortage of sailors. It was noted that while life ashore was poverty-stricken and rough the Navy provided three ‘square meals’ (food served on square platters) a day, beer and rum, and the opportunity to receive a share of prize money from enemy ships captured and sailed back to Portsmouth. The increasing threat from Napoleon Bonaparte led to further expansion of the Navy and dockyard, and Nelson’s victory at Trafalgar in 1805 meant England was safe from opposition at sea. Sadly, this was not all good news for Portsmouth as once the war was over there was less work for sailors and the dockyard which caused further poverty.

Later military developments included building Royal Clarence Yard in Gosport to supply food for the fleet, and new wharves and shipbuilding areas at The

Camber in 1863. In 1840 ‘The Floating Bridge’ ferry running on chains attached to the seabed provided a link to Gosport; this lasted 130 years and both the speaker and an audience member remembered seeing it. By 1850 the threat from Napoleon III led to a huge increase in construction of defences well-armed with cannons – five forts including those on Portsdown Hill, plus four in the Solent, and the Hilsea Lines were improved with a moat and ramparts. These became known as ‘Palmerston’s Follies’ as no shots were ever fired.

Middle-class residential areas were also developing, Landport in 1800, and Southsea in 1850 after the Army finally allowed the railway access through the Hilsea Lines in 1847. They sold the Common to the Corporation but insisted it must be kept as an open area for defence purposes. Villas built in Southsea led to the start of the tourist industry with piers and bathing machines, and the Navy paid for the steeple on the new St Jude’s Church in Southsea which acted as a guide for ships coming into the harbour. Meanwhile in contrast the local Officer of Health recorded very bad living conditions in the slums in the older parts of the town.

Nigel Gossop thanked Andrew Negus for his fascinating talk, and the audience was pleased to hear he will be returning next April with “Part 3 1850-1930, Into the modern world”.

Sue Soames



From the Chairman

The Museum team welcomed Nic Cowper as the artist resident in the David Rudkin Room this year. Nic attended the Museum for the entire Arts Trail, looking after his potential clients. More than 1100 visitors came to the Museum during the two weekends of the Arts Trail which was a very good start to the year.

Although many Arts Trail visitors are there simply for the art, there were many positive comments about the changes we have made to the Museum in recent times, and many promises of a return visit post Arts Trail.

Both the Brook Meadow and Parish Centenary Exhibitions have also been popular. These exhibitions emphasise the Museum's symbiotic relationship with the Emsworth Community. We exist to tell the story of Emsworth, but we also welcome groups telling their own story.

On 6th July the (slightly) delayed D-Day exhibition was opened by Vice Admiral Sir Anthony Dymock. Jane Kidd has built on the work of Bob Duncan (her father) who curated the Museum's D-Day exhibition in 2014. She has discovered some new Emsworth-related pictures in the Imperial War Museum, and researched new aspects of the local D-Day story.

Do come and see this impressive exhibition.

Collection

As you know, we have very specific criteria for accepting new objects into the collection. However, we are pleased and excited by the acquisition of the Honours Board for the Independent Order of Oddfellows for the Emsworth and Havant Branch. The Museum already has a plaque once owned by a member of the Emsworth Branch of the same Order. These objects highlight the activities of the mutual friendly societies in alleviating poverty prior to the creation of the welfare state. The board identifies Mr S G Tricker (our own Brian Tricker's father) as one of the Trustees of the branch.

The display Ben Timmis has curated also shows how the Victoria Cottage Hospital was funded by the entire community prior to the creation of the welfare state. All levels of Emsworth society gave what they could afford.

These are complicated stories to present effectively in the Museum, but they demonstrate that in earlier times a social safety net existed and was widely supported by the Emsworth community.

Volunteering

The committee are deeply grateful to all our volunteers, but I make no apologies for repeating

the appeal I made in the last Newsletter. We can find volunteers by approaching those we know, but it is so much better to have as wide a pool of volunteers as possible. So, don't be shy – put your hand up and contact me. The Museum needs more volunteers to:

- Edit *The Emsworth Echo* and the Newsletter after November 2025. An apprenticeship period before Christine Bury retires would be desirable.
- Look after the Archive Room.
- Research requests from the public – and our own queries.
- Support the continuing effort to make more information and exhibits available online.
- Tackle our (currently tiny) presence on social media.
- Look after the housekeeping – cleaning materials, toilet paper etc.

Trevor Davies, email trevor.davies28@btinternet.com



Above: Honours Board for the Independent Order of Oddfellows for the Emsworth and Havant Branch
Left: Plaque once owned by a member of the Emsworth Branch of the same order

Arts Trail

The five days of the Arts Trail over the weekend of 27/28th April and the Bank Holiday weekend of 4/6th May proved as popular as ever to locals and visitors alike. The weather was good which bought out the crowds and the David Rudkin Room was the venue for Emsworth watercolourist Nic Cowper. Nic paints using various media but it was his water colours that were on display to the public who flocked to see them. His style is loose but vibrant.

There were some framed paintings but many pictures were unframed and on sale at a reasonable price. Nic's sketches and cards were also much admired.



Two Churches, One Parish

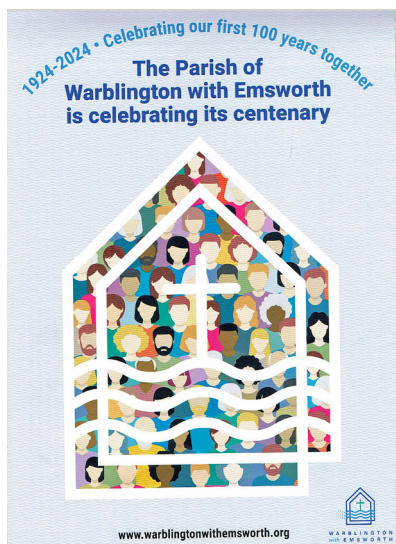


St James' Church, Emsworth (left) and Warblington Church of St Thomas à Becket



One hundred years of unified faithful service to the communities of Warblington and Emsworth was marked in May 2024 by an exhibition in the David Rudkin Room which ran from 25th May to 30th June. Photographs, documents and artefacts relating to local people, events and buildings were on display to commemorate the union of the two parishes in May 1924.

The exhibition was curated by Gordon Braddock and his team and all visitors were welcomed on the first display board by the present Rector, the Revd Andrew Sheard. It was fascinating to read about various previous rectors including those of the Norris dynasty. The Norris family provided three generations of Rectors at St Thomas à Becket, Warblington. The Revd William Burrell Norris, among others, was central to unification. He completed the trio of Rectors who served the parish from 1789 to 1928, 139 years in all.



The process of unification was explained; local people, their baptisms, marriages and deaths were recorded; and photographs of local life, people and properties were on display. In the cabinets there were newspapers, Maundy money and more photographs of people and Church activities; even some kneelers could be seen.

A guide (left) celebrating the centenary of unification showed the vibrancy of the present work done to bring together peoples of all faiths, not just those of the Church of England. It is an outward looking community that has been forged by this union of two churches into one parish.

Singer Sewing Machine



Lee at Soles of Emsworth

Dropping into Soles of Emsworth to get some shoes repaired seemed quite routine. That was until I started chatting with Lee about his passion for old Singer sewing machines. I was invited behind the counter to see his collection – some of which are in regular use.

Our conversation turned to the sewing machine that the Museum put on display at the beginning of this season.



Singer sewing machine in Self Sufficient Emsworth display

Although this machine has been part of our collection for some time, Phil Magrath and I felt that it was worth putting on display to support Phil's newly re-vamped Self-Sufficient display. Lee has similar model in his collection and he explained where to find the Model Number and Serial Number.

Back in the Museum I found the numbers on our machine and looked them up on the Singer website.

- The model number 29 K 15 shows that the machine has a 15-inch arm to sew inside boots and shoes.
- The serial number is M 247730. This means that the machine was manufactured in 1900.

Surprisingly, all the spares required to refurbish this machine, are available and furthermore there is a You Tube video explaining how to do the job.

There is another aspect to this discovery. The minutes of the sub-committees of Warblington Urban District Council show that on 10th November 1901, approval was given to buy two pairs of Firemen's boots, with the rider that the boots should be made locally, if possible – by the then newly acquired sewing machine that is now in the Museum? Who knows.

Trevor Davies

Treasure Hunt

The Museum's 2024 Treasure Hunt proved as popular as ever with Emsworth Scouts. Taking part on Wednesday evening, 26th June, were four teams: Woodpecker, Hawk, Raven and Kestrel. Hawk were the winners having solved most of the questions during a walk around Emsworth. The enthusiastic adult winners were the Saxon Belles.

The treasure hunt took place on a lovely summer evening. The stroll began from the centre of Emsworth in the Friends Garden and finished at the Museum where refreshments were much needed, drunk and consumed. Prizes were awarded and the Saxon Belles gained the maximum score of 30 points.

Many thanks to everyone who helped this year including Anne Adamson, Christine Bury, Terry Stubbington and Trevor Davies.



The Saxon Belles, adult prizewinners

Please join us next June when it is hoped more adults will participate together with other scout and guide patrols.

Gordon Braddock

Curator's Corner



Coming into the collection in October 2020 was an oddly shaped but interesting looking wooden object. Since the donor was able to tell us a little about it, the object did not remain a mystery for long. It was a medical thermometer named the Dr Forbes Floating Bath thermometer and used to check bath water temperature either by allowing it to float on the water or by suspending it therein.

This artefact has a wooden handle at one end, 7 cm in length, which is affixed to a square piece of wood of 26 cm. In the middle of the square which is 25 mm by 25 mm is a cut section right through of 15 cm in length and 17 mm wide. In this is housed a glass tube holding a thermometer which rotates around when turned. The thermometer cannot be seen because a scroll of paper is wrapped around it with the black ink inscription 'Fahrenheit Made in Germany' and a scale of -50 to +212°. Further around in red are the following 'Scalding,' 'Fever heat,' 'Blood heat,' 'Temperate,' 'Freezing' and 'Zero'. At the square wooden end is a circular hole of 20 mm that has been drilled through revealing a small glass bubble containing mercury. The scale is also marked freezing (0-32°F), cold (45°F), cool (66°F), tepid (86°F), warm (98°F), and hot (105°F). A range of these thermometers was invented by Dr John Forbes (1787-1861), a Scottish physician, and commonly used in hospitals. It dates from the late Victorian to Edwardian period.

Forbes was born on 17th December 1787 in North-East Scotland. After obtaining the Diploma of the College of Surgeons in 1806 he entered the medical profession as a temporary assistant surgeon and enlisted in the Royal Navy as a surgeon the same year being confirmed in the rank of full surgeon on 27th January 1809. He spent time at Haslar Hospital from 1811 undergoing a brief period of retraining in naval medicine and surgery. Following a decade of service as a naval surgeon he then enrolled in the medical school at Edinburgh in 1816, aged 29 years and within a year he became a Doctor of Medicine.

Forbes moved to Penzance in September 1817 and between then and 1822 he translated into English René Laennec's (1781–1826), *De L'Auscultation*

Médiate (1819) about the French physician's newly invented stethoscope. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1829. It is highly likely that he knew Emsworth because he and his wife moved to Chichester in 1822 where he had obtained a large practice and was instrumental in established an infirmary there.

In 1840, Forbes resigned as senior physician at Chichester Infirmary and moved to London, taking up practice in Westminster. This was the turning point of his career since he was assisted by his school friend, James Clark. Clark had been created a baronet for his services to the young Queen Victoria, who had been enthroned in 1837. Forbes was appointed court physician to Prince Albert and the royal household on 15th February 1841. The Scottish physician had now reached the peak of his career, and further honours followed: Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in 1844 and honorary Fellowship of the Imperial Society of Physicians in Vienna in 1845.

In 1852 Forbes received the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Oxford, and he was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1853. As Editor of the *British & Foreign Medical Review*, Forbes authored an article which was interpreted to be in favour of homeopathy. This clashed with the London medical establishment and contributed to the failure of his 'Review' in 1847.

A final publication, *Of Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease* (1857), emphasised that the practice of medicine should combine science with art and set out his case for the healing powers of nature. Sir John's book was well received both at home and abroad. After May 1860, following his resignation from the Committee of the Royal College of Physicians his health declined to the point that he had to use a wheelchair. He retired to live at the home of his son, Alexander Clark Forbes (1824–1901) in Whitchurch-on-Thames, where he died on 13th November 1861.

Philip A. Magrath
Curator

D-Day Exhibition contd

Prior to D-Day members of the Combined Operations Pilotage Parties (COPP) based in Hayling Island were sent on covert missions to reconnoitre the proposed landing beaches and bring back samples and measurements. Dress rehearsals in May 1944 included beach landings at Hayling Island, Littlehampton and Bracklesham Bay.



Members of the 76th (Highland) Field Regiment RA checking a wireless set. Camp A2 Emsworth

Photo: Imperial War Museum

Emsworth became part of Embarkation Zone A – Portsmouth and Gosport. Embarkation Camp A2 in Emsworth was a tented transit camp holding over 2000 men and over 200 tanks, trucks and other vehicles. Troops moved into and out of it regularly. From this area the British 50th Division sailed from Southampton and Portsmouth to Gold Beach and the Canadian 3rd Division from Portsmouth to Juno beach in Normandy.

The support of the local population was vital to ensuring the success of D-Day. As Vice Admiral Dymock emphasised, now that so few veterans who took part are alive, it is exhibitions such as that on display in the Museum that provide a special insight into great historical events. It is important for children to discover what happened locally so that later they can appreciate how Emsworth was involved in the wider planning.

The exhibition runs until 18th August so there is still time to see it.



Local resident, Mike Jennings was a landing craft wireman on Landing Craft Tank 795, when aged just 18 he was part of the fourth assault wave that ran into Utah beach on D-Day



Flying Officer Henry (Mick) Stanley DFC was a Wireless Operator – Pathfinder Bomber Command. His log book for the D-Day period includes missions on 4th June to Longue-sur-Mer behind Gold and Omaha beaches and on 5th June to Conde-sur-Moireau behind Omaha beach. Medal display courtesy of Jackie Stanley

Collecting French Francs in Camp A2 in Emsworth

Photo: Imperial War Museum



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