

SOCIAL EVENINGS · CRAFT MARKET · RAMBLING CLUB · DRESSMAKING

PAINTING CLASSES · BINGO CLUB · JUNIOR CHOIR · NEARLY NEW CLOTHING · NURSERY GROUPS

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ECA Newsletter

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EMSWORTH
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

Church Path Centre
Emsworth

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EMSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

May/June,

2004

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With the completion of the new annex, which the Council of Management started considering early in 1999 - five years ago - the Association has come to the end of an era. You will remember we discussed with the County the demolition of the Horsa Hut, and they encouraged us to have a Feasibility Study on the future of the Community Centre site. This led to the building of the new annex. The next project will be the refurbishment of the old buildings, which will take place shortly, and we will need to comply with the Disability Act.

The Annual General Meeting for 2004 will be held on 21st July at 7.30 p.m. in the Community Centre. The next Committee should be able to concentrate on activities and general use of the buildings rather than the lengthy time that has been spent over the last five years on considering buildings and their maintenance. With this change of emphasis I hope that people will be encouraged to volunteer to join the Committee. Constituent bodies, and other users, should know that they are needed and welcome to the Committee.

John Batty, Chairman.

FROM THE EDITOR

The format of this issue of the Newsletter has changed a little; the inside page of the cover lists the activities and classes that are held at the Centre from day to day instead of the names of committee members. I intend alternating the two with each issue.

Were you aware that there was so much going on in the Centre each day and is there anything you would like to join? If so, our booking secretary, Christine Colquhoun (378885) could give you a contact number, or just come along at the appropriate activity time-I'm sure you'd be most welcome.

Ron Bente, Editor.

CRAFT MARKETS

The dates for these in the near future are:-

Saturday	1st May
10 a.m.	5th June
1 p.m.	3rd July

Come and pay us a visit - there's always something interesting to see and buy at our talented crafts people's stalls, Light Refreshments available at reasonable prices.

The June 5th market will be part of Emsworth Art Trail and marked on the Art Trail map, though open only for the usual 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

We are still feeling the lack of the craft of home baking, which brought many people in to replenish their supplies. If you know a good and likely cook please refer them to me. Recent new crafts displayed include cushions made from antique fabrics, and children's clothes.

Liz Mardel.

THE RENAISSANCE CHOIR

Any stranger loitering around the Community Centre on a Friday evening could not fail to notice the arrival, just before 7.30 p.m., of thirty or so earnest individuals making for the Lumley Room. They each have a music case or folder in their hand, as these are the members of the Renaissance Choir arriving for their weekly rehearsal.

Although five of the members are from Emsworth itself and the majority live within a few miles radius, some travel long distances to sing with the choir - for example from Liss, the Isle of Wight or Southampton. They have a variety of occupations, with teaching by far the most common; but they all share a love of unaccompanied choral music, particularly of the Renaissance period - the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The choir was formed in 1976 by a former lecturer at Portsmouth Polytechnic, and rehearsed even at that time in the Community Centre. Later, at the request of the conductor, the choir's practice venue moved to Petersfield, and contact with the Centre was lost. However, after a brief period rehearsing in the Havant Arts Centre, the choir returned to its roots in Emsworth, and it now practices in the lovely acoustic of the Lumley Room. There the choir confirms, together with the contrasting tones of the bagpipers, that Friday night is indeed music night!

In its history the choir has had many major achievements. It has sung in London at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, where it gave the premiere of two pieces of music by the Spanish composer Rodrigo, in his presence. In 1993 it traveled to Prague on a not-to-be-repeated coach journey of 25 hours in order to appear in the Prague Spring Festival; the invitation to return was never followed up! It has traveled abroad on many occasions, and been particularly well-received by French audiences. In Spain it spent a wet week near Valencia in 2002, and has given concerts in the cathedrals of Granada, Cordoba, Seville, and Salamanca. In 1999 it had an exchange with a choir from the southern Italian city of Bari, well-known for its Mafioso connections.

The choir aims to perform and publicise much of the wonderful repertoire of choral music, particularly English; however, despite the popularity of Classic FM over the past few years, it is clear that the type of music the choir sings is still something of a minority taste. For anyone interested in hearing this high

quality choir, it will be showing its versatility in Emsworth in the near future, performing a programme entitled Chansons d'Amour in St James Church on 10 July. There will be both Renaissance and modern music in the programme, sung by the whole choir or smaller groups, and strawberries and cream to add appropriate atmosphere.

However, the next feature on the choir's agenda is a week's visit near Paris at the beginning of June. After submitting a CD for audition, the choir was offered the opportunity to sing in Notre Dame, Paris, (we understand only about 80 choirs a year are invited to perform there) and a recital has also been arranged in Chartres Cathedral. These will be yet more memorable occasions to add to the impressive list of achievements in the choir's history.

The choir is always interested in new talent, and is particularly on the lookout for basses at the moment; new applicants should be proficient sightsingers. If you are interested, contact the secretary, Sarah Raper, on 02392 591462, or come on Friday evening. Alternatively, check us out on the website at www.renaissancechoir.org.uk

John Horncastle.

Thank you for your interesting article about the Choir and its activities. I hope to include a similar article in each issue from the many and varied groups that use the Centre. If your group or class would like to contribute an article, please let me know.

Ron Bente, Editor.

WOODCARVING

The British Woodcarver's Association (Hampshire Branch) is holding a "carve-in" in the Lumley Room from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on

SUNDAY, 9th MAY, 2004.

Although it is not intended, on this occasion, to hold a formal exhibition of completed work, interested members of the public are welcome to look in, to see and talk to the wood carvers at work.

Stuart Faulkner.

Emsworth Art Group's Spring Exhibition and Sale of Paintings



in Emsworth Community Centre (rear of Fire Station) North Street, Emsworth displaying a diverse range of contemporary and traditional work, including much sought after local scenes.

Saturday 29th - Monday 31st May 10am - 6pm
Admission Free
Publicity: Jo Coll in 01243 370 852

BLOOD DONATING

The next occasion for you to give your "pint" is **TUESDAY, 22nd JUNE**. There will be two sessions during the day, 1.00 p.m. - 3.25 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. - 7.15 p.m.

Please do your best to attend if you are called - every pint is precious

SOUTHBOURNE QUILTERS' EXHIBITION

An exhibition of members' Patchwork and Quilting.

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the Emsworth Community Centre.

Tea and Coffee will be available. Entrance £1. Husbands and Children FREE. Avril Menzies (375506)

The Quilters held their first exhibition at the Centre two years ago - it was really spectacular and so colourful; this one, over the weekend of the 12th and 13th June is a "must" - mind you don't miss it!

Maureen Ballard-Neale

THE NEW ANNEX OFFICIAL OPENING SATURDAY, 17th JULY

Plans for the opening are well underway, and the programme for the afternoon and evening is emerging as follows:-

1.30 p.m.

The building will be open to the public

2.00 p.m.

David Willetts, M.P. will officially open the new

annex.

2.15 p.m.

Displays of dancing, etc. from the groups that

use the Centre:

Ballet, Egyptian, Folk and Clog 4.00 p.m. Kung Fu, Bagpipers, and Renaissance
Choir

If the weather is fine, most of these displays will be held outside.

During the afternoon there will be static displays inside the new annex showing the diverse groups that meet in the Centre and their activities.

4.00 p.m. Family Treasure Hunt - a short walk round Emsworth.

6.00 p.m. Barbeque and evening entertainment for all the family. Tickets for the Barbeque bought in advance, please. £5 per adult, £3 per child under 16.

Obtainable from Sandie Swaine (375544) or any member of the Committee.

Do come and enjoy the event. The annex is nearing completion now and should be a great asset to Emsworth; join in the opening celebration.

Maureen Ballard-Neale (372294)

EMSWORTH MARITIME AND HISTORICAL TRUST DIARY DATES

MAY 1st - 30th Special Exhibition - Micro-Scape by John Lance. Close-up photographs of natural features - tree bark, flowers and insects, rocks, rusting metal. Sometimes these are like miniature landscapes, hence the name.

JUNE. 5th - 27th Special Exhibition - "See" Shells by Terry Wimbleton. Carved and natural shells from Britain and overseas.

AUGUST 1st " Special Exhibition - RHS - 200 years of Gardening (set up by Mrs. Annette Wood and helpers from the Emsworth Horticultural Society