

Portsmouth Society News

Special Edition - May 1997

NEWAND CHANGED DIARY DATES

June 4th Meeting Postponed

A special meeting of the City Council's Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday 4th June at 4.00pm in the Council Chamber at which the revised application for HMS Vernon/Gunwharf will be considered. This date clashes with our scheduled meeting and our speaker, Mr Paul Newbold, the City Planning Officer will not now be able to attend. Furthermore, many members may wish to attend the Planning Committee and therefore we have decided to postpone our meeting of 4th June and reschedule it for Wednesday 2nd July at 7.30 pm in the Norrish Central Library.

New Date for Strawberry Tea

The Strawberry Tea, scheduled for 22nd June has been brought forward to Sunday 15th June at 3pm. Tickets for this event are available from Jean Thompson (821667), Betty Owen (826291) and Rosemary Flewitt (817713) price £3.00.

HMS Victory Conducted Tour

We have arranged a special tour of HMS Victory on Wednesday 16th July at 5.30pm (meet at the Main Gate off The Hard) led by Peter Goodwin curator of HMS Victory. We will see parts of the

Future Programme

Meetings are held at the Norrish Central Library (Room F, 3rd Floor), Guildhall Square, Portsmouth unless otherwise stated. There is no admission charge and the meetings are open to the public.

Wednesday 4 June - Meeting Cancelled.

Wednesday 2 July at 7.30 pm Paul Newbold, City Planning Officer will talk on current planning issues in the city.

Sunday 15 June, 3pm at 10 Priory Crescent, Milton (opposite Milton Park). Strawberry Tea. A repeat of last year's successful fund-raising event with strawberries, tea & cakes plus bring and buy stall and raffle! Tickets from Jean Thompson on 821667, Betty Owen on 826291 or Rosemary Flewitt on 817713.

Wednesday 16 July at 5.30 pm Conducted tour of HMS Victory by the curator, Peter Goodwin Advance booking essential - names to Roger James on 734555.

Saturday & Sunday 13/14 September - Heritage Open Days Visit the buildings you cannot normally see. Details to be finalised but

we are negotiating visits to HMS Nelson Ward Room, Portsmouth University Portland Building, Solent First School, Gunwharf, Fraser Battery, Fort Cumberland and Hilsea Lines. Bursledon Brickworks are focusing on Steam and the built heritage on Sunday 14th and there are many other events around the country.

Wednesday 1 October at 7.30 pm Kate Macintosh, formerly of Hampshire County Architect's Department, architect of Priory School Sports Hall and Solent First School, Drayton (both winners of the Portsmouth Society's annual design awards).

Wednesday 5 November at 7.30 pm Speaker to be confirmed

Wednesday 3 December at 7.30 pm

Gunwharf Planning Application

The Outline application for the development of the Gunwharf site by the Berkeley Homes/Lordland Developments consortium will be considered at a special meeting of the Planning Committee at 4pm on Wednesday 4 June. The Society will be presenting a deputation to object. Members are urged to send in their own letters of comment or objection to the City Planning Officer, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2AU, citing the application number: A*36334/AA.

New Proposals

New proposals have now been submitted and can be inspected in the Planning Department in the Civic Offices. In the Society's view they are a considerable improvement on the original. We are saying:

The Portsmouth Society, while welcoming the real improvements to the design of the proposed scheme, still opposes the application on the grounds of excess of shopping, excess of car parking and consequent insuperable traffic problems, the lack of social housing, and for the loss of the potential amenity of the water south of the Harbour Station which is to be covered over by the car park.

We believe that the development should be planned on the basis of what Portsmouth needs rather than what is likely to make the most money for developers. The City needs housing, not just expensive housing but social housing too. The City also needs more places where residents and visitors can enjoy Portsmouth's unique attraction, the endless maritime activity from the big ferries to the variety of little boats bustling between one shore and the other. Lordlands' inward-facing shopping development could be built anywhere, and is a waste of a wonderful opportunity. Essentially maritime uses should be planned for this prime maritime site.

Ariadne Saved!

The Society welcomes the retention of the wardroom, Ariadne (though we regret the apparent loss of the halls at the back) and of Donegal Lodge; and the possible public use of the Vulcan building is especially welcome. We would like to see the Gun Carriage sheds reused as part of the shopping centre - on the lines of the Cape Town Waterfront Development which retains many historic buildings as key anchor points of the site and its interpretation. We welcome also the retention of the Old Gunwharf wall which is to be retained in situ.

Shopping

The developers stress that this is to be no ordinary shopping centre. It is to be a development of specialist shops aimed at the upper end of the market and mainly at purchasers from outside Portsmouth. It makes no sense to site such a centre as far as possible from the mainland, on the very edge of Portsea Island where it is accessible only by one already overloaded road. But the buses and coaches depend on roads just as much as cars do; and if the roads are clogged they cannot get there. This applies of course to any possible park & ride.

So the fundamental basis of our objection is to the size of the shopping centre which demands a huge car park which will cause a traffic problem impossible to resolve.

The Portsmouth Society, Registered Charity no. 266116

Chairman: Celia Clark, 8 Florence Road, Southsea, Hants, PO5 2NA, Tel 01705 732912

Secretary: Roger James, 10 Captains Row, Old Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 2TT, Tel 01705 734555

Treasurer: Jean Thompson, 4 Malvern Road, Southsea, Hants, PO5 2NA, Tel 01705 821667

We welcome new members. Please come to any of our meetings or contact Jean Thompson for more