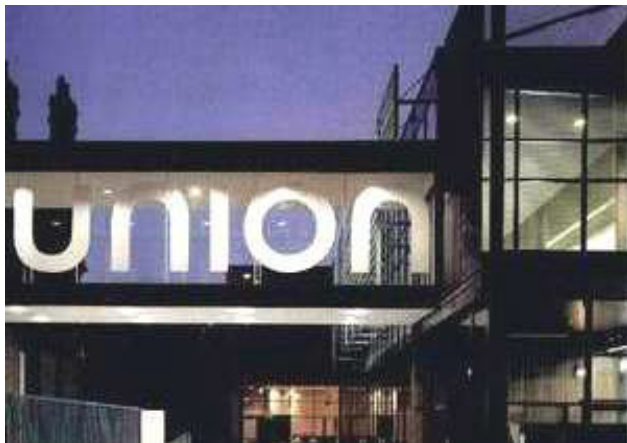


# Portsmouth Society News

The Newsletter of The Portsmouth Society - Autumn 2003

## Students' Union and Art in the Park are Winners of the 2003 Design Awards



### Best New Building - Students' union

Portsmouth University Students' Union was the outright winner of the Best New Building for 2003. Designed by Hawkins\Brown, winners of a competition, it's a sparkling new club with four food outlets, five bars, a 1600 capacity night club, offices and shops.

The Union acts as the social hub for Portsmouth's thousands of students. Builders were Waites Construction Southern. The facade facing Mercantile House has a colonnade fronting Blackwell's bookshop, which dramatically announces the university's campus. The building's elegant grey ship lap zinc cladding has a translucent box floating above which houses the nightclub, with special colourful lighting effects designed by Martin Richman.

The perforated steel gates draw you across a granite threshold to a major pedestrian route through Ravelin Park to the university library, with the student union on your right and the refurbished Victorian Gun House which now houses Bewley's cafe, bars and billiards on your left; the two buildings bridged in glass with giant letters identifying the Union.

The processional staircase rises through brilliant colours on windows, walls and ceiling to the bars, meeting rooms and offices. The light and colour make the union feel special, an enhancement in the university's image, which has attracted significantly more students to enrol since it opened a year ago.

### Best Restoration - Art in the Park

Art in the Park, the brilliantly creative hub at the corner of Victoria Park in the former park keeper's lodge is the winner of the Best Restoration prize. This pretty building in random stone with red brick quoins, paired lancet windows and red tiled roof has been through some rough times - used for night sleepers, or lying empty, and frequently set on fire.

Mark Lewis and his partners at Art and Soul Traders have spent eight months repairing the fabric, and installing a cafe, two artists' studios, a multi-media suite, an enclosed garden and tree house, lively all day long, seven days a week, with children's activities, community events and artists' shows. Portsmouth City Council reroofed it and put in funds which allowed Art and Soul Traders to raise matched funding from SRB Round 5 - in the course of three years negotiation and contract time, but much of the tremendous work that has gone into the building has been hours of voluntary labour.



In case you are wondering where it went, the Chinese bell has found a safe haven in the fireplace! Art in the Park has animated Victoria Park by adding to it a dynamic new dimension.

### Commended - New Buildings

Two buildings are commended in the Best New Building category: New Downland Housing Association's new houses on the Milton Canal towpath at Gurney Road, designed by Mike Leighton,

**In this edition ..** Design Awards 2003, The Vulcan decision, Solent Architecture Centre, The Tricorn, Cosham Tram Shelter, The University's Milton Campus, The Portsmouth City Local Plan, Civic Trust South East, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Waterworks Visit, Love and principal, tough and tender, The Old House at Home, Paulsgrove, Meetings and events

Welling Partners of Millbrook Southampton and built by Kier Partnership. The judges liked the houses' red and brown brick, a modern version of the local vernacular, and the pleasant internal planning. The other Commendation was Rosie's Wine Bar in Elm Grove, Southsea, which has a lovely new garden and garden restaurant designed by Ed Caush, ingeniously fitted onto vacant land.

#### Commended - Restorations

Commended in the Restoration category was the Tourist Information Centre on the Hard, which has been successfully reorganised and elegantly extended on the seaward side by Richard Partington and Ewa Maciekewska for landlords, Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust with EU KONVER funding. Jane Lewis and other city council staff who work there are full of praise: the building is a joy to work in and for tourists to come into. The judges also commended the landscaping along the Hard including the witty bollard and chain and the wood boarded cafe/ Hard fishermen's club designed by city architect Stefan Jakobek.

#### Commended - Landscaping

There were three commendations in the Best Landscaping category: the city council's landscape architect Susan Whitehead has opened up the old no-go area in Isambard Brunel Road, south of the station by removing a stairwell, pedestrian bridge and aggressive enclosure, now replaced by an elegant rank of steps with tiny blue LED lights, delicate silver birches along a sinuous draining channel; York stone paving. Pedestrians now feel they have priority across the road, and bollards are removable for processions into Guildhall Square.

Also commended is the new Hilsea Lido bridge, one heroic span of 32 metres across the moat, the rebuilding of the sharp military profile of Hilsea Lines and the accompanying history and wild life leaflets and interpretation board for which Peter Burrand-Lucas of Portsmouth City Leisure department has been responsible.

The seafront Naval War Memorial with its moving lists of names of naval personnel who gave their lives in two world wars has recently been beautifully restored by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This work too has been commended.

#### Other entries

Other buildings the judges saw included Trafalgar Hall, the new student hostel in Winston Churchill Avenue, Fratton's Asda store and B & Q - both by local practice HGP Partnership, the Technopole at the end of the M275 and Portsmouth Housing Association's new houses in Wymering by Andy Kerr of Kerr Livingstone. Designed as Lifetime houses, their design anticipates changes needed as people age.

#### The Judges

The judges were Professor Peter Faller, University of Stuttgart, Deane Clark, former head of the Historic Buildings Bureau, Hampshire County Council, Dr. Celia Clark, chair of the Portsmouth Society, and Revd. Terry Carter, member of Portsmouth Society's executive committee.

*Celia Clark*

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### Autumn Lecture Series

Our Autumn series of meetings and lectures commence on Wednesday 1st October when Sarah Quail, Head of the City Museums & Records Service, will speak on **The future for the Museums and Records Office**. With proposals to relocate the City Museum to the City Centre North development, near St Agatha's Church, this is an exciting time for the service. Sarah will speak about these and other plans and will answer any questions that you might have.

**Does the Tricorn Have a Future?** is a question that will be discussed at our meeting on 5th November. Like it or loathe it, the building has been a landmark in our city since 1962 and was designed as a flexible, multi-use and self contained structure in a unique and striking form. We are pleased to welcome the Tricorn's principal architect, Rodney Gordon, then employed by the Owen Luder partnership, to speak on the building's concept, its history and the proposals for its future.

Brian Kidd is well known in the City and beyond for his vast knowledge and practical experience in the realm of horticulture. Recently retired as head of the City's Parks and Gardens department, Brian is still very busy writing a weekly column for The News, appearing on Radio Solent's Topsoil program and speaking to groups and societies across the South. The subject of Brian's talk is **Portsmouth and Southsea In Bloom**.

The meetings are all held in the Norrish Central Library in the Guildhall Square and start at 7.30pm. Lectures are preceded by a short update on the society's activities and an opportunity for members to raise any current issues of concern. *J.H.*

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### 115 Fratton Road

After many years of neglect, we are pleased to report that the former Nat West Bank / former Dog and Duck public house at 115 Fratton Road has been painted and all the fly-posting removed. Hopefully this property will now remain in a decent condition and brought back into use.

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## The Vulcan decision

We have lost our battle to save the Vulcan Building from conversion into flats. The latest planning application from Berkeleys did put us into something of a quandary. It proposed the use of the ground floor of the south wing as an art gallery by the Aspex Gallery whose premises in Brougham Road are unsuitable and in need of repair.

The whole of the rest of the south and east wings would be flats. As inducement to the council to grant this permission Berkeleys undertook to withdraw their appeal against the earlier refusal of permission for the conversion of the whole building to flats.

The dilemma arose from the fact that it had been our idea to use at least some part of the building as a gallery. So it was difficult to say no to this proposal. Nevertheless we felt we had to. Our prime concern from our first seeing the inside of the building had been to save the finest spaces - the magnificent first and second floors of the south and east wings - and make them open to the public, at least on occasions. To allow any part of them to be converted to flats with bathrooms, and kitchens would lose them for ever.

We have been striving for several years to get a public, preferably cultural, use for the whole building which Gunwharf needs. At first there was the possibility that the City Museum could move there, giving their Museum Road building to Berkeleys in exchange. Then we tried big national cultural users without success.

The current application was recommended to the councillors by the planning officer and the recommendation was accompanied by a warning that to reject this or defer it for further negotiation might mean losing everything; that seemed to mean no gallery of any sort. The planning officers were concerned about the viability of proposals for reuse. Viability of this building alone or even of the whole Gunwharf complex did not seem to us to be properly the concern of the planners.

We argued that now that the building had been splendidly restored and made weatherproof, it would not hurt for the space to be left unoccupied for a few years, waiting for a worthy use; but English Heritage and the Arts Council of England also supported the application. The councillors took the warning to heart and seemed almost to forget the splendour of the interiors. Without any discussion they voted unanimously to grant permission. A very sad decision.

**STOP PRESS** Berkeleys will open the Vulcan on Saturday 13th September at 11.00am for Heritage Open Days.

*R.J.*

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## Solent Architecture Centre

The proposed Architecture Centre for the Solent was launched on 6 September at Portsmouth Civic Offices. In his report "Sustainable Communities in the South East: Building for the Future", the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed the government's support for new architecture centres to be created to support the raising of good design as a priority across the South East - in Milton Keynes and the Solent area, to add to the existing centre in Kent.

The local steering group agreed that there is a need to raise the level of debate on planning and design issues, and to raise awareness of the ramifications of poor design on quality of life, regional confidence and economic performance.

There is also an identified lack of resources within local authorities to focus on promoting good design: most authorities find their staff stretch too far to dedicate themselves to championing design - for example among elected members, some of whom would act as champions for design in their regions.

An architecture centre could provide the resources to undertake an educational remit, and to act as a focal point for members to draw on for support in policy development and project implementation and as a neutral forum where such issues can be debated and worked through, working in partnership with statutory and voluntary sectors.

It will inform and support key decision makers in aspects of design quality, best practice and government policy. It will be involved in delivering projects that raise the profile of design and planning, developing local partnerships and acting as an educational resource for individuals and organisations engaged in design, planning and procurement.

This government-funded initiative has overtaken the Portsmouth Creative Centre proposal which had a rather wider remit, to nourish creative industries in the area, and involve local people more directly in design issues affecting their lives.

The Portsmouth Society has long felt that poorly designed buildings are nearly always given permission here, despite the powers available to local authorities in Planning Policy Guidance 1 to refuse applications that are not well designed.

It will be interesting to see whether the centre - which is supported by both Portsmouth and Southampton city councils - develops, and whether it can make a difference!

*Celia Clark*

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## The Tricorn

We are engaged in a last minute battle to save the Tricorn. The council's official view is that its demolition is an essential first step in their plan to revitalise the northern part of the city centre. Rodney Gordon, the original architect who designed it in partnership with Owen Luder, has been in touch with the City Centre North developers and ascertained from them what their requirements are from a new building.

He maintains that he can give them everything they want while retaining the essential features of the existing building and extending it; and he would save them the estimated £2 million cost of demolition and save the city the terrible disruption which demolition must



entail. Key features would be reclad in stainless steel.

The Tricorn would be extended on the north side to include the new museum building which the city wants, eastwards to link with Commercial Road and provide an uninterrupted shopping street, and show a shopping front to Market Way.

A particular advantage of reusing the existing building is that shops which would occupy the ground floor could be serviced from above from the first floor which used to house the wholesale vegetable market and which is strong enough to take heavy servicing lorries. This would save the space which the developers - in their scheme are having to devote to internal access servicing.

We realise and so does he that we have an uphill struggle to get him listened to. All three political parties have announced the importance for them of getting the Tricorn down. It is of course a matter of image. The building has suffered from a relentless battering in the News as an eyesore and a load of elephant droppings.

On the other side what we fear is what the developers are likely to propose - the same as everywhere else, a scaled down Southampton West Quay. One thing that an enlarged Tricorn will not be is the same as everywhere else! Mr Gordon will be explaining his ideas to us at our November meeting - Wednesday November 5.

*RJ*

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## Cosham Tram Shelter-Help Please!



The historic tram shelter that was recently removed from Cosham is currently being restored prior to being moved to Gunwharf Quays. Berkeley Commercial would like to provide a display board giving information on the history of the shelter. To date, very little of the history on the shelter has been discovered but perhaps someone reading this newsletter has some information. Apparently the shelter was relocated to Cosham in 1948 having previously been sited near the Guildhall. Can you help? If so, please contact John Aldridge, Transport Planner, Portsmouth City Council, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, PO1 2AX.

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## The University's Milton Campus

The second edition of the Draft Planning Brief for the University Business School at Milton was published in late July. It follows the decision to locate the new special school, replacing the Futchter and East Shore Schools, at the Milton campus.

The brief states that the school will be single storey and at the rear of the site; it gives some suggestions for acceptable uses of the rest. Unfortunately, Dorothy Diamond Hall and the other buildings are not listed so they could all be demolished.

Rather than waste valuable inner-city land with single storey buildings, we have asked whether the school could be accommodated in the ground floor of a multi-storey mixed use building. Upper floors would be used for offices or housing and such a building would have the advantage of being occupied when educational buildings are at their most vulnerable to vandal attack. Innovative design would keep access to the sections of the building quite separate. We would be very interested in members' views.

We disagree with the section which states that the required recreation space for housing could be wavered in favour of a financial contribution to the upkeep of Milton Park - would you really want your young children to cross the busy and hazardous Milton Road in order to ride a bicycle or kick a football?

*J.H.*

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## The Portsmouth City Local Plan

The Society made a number of objections at various stages of the Local Plan. We had the opportunity of presenting those that had not been resolved by agreement to the public inquiry which ran at the Guildhall through several months earlier in the year. The following is a selection from our objections and suggestions for new policies with some comments to make them intelligible. Until the inspector publishes his report, we shall not know to what extent we have been successful.

### Dockyard Circular Road

We object to the deletion from the plan of "use of the Dockyard Circular Road as public highway" [This was an item in an earlier stage of the plan but later withdrawn]. The use of the Circular Road would greatly relieve the pressure on roads giving access to the city centre.

### Pitt Street Gymnastics Centre

We propose that the item "Gymnastics Centre" be omitted from policy HS1 and CD1. We think it should remain the city centre, for three reasons

1. Expense. It would be an unnecessary expense to remove it and rebuild a new centre at the Mountbatten.
2. This is a building of architectural merit, an 'art nouveau' building of 1910, built as the Royal Navy School of Physical Training. There are few good buildings of this period remaining in the city. Originally it contained a gymnasium and a swimming pool. The swimming pool has now been converted to an auxiliary gymnasium. The building is in need of repair and enlargement - for which there is plenty of adjoining space
3. Accessibility. The present centre, being in the City Centre, is easily accessed by bus and train and (soon) by LRT and there is adequate car parking in the neighbourhood especially in the evening when it is most used. The Mountbatten is admittedly on a few bus routes but its cross-city accessibility is poor.

### IOW Car Ferry

We believe that the Plan should make provision for the eventual relocation of the Isle of Wight car ferry from the Camber to the Continental Ferry Port, the commercial docks or the Dockyard. We consider that this is a desirable long-term aim, mainly because it would remove from the city's traffic system a considerable number of vehicles.

The congestion they cause has been exacerbated recently by the introduction of the St Clare, a new, much larger, ferry. At times this discharges about 200 vehicles in one unbroken stream. Relocation to the Rudmore area would also make the ferry more accessible for the majority of vehicles which come from outside the city. Their journey would be shorter

and they would no longer have to negotiate the many obstacles to traffic flow within the city. [In the short term we are advocating the re-routing of this traffic via Park Road]

### Cosham Railway Station

Objection No.197/21 concerns policies CS6 and CS7 and under-use of Cosham railway station. We think these policies are inadequate in view of the importance of the area for public transport. We propose a new policy to be added to CS6 as (vi) as follows:

"The city council will support and encourage the development of rail and connections to other modes of public transport at Cosham station with the aim of making it a major station to rank with the three others in the city and encouraging its use. A multi-storey car park might be needed and the Roebuck Close site (see CS7) would be supported for this purpose. Railway-owned land to the east of the station will be preserved for railway use"

Cosham is the second highest ward for employment in Portsmouth. 11,580 people commute to the ward each day, some two-thirds from outside the city. Developments at North Harbour and the Johnson & Johnson site will increase that number. There is severe traffic congestion at peak times. Yet many inter-urban rail services do not stop at Cosham station, e.g. the hourly South West Trains services between Brighton and Reading and Basingstoke, the 2 or 3 services a day between Brighton and Bristol. Indeed these particular services do not stop at any station within the city boundary. The city council will urge the companies concerned to remedy this situation and support the provision of supporting transport facilities in the vicinity.

### Permeability

Because of its history the southern part of the city is filled with barriers. Proposals for breaching these will be supported, even if they are listed or ancient monuments.. They are the Dockyard Wall, Gunwharf wall, Winston Churchill Avenue and its 'toblerone' anti-pedestrian barrier, Anglesea Road; all are added to the irremovable barrier of the railway cutting and embankment. All tend to isolate the city centre, the dockyard, Gunwharf Quays, Southsea and Portsea. Breach of the Dockyard Wall at Bonfire Corner would bring the fine houses of the Dockyard and its church into the city and this would help to mitigate the one-class ghetto character of Portsea and prevent a well-to-do ghetto from developing in Gunwharf Quays. In this inquiry it has already emerged that English Heritage suggested breach of Gunwharf wall in connection with the monorail

### Empty upper floors

The Portsmouth Society objection concerning the use of empty upper floors. A plan is needed to prevent permission being given for what has happened, for example with the Isambard Brunel

public house on the corner of Guildhall Square south of the Guildhall itself. Here a substantial three-storey building, formerly gas offices and showrooms, has been redeveloped to provide a public house using virtually only the ground floor. This not only wastes valuable space, it also reduces security through the premises being likely to be unoccupied at night, and increases the risk of undetected material damage. If nobody needs to go into the upper floors, nobody will notice that the roof is leaking.

Suggest addition to SP2 : When re-use is proposed of a multi-storey building, the approved plans must include use of the upper storeys

Objection No.197/24 concerning policy for residential conversion of upper floors, e.g. over a shop, policy DC35a.

We suggest the addition of the following sentence at the end of Policy DC35a: "Such residential accommodation on upper floors must be provided with a front entrance on to the street".

#### **Millennium Walkway**

As part of the Millennium Harbour Renaissance scheme a walkway was to be provided right round Portsmouth Harbour on both the Portsmouth and Gosport sides. This has not been completed. We believe that a pedestrian link between the Camber and Gunwharf Quays is needed to complete the circuit.

We propose a new policy:

"It is the intention of the city council to ensure that a pedestrian link is provided between the Camber and Gunwharf quays, preferably by way of an opening pedestrian bridge over the outer Camber near the Bridge Tavern. The link will include an opening in the wall between the Isle of Wight Car Ferry car park and Gunwharf Quays".

#### **City Scale Buildings**

We consider that the policy is inadequate to prevent buildings of insufficient scale from being erected in centres. There needs to be added to the policy:

"New buildings in sub-regional centres shall be of at least three storeys."

This is necessary to avoid such disasters as Victory Retail Park where a number of single-storey retail sheds have been erected, wasting valuable city-centre land. Other examples are ASDA and Fratton Goods Yard. Clearly the planners don't feel able to resist. That's why we need a policy to back them up. Sainsburys, a single storey store on what was a multi-storey hospital site in the city centre, is another example from an earlier decade

#### **Southsea-Gunwharf transport link**

We consider that Southsea shopping centre should be served, as is proposed for Gunwharf, by a dedicated bus service or VLRS monorail. Not to do so would be contrary to the City Council's policy that Gunwharf Quays should not be allowed to compete unfairly with Southsea. If, as we hope, a monorail is built, the substitution of a dedicated bus shuttle bus service for Southsea will in no way compensate for the loss of the monorail.

Accordingly we propose that policy SP7 be amended to include Southsea shopping centre in the list of places to be served either by VRLS monorail or dedicated bus service.

*R.J.*

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### **Waterworks Visit**

Some of us went on the Environmental Forum's visit to the Portsmouth Water company's works on Portsdown hill. The occasion for the visit was the opening of the new £5million filtration plant.

Most of Portsmouth's water comes from the springs at Bedhampton. Until recently the treatment for the water consisted of filtration through sand filters with the addition of a small amount of orthophosphoric acid whose function is mainly to eliminate any lead from the water. It also reduces scale, for example in kettles. Some aluminium sulphate is also added to coagulate microscopic particles.

The works process over 40 million litres of water a day and supplies 196,000 people. The new plant was necessitated by the contamination of the water by a microorganism, a protozoon called cryptosporidium, originating in the droppings of farm animals, which was not filtered out by the sand filters and could not be eliminated by chlorination. This is a nationwide problem. In the new plant which cost £5 million the water is forced through much finer filters consisting of bundles of straw-like tubes. And these do intercept the offending organisms.

The works are full of the latest technological mechanisms. The filters are automatically switched off and changed when they have done their stint and at every stage the quality of the water is monitored .

The Portsmouth Water Company is a private company established long before the privatisation that took place under the Thatcher government.. Some of Portsmouth water is extracted from the

River Itchen but most of it comes from the springs at Bedhampton from where it is pumped up to the filters and reservoirs near the top Portsdown Hill. There are standby generators to supply the pumps in the event of power failure. The water has already been filtered through the chalk of the South Downs. It is naturally of very high quality. The reservoirs at Farlington hold only about two days' supply. The main reservoir is the South Downs.

Only about 2% of this high quality, expensively treated, water is actually drunk by humans. And some people still prefer to buy their drinking water in bottles!

RJ

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## Love and principle, tough and tender

We are sad to report the death in May of Kate Crowley, a member of the society and of the



executive for more than twenty years. Kate grew up in Manchester. She and her sister Molly were advised by their mother: "Never marry!" Her father died in the first world war so the two girls were brought up by Edith alone. They lived with Edith's father for many years and moved to Portsmouth during the second world war

escaping the fear of bombs in Manchester for the bombings in Portsmouth. Kate was in a protected job as a telephonist working for the Post office a job she did until she retired.

Retirement meant continuous activity for friends and for the many political organisations and campaigns she supported - few people in the country can have addressed and stuffed so many envelopes, made so many phone calls, canvassed so many households or attended so many meetings as Kate.

So Kate's tender love extended to the whole of humanity. So now here we all are: her sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to celebrate her life, sustained in her web of love.

Kate was a role model and our Left Wing Conscience. Unlike some people who become right wing as they get older, her principals never wavered. She hated injustice; she believed in pacifism and socialism, in helping the whole of humanity to a better life, and she also acted on it, helping innumerable people in trouble: refugees, the unemployed, sick in mind or body - always tender of their feelings. Her birthday book must be immense!

She served many good causes: CND, the Peace Council, World Development Group, Portsmouth Housing Association committees; she was an early member of the Portsmouth Society, as well as her strong political activity in Portsmouth Labour Party, the Fabians and Amnesty International. Always contributing wisely, wholeheartedly and democratically, listening well and contributing with

courtesy and respect for differences in opinion, campaigning for social justice and peace, locally, nationally and internationally.

As she became frailer she never complained. Kate's physical presence was a piece of thistle-down - delicate and strong. She loved delicious food, good wine, elegant clothes, a good laugh, strong feminist novels. She was a great party giver. We have many happy memories of those lovely get togethers, often reuniting friends who hadn't seen each other for years. She was a wonderful, loving friend, full of exhilarating talk and fun, tough on what she saw wrong in the world, but marvellously tender too.

We will miss her greatly!

*Celia Clark & Judith Smyth*

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## The Old House at Home, Paulsgrove

In our last newsletter, we asked whether anyone had any information about the builder or the architect of the Old House at Home Public House in Allaway Avenue, Paulsgrove. We had been alerted to the threat of demolition of the 1930's style building for housing redevelopment.

We are pleased to report that the pub has now been listed and therefore saved from destruction, but the history is still not confirmed - there are conflicting accounts and we'd like to get the story right!

So, *please*, if you have any recollections of the building or of the site then we'd be interested to hear from you. Do you remember it before or immediately after the second world war? Answers please to

Roger James on 023 9273 4555.

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## The Civic Trust South East

The CTSE is a new regional body of civic societies. Brian Horsely of the Chichester Society chairs it, and Celia Clark is Vice chair. These two members have carried out two major pieces of research - on affordable housing and Ministry of Defence disposals, reported, with the AGM talk on Housing Provision in the South East on the CTSE Web site.

Societies in the southern region are getting together for a conference on 'The Future of Historic Towns' at Windsor on 4 October, hosted by the Windsor and Eton Society, followed by a tour of Victorian Windsor, the Railway Experience, Windsor Castle and St. George's Chapel.

*Celia Clark*

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## Queen Alexandra Hospital

Some of our members took the opportunity to attend the public meeting in the Wesley Centre (one of several in the area) to consult the public about the enormous expansion proposed for Queen Alexandra Hospital.

The main criticism at the meeting was of the proposal to move all maternity facilities from St Mary's to QA. Portsea Island will then be worse off than neighbouring towns which will have their own community hospitals which will contain maternity. There was admitted to be a severe car parking problem even though there is to be a multi-storey car park. Off site car parks for staff with park and ride have been and are being considered, including, we had been told, Southwick House over the hill which is being declared redundant by the navy.

We concluded that the architects had not taken full advantage of the superb site, and were concerned that it was the same firm and designers as the ugly Swindon hospital. We learnt that two more attractive

designs had been rejected (what were the criteria for the decision?) but we were assured that the designs would be shown to CABE.

## Who are we?

The Portsmouth Society is an independent voluntary body affiliated to the Civic Trust with the purpose of promoting good design in the built environment. We campaign for quality in new buildings and for the preservation of the best of Portsmouth's buildings, streets, and open spaces.

If you have something you would like the society to investigate or do something about, please contact us. We welcome new members. Please come along to one of our meetings or contact the Membership Secretary for more information.

## Meetings and Events

Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (January, August and September excepting) at the Norrish Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth. There is no admission charge and all are welcome.

|                             |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Saturday 13th September     | Gunwharf, from 11.00am  | <b>Vulcan Building Open Day</b> - Berkeleys will open the Vulcan building on Saturday 13th September from 11.00am for Heritage Open Days.   |
| Wednesday 1st October       | Norrish Central, Library, <u>Ground floor Meeting Room</u> , 7.30pm | <b>Autumn Lecture Series</b><br><b>The Future for the City Museum and Records Office.</b> Speaker : Sarah Quail, Head of the Museums Service. See "Autumn Lecture Series" article on page 2.  |
| Wednesday 5th November      | Norrish Central Library, <u>Room E</u> , 7.30pm                     | <b>Autumn Lecture Series</b><br><b>Does the Tricorn have a future?</b> Speaker : Rodney Gordon. See "Autumn Lecture Series" article on page 2.  |
| Wednesday 3rd December      | Norrish Central Library, <u>Room E</u> , 7.30pm                     | <b>Autumn Lecture Series</b><br><b>Portsmouth and Southsea in Bloom.</b> Brian Kidd, recently retired Head of Portsmouth City Council's Parks. See "Autumn Lecture Series" article on page 2. |
| Wednesday 4th February 2004 | Norrish Central Library, <u>Room E</u> , 7.30pm                     | <b>Portsmouth Society Design Awards</b> - Reports from the judges of the 2003 competition.  |
| Wednesday 3rd March         | Norrish Central Library, 7.30pm                                     | <b>Monthly Meeting</b> - subject to be confirmed  |
| Wednesday 7th April         | Norrish Central Library, 7.30pm                                     | <b>Annual General Meeting and Members' Open Forum</b>   |

### **The Portsmouth Society, Registered Charity no. 266116**

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