

Portsmouth Society News

The Newsletter of the Portsmouth Society - Autumn 2009

DESIGN AWARDS 2009 – A RECORD YEAR FOR NEW BUILDINGS!

Rising design standards in Portsmouth are reflected in no less than three Best New Building Awards by the judges of the Portsmouth Society Design Awards for 2009. Portsmouth deserves new buildings of the highest standard, and these three awards demonstrate just how this is achieved.

The huge new Admiralty Quarter in Queen Street Portsea designed by David Richmond and Partners Ltd. for Crest Nicholson is streets ahead of the usual large development. The excellence of its design is matched by the sparkling block of flats: Priory View in Cumberland Gate near Fratton Bridge by Horace Architects for Downland Housing Association.

The third building to be given an award in the Best New Building category is the modern timber-framed house in West Street, Old Portsmouth. Commendation in this category went to the Dennis Sciamia building in Portsea and its landscaping designed by Van Heyningen Architects for the University, which houses the world-beating Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation.

Best Adaptation and Best Landscaping

The extraordinary conversion of the electricity substation by architect Stuart Bone into a house: No.50 St. Ronan's Road, Southsea is the winner of the Best Adaptation Award. Winner of the Best Landscaping Award is the lovely ceramic roundel celebrating the city's buildings and seashore at the entrance to St Jude's School in Old Portsmouth, which was created by the pupils with the help of Artist & Designer Kevin Dean.

The judges, Tom Dyckhoff architectural critic of the Times, Councillor Cheryl Buggy the city's Design and Historic Environment Champion, Paul Ramshaw Head of Regeneration and Planning Policy at Eastleigh Borough Council, and Celia Clark and Robin Kay of the Portsmouth Society saw eighteen entries for the awards.

Other entries

Other entries included the commendably meticulous restoration by Defence Estates of the Grade 1 Block Mills in HM Naval Base - which awaits an appropriate new use. They were impressed by the high standard of care of the main building, chapel and gardens at St. James's Hospital by the Portsmouth City PCT Trust. The Omega Centre, an 1880s Board School, has been given a new lease of life by the Workers' Educational Association, which has invested a large legacy in upgrading and re-equipping it for its expanding educational role in Somers Town.

The judges also saw the conversion of the seventeenth century Guardsman restaurant in Fratton Road into three houses; and the internationally recognised Elizabeth Foundation's building and garden for the diagnosis and education of deaf children - which has been gradually extended by architect Roger Boyce. We enjoyed the ingenious conversion and extension of 1 Florence Road, Southsea by architect Mick Morris and the upgrading of the Clarence Hotel, Southsea once known as "Hesperus", by owners Mark and Jenny Brunning. The extension of the Porter's Garden enhances the surroundings of the Boathouse 6 in the Historic Dockyard.

Paul Ramshaw said "Portsmouth deserves new buildings of the highest standard and the three new build awards reflects how this can be achieved. In particular, Priory View demonstrates that you can have a great design that does not cost the earth!"

Award winners will receive the Society's blue ceramic plaques, and those commended, special certificates. We can look forward to another bumper year in 2010 when the Mountbatten Centre, Queen Alexandra Hospital and Mick Morris's original new house in terms of both design and sustainability at 15 Drayton Lane will be on our list.

Celia Clark



*Admiralty Tower, Admiralty Quarter,
Queen Street, Portsea*

Goodbye Civic Trust, Hello Civic Society Initiative

Report from the meeting of Civic Societies, 1st September 2009, Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth

Following the demise of the Civic Trust earlier this year, The Civic Society Initiative was launched on 1st June by Griff Rhys Jones and Tony Burton. Meetings are being held throughout the country to determine the requirements of a national body, by the thousands of local societies working at grass-roots level. The Portsmouth meeting was attended by Tony Burton and Ian Harvey from the Civic Society Initiative and Tony Fooks, chairman of the still-existing Civic Trust South East.

Our Chairman Celia Clark welcomed delegates to the meeting, attended by local groups from throughout Hampshire, The Isle of Wight and West Sussex. Tony Burton asked members to work in small groups listing everything their group was currently doing. The results included: opposition to over-development, work with conservation officers, campaign for new uses for redundant buildings, publishing books and local pamphlets, greening of empty sites, design awards, review/comment on planning applications, local structure plans, practical work (tidying areas etc), proposing design guidance, talks & lectures, visits, social events, initiating fora on special projects, newsletters, guided/historic walks, town trails, information boards, websites, campaign for design champions, Heritage Open Day involvement, street clutter removal schemes, quarterly liaison with LPA, World Heritage campaign and environmental education.

The next session was devoted to how groups would like to move ahead, the main issues being partnership with strengthened local government, 2-way work with younger generation on all levels, and having both influence and a contribution to central government plans and policies.

The support required by civic societies from a new national body included: access to expertise & information (legal, architectural advice, updated planning information, legislation etc), local group interaction (information exchange, volunteer experts, annual conference), a national communications hub with access to other information sources and campaign reports by other groups or outside bodies, national leadership, internet technical support, advice on running groups, grants/loans provision.

Tony Fooks thanked Tony Burton for his work, and reported to members that many of the meetings had been asking for the similar support from a national body. Members wanted work from local level to feed up to regional committees, which in turn would feed up to the National Committee to enable important issues to be lobbied at a National level. Members of individual Societies feel they belong to their local group, and many never realise that they are part of a wider movement, so assistance with inspiring our members about being part of the national body was of great importance. There was discussion about the SE Region being too large, with a suggestion of splitting into 3 (Thames Valley, South Central, Kent/E Sussex). Sub-regional meetings and workshops would be useful for discussing both internal organisation of groups and working on external campaigns.

Tony advised that once all the regional meetings had been held and questionnaires completed, this would determine the way ahead. A name, constitution and governance matters would follow on in due course. Many thanks also to David Baynes who organised the evening, providing welcome coffee and biscuits, information packs containing detailed information and the chance for regional groups to contribute to the national civic movement. On 17 September the Guildford Society is hosting a regional conference.

Sue McClory

'City of Culture' 2013

A competition open to the whole of the UK to find the nation's first 'City of Culture' was launched in July by Culture Secretary Ben Bradshaw. The winning city will become a focus for national attention in 2013 and could host high-profile media events including the Turner Prize, BBC Sports Personality of the Year, The Brits and the RIBA Stirling Prize as part of their year in the spotlight.

Building on Liverpool's success as European Capital of Culture in 2008 the successful city could expect to see economic and social benefits flow in, leaving a lasting legacy. We are delighted to report that Portsmouth has teamed-up with Southampton in a bid to bring this prestigious event to the South Coast. Bidders will have until 16 October this year to submit an outline application, with a deadline of 11 December for initial bids. An independent advisory panel will recommend a short list to be announced early in 2010. The final winner will be announced by the Culture Secretary later that year.



Tony Burton, Director of the Civic Society Initiative

Tricorn Book is published!

The Tricorn: Life and Death of a Sixties Icon by Celia Clark and Robert Cook, designed by Gail Baird and Dan Bernard of 131 Design Ltd., printed by PPG of Hilsea.

Love it or hate it – there's no middle ground in reactions to the Tricorn, the Brutalist, bold, multi-layered and multi-use megastructure built in Portsmouth between 1962 and 1966 and demolished in 2004. The Tricorn features in histories of architecture. Its chunky imagery has spawned progeny - in the UK – the Lloyds building's exterior staircases, the Barbican's curving upstands - and in buildings in other countries - leading ultimately to the birth of high-tech.

The Tricorn has been celebrated - and reviled - in festivals, ballet, music, performance art, videos, websites, films, virtual fly-throughs, poetry, books, television and radio. How many other buildings have inspired such a flowering? Despite its demolition, it still vividly lives in people's memories and dreams.

This book - written, designed and printed in Portsmouth explores what makes an architectural icon – and what unmade it. It sets the Tricorn within its architectural context: Brutalism and the 1960s. It lays bare how the unpopularity of Brutalism - particularly the commercial exemplars - affected the Tricorn's fate. It draws on two sources which are not usually combined: a collage of documentary material, and the rich seam of people's memories of the building. The Tricorn's architects: Owen Luder and Rodney Gordon explain the building's genesis and reflect on its fate. The Portsmouth Society's long struggle to save the building and the reuse plans by Kate Mackintosh and Mick Morris are documented. Every time we sell a book, people tell us more stories: see the Tricornbooks blog. Keep them coming! As locals will know, the 1812 Overture and the Last Post were played at its demolition - a reflection of the Tricorn's heroic status in people's imagination.

Price £19.99 plus postage and packing £4.95 - cheques to 'Tricorn Books' and Available from Celia Clark, 8 Florence Road, Southsea, PO5 2NE celiadeane.clark@btopenworld.com or Gail Baird, 131 Design Ltd. 131 High Street, Old Portsmouth PO1 2AW info@131Design.org

Celia Clark



Tricorn Book Launch, 13 June 2009 - the Tricorn's architects & the book's author & designer.

World Heritage Site – update

This July fifty young people aged 13 and 14 from Portsmouth Grammar School made their own distinctive contribution to the campaign to inscribe Portsmouth Harbour, Spithead and the northern coast of the Isle of Wight onto the World Heritage List by visiting and assessing ten key sites involved in the bid. Celia Clark and the head of history Simon Lemieux had the complex task of persuading the owners or managers of these sites where so much technological innovation has taken place - and in the case of Qinetiq - is continuing to do so - to open them to small lively groups of teenagers. Accompanied by Simon Lemieux and colleague Peter Galliver, they noted, photographed and videoed their impressions of what each site contributed to the overall theme of the bid: defence of the realm.

They visited St Anne's Church, Boathouses 4 and 6 and Block Mills in the dockyard (the last involving high level naval contacts and the good offices of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust), the ship testing tanks at Qinetiq at Haslar in Gosport, the Royal Institute of Naval Medicine at Alverstoke, Gunwharf Quays, the Admiralty Surface Weapons establishment and Qinetiq site on Portsdown Hill, Fort Nelson, Ryde Pier guided by local historian Roy Brinton, and Spitbank Fort with Neale Brickwood, vice-chair of the bid. Highlights included the tour of the neglected Art Deco ASWE buildings with Dr. Tim Crowfoot, one of the two thousand scientists who worked there; and the Dr. Strangelove control room buried into the northern slope of Portsdown Hill which enables Qinetiq to conduct simultaneous war games or real scenarios with a ship in the harbour, the Gulf, MOD and Seattle. The gigantic ships' hulls testing tanks at Haslar hold millions of gallons of water, and rely on the fast disappearing skills of talented model makers for their complex analyses of new designs.

Small groups from PGS then prepared short presentations on each sites' historical significance to younger pupils at the Junior School, who then voted on the 'winner'. Historical information vied with slick presentation! It had been hoped to widen this audience to include pupils in other schools, but end of term timetables intervened. It was inspiring to

learn what interested this age group, and the pupils gained access to important but not widely known aspects of our local defence heritage, as well as presentational skills. Public support is an essential element to the bid. Responses to offering this exercise to Portsmouth Education Authority as a model for other schools are awaited from City of Portsmouth Girls' school

David Burdett of the Isle of Wight Society has carefully analysed the benefits to IOW businesses of WH inscription, and work continues on the Nomination Document, which we hope to publish. But progress on the local authority front has ceased; officers of Portsmouth City Council still await the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's decision on whether there are to be more World Heritage bids and if so from a new list or the existing Tentative List, which the ministry control. Chatham is on this list but not Portsmouth Harbour. It would seem obvious that whatever the outcome of this 'consultation', there would be much to be gained by adoption of the project by PUSH - with the addition of the Isle of Wight - as an integrative device and protection and promotion of our common cultural heritage. This was discussed at a presentation in Boathouse 6 on April 1, but no further action appeared to ensue. Peter Goodship of Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust who chairs the WH bid is contacting the DCMS, English Heritage and Hampshire County Council who offered to help, to ask for updates. In the meantime he suggests that we work away at co-ordination and achieve our objectives that way. His trust is taking over Priddy's Hard and the Explosion Museum from Gosport Borough Council. It could be developed as a centre for green ideas and sustainability - on the lines of Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York. This would be an interesting contrast to its history as an armaments depot!!

While thousands of local people are now aware of the project via the many public presentations by the team involved in promoting it, we continue to await positive responses from all the five local authorities involved - who all claim to 'work in partnership with local communities'. Communalities with the joint Portsmouth/Southampton City of Culture bid seem obvious, but are bottom-up initiatives arising from local people less acceptable than top-down projects devised by the local authorities themselves? We hope that this is not the case...

Celia Clark WHS Project Co-ordinator

The Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment, Portsdown Hill

Source: *The story of ASWE* by Norman Vidler 1969, with thanks to Dr. Tim Crowfoot

On Friday 3 September 1948 Vice Admiral C B Daniel, Controller of the Navy visited the construction site of what became the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment.

The overall cost of the monumental quadrangle building and canteen in Art Deco style on the summit of Portsdown Hill in Portsmouth was about £2.5m for the buildings and site, and about £1m for the equipment installed in it.

ASWE's origin in the mid-1930s was the Experimental Department of HM Signal School in the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth. In the year or so prior to 1939 the department moved some units to other places in Portsmouth: Eastney Fort East, the old school at Onslow Road where RDF (later known by the American term 'Radar') was developed and Nutbourne. Rapid expansion of the department to 26 other sites including universities and country houses including Lythe Hill House at Haslemere and King Edward's School Witley, as well as trial sites such as Tantallon - and even, for a short time, the Summit Hotel, Mount Snowdon.

In 1944 a committee of representatives of the Communications and Radar Laboratories, the Production Department and Test Rooms, Workshops, Naval Stores and the Naval and Secretarial Groups was set up to plan the future ASE. This Committee produced and published for limited circulation an overall plan reconciling the needs of the many divisions and their combination on one site in October 1944 - an act of faith at such a critical stage of the war. The east and south coasts were considered too near to enemy territory as far as our radar was concerned. Proximity to the sea and to a major naval port were overriding considerations. In 1945 one major site dominated the naval war scene: Fort Southwick, which had developed as the Combined Communications Headquarters, from which the invasion of Europe had been controlled. Fort Southwick was one of a chain of forts protecting the naval port of Portsmouth in the 1870s, and the whole of the crest of Portsdown Hill, including the forts and their connecting hilltop road built by prisoners from the Napoleonic wars was War Department property. The necessity of storing large quantities of fuel for the fleet at Portsmouth in a site less vulnerable than the depot at Gosport had led to the building of a large underground oil fuel tank to the west of Fort Southwick. The grand plan envisaged that Portsdown Hill would house, from east to west, ASE, Tactical School in Fort Southwick, Signal School, AGE, and to the west ASE with its 'Quiet' work and a sports area. In the event, only ASE was built in about six years.

An objector to the spoiling of the skyline of Portsdown led to the architect's drawing of the south elevation to the Fine Arts Commission, who had no objection. By summer 1949 Stage II of the project, the three laboratory blocks and the Canteen were under way. Norman Vidler's paper gives considerable detail of the construction and the provision of essential services to this isolated and exposed site. By April 1959 there were 1,700 staff working on the site. Space in all buildings was at a premium. Care had to be taken to preserve the 180 degree working arc to the north of Block 3 for trails, and also to avoid radiation hazards. A temporary building housed the Polaris submarine group at Portsdown

West. By 1969 when Vidler's paper was written there were 2,200 people working at Portsdown, Funtingdon, Eastney Fort East and 511 London Road Southsea.

The main building, which dates from 1951 and the canteen have been empty for ten years. Others have been demolished, and rubble and spoil has been used to recreate the northern profile of Portsdown Hill. Defence Estates put the building on the market some years ago, and a Bible College expressed interest, but the building needs maintenance if it is to survive to find a new use.

Celia Clark

Architectural 'Bus Tour, Saturday 08 August 2009

This year's tour took place under conditions as favourable as we are ever likely to experience. It was a grand occasion, providing thirty-seven members of the Society and friends with an extensive tour, all within the City Boundary. The total distance travelled was, just for the record, 22 miles and 48 chains.

We were privileged, once again, to travel in Clive Wilkin's splendid Eastbourne Corporation double-deck A.E.C. with Bruce bodywork, new in 1951. Our driver was Pat Saunders, with Brain Jones in charge on the platform. The tour began and finished alongside Guildhall, in what was originally Park Road, since renamed. From the confines of the Guildhall area the journey proceeded via Anglesea Road, Market Way, Mile End Road and Twyford Avenue to Mountbatten Centre, to view the stylish architectural façade.

From Alexandra Park, the route took Northern Parade to Hilsea Lido, where Jane Smith and Sabrina Richards had generously arranged a guided tour, on foot, around the boundary. Through the fencing, participants were able to glimpse the Lido, the features being an exuberant expression of 1930s self-confidence. Prepared information sheets were distributed, providing a most useful historical account.

The route then followed the 'old A3' (Northern Road) to Southampton Road, from which the turning was taken to view the latest developments at Queen Alexandra hospital. Not quite as planned, the vehicle then had to reverse and leave by the point of entrance, the road past the original hospital entrance having been closed. From Southampton Road, the tour continued up the 'old A333' (Southwick Hill) to the viewing point by the roundabout, about 385ft above mean sea level. From here, the journey continued along the top of the hill, past The George, for a trip down the hill to Cosham. With no undue delay, the 'bus then made for Locksway Road, via Hilsea, Copnor Road, Baffins Road and Milton Road. Parking at the edge of Eastney Lake, passengers were able to walk the path of the former canal to its point of exit, where extant brick and stonework provided visible evidence of early 19th century industrial enterprise.

From Locksway Road, the tour continued to Fort Cumberland Road, whence the vehicle gained privileged entry to Fort Cumberland itself, embracing both the outer fortifications and the internal 'parade ground' area. This was an eminently splendid experience for all concerned and, for some, very much a journey into the unknown.

After leaving Fort Cumberland, the tour continued along Southsea Sea Front to St. George's Road and Cromwell Road, turning into the former Eastney Barracks. Here, the party was treated to a guided tour of the gardens by Shirley Grayson-Smith. The significance of the alternative use to which these grand military buildings have been put was inescapable, a truly impressive and highly commendable development.

Upon departure, the tour proceeded along the Sea Front to Clarence Pier, thence returning to Guildhall, via Pier Road, Pembroke Road, High Street and Cambridge Road. Slightly later than intended, arrival back at the point of departure was at 1249. Having started at 0935, the tour had taken 194 minutes.

An explanation is due to participants for the course taken after Fort Cumberland, by which time the tour was running late. I was taken completely by surprise at Eastney Barracks, when it seemed a guided tour had been arranged, when only a brief stop of a few minutes had been originally planned. As the tour was, by this time, already running behind time, the visit had, unfortunately - but quite unavoidably - to be curtailed. It had been intended originally to pause at the Pyramids, followed by a tour of new developments in Old Portsmouth. Apologies are extended to all participants for disappointment resulting from the need to make impromptu changes during the last half-hour of the tour. As coordinator, I was obligated to honour my agreement with the 'bus operators that the tour should end at Guildhall by 1230, with an extension, in extremis, to no later than 1245. As it happened, the tour exceeded even this extended limit by four minutes. This I regretted, as punctuality and keeping to a promised schedule are of paramount importance. I ask that all concerned understand.

Thank you all - those of you that came - for coming. It really was a splendid day out. My sincere thanks are due to John Holland, Roger James, David Baynes and Robin Kay for their indispensable contributions at the planning stage, where crucial contacts guaranteed the success of the occasion. To Clive Wilkin, Pat Saunders and Brian Jones, our thanks are due, yet again, for their time and effort in providing us with such a huge treat - not forgetting AHC442.

Bruce Oliver

Greening Southsea

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 September, 7.30pm at The Kings Theatre, Southsea where the Greening Campaign for Southsea will be launched. This is an opportunity to find out how you can become involved and choose simple steps that our community can take to save energy, CO2 and money. Similar schemes have been running in communities in East Hampshire for some time. For more information please contact: email: greeningsouthsea@googlemail.com, Telephone: 07736 073449.



Volunteering Opportunity – Tree Wardens

The Portsmouth Society is keen to start a Portsmouth Tree Warden Scheme and needs your support. If you believe that Portsmouth's trees matter and you feel you could contribute to this proposal please contact Pauline Powell, on 02392 667962, who would be very pleased to hear from you. As a volunteer Tree Warden you could help for example: by championing your local trees; surveying them and gathering information about them; providing early warnings of threats, disease, decay or vandalism. The Tree Warden Scheme is a key part of The Tree Council's community action programme. Visit the website at www.treecouncil.org.uk.

Pauline Powell

English Heritage Conservation Area Report

Conservation areas are one of the great successes of the civic society movement and there are over 9,300 across the country. They were only introduced in the 1960s after a concerted campaign led by Duncan Sandys and have been key to protecting the character of villages, towns and cities everywhere. The report from English Heritage has been compiled with the assistance of many civic societies from across the country.

The survey revealed that 1 in 7 conservation areas is in decline or expected to be so and 1 in 6 conservation areas is improving with the main causes of decline identified as :

- unsympathetic replacement doors and windows (83% of conservation areas)
- poorly maintained roads and pavements (60%)
- excessive street clutter (45%)
- loss of boundary walls, fences or hedges (43%)
- unsightly satellite dishes (38%)
- the effects of traffic calming or traffic management (36%)
- alterations to front elevations, roofs and chimneys (34%)
- unsympathetic new extensions (31%)
- the impact of advertisements (23%)
- neglected green spaces (18%)

Nearly half of all conservation areas lack a local community group or civic society to support them and those with such support are more than twice as likely to be improving.

English Heritage is launching a Conservation Areas at Risk campaign encouraging local authorities to make much wider use of their powers to control small scale development through "Article 4 Directions" and local civic societies and others to lobby local authorities to use Article 4 Directions and enforce against illegal development, to promote good practice to local residents to help avoid the spread of uPVC windows and loss of traditional front doors and front gardens and to identify local landmarks and audit street clutter as evidence for campaigning. The full report is available from English Heritage and at www.english-heritage.org.uk/conservationareas.

Tony Burton, Director, Civic Society Initiative

No.6 Your local independent cinema



After a short break, Portsmouth's only local independent cinema has reopened in the auditorium of Action Stations at the Historic Dockyard. Showing contemporary productions from around the world, we are once more able to see films which rarely make it to the commercial screens. Siri Finess and Simon Middleton are determined to make a success of the venture and we urge you to support them. The Autumn programme is now available at information centres and arts venues and at www.no6cinema.co.uk. For queries and bookings contact 078 156 507 53. To celebrate the first screening of Pedro Amoldovar's Broken Embraces on Saturday 10 October, No.6 will be hosting a Spanish Evening from 6pm with live classic Spanish guitar music, juicy olives, tasty nibbles and of course a glass of Rioja Reserva.

John Holland

Days out with the Portsmouth Society

It was decided in 2008 to run tours, using preserved 'buses, during 2009, quite apart from the annual Architectural Tour. Two tours were planned and, in the event, each proved to be a great success, bringing together members of the Portsmouth Society and their friends.

The first excursion took place on Thursday 09 April 2009, when Bursledon Brickworks was the focus of attention. The site area, reduced in size when M27 was built in the 1970s, provided a wealth of interest. Managed by the Hampshire Buildings' Preservation Trust, the work undertaken in preserving the many skills, techniques and materials involved in the building industry is an outstanding achievement. All concerned are to be congratulated for their dedication to the task and for sharing their achievements with the general public. It was a splendid occasion and we were immensely grateful for the opportunity and, in particular, to Ann Slade (of the Trust) for arranging the visit with exemplary efficiency. There was, quite frankly, too much to take in for the duration of one visit. Return visits, on an individual basis, are therefore highly recommended. Upon the occasion of the Society's visit, thirty-nine participants travelled in Southampton Corporation 361 (BTR361B), an A.E.C. with Neepsend bodywork, dating from October 1964, presently with the C.P.P.T.D. collection.

For the second Society outing, we travelled to Itchenor on Thursday 18 June 2009, for an afternoon water tour of Chichester harbour. This was, in every sense, a splendid and exhilarating experience, the weather good, the horizon clear. From the quay, the boat took the forty-four participants south westwards towards Chichester Bar, the entrance to the harbour from the English Channel. We returned to Itchenor, retracing the outward path, passing Thorney Island, Chidham and other landmarks en route. It was indeed a most refreshing occasion, combining the quiet serenity of Chichester harbour with the experience of travelling to and from Itchenor in a preserved former Portsmouth Corporation vehicle, 112 (ORV989), a Leyland PD2 with Metro-Cammell bodywork, dating from February 1958, another vehicle from the C.P.P.T.D. collection.

For our tours this year, we are very grateful to Clive Wilkin, Pat Saunders, Phil Marfleet and Brian Jones of C.P.P.T.D. for giving us their time and the pleasure of their vehicles. We much look forward to continuing the association during 2010, when it is hoped to run a further selection of tours in preserved vehicles from the collection. News of future events will be published in the Newsletter when all necessary arrangements have been made. My thanks to all members of the Society and their friends for participating in these events, occasions that have offered the great benefit of bringing people together for a common purpose and, above all, for enjoyment.

Bruce Oliver

Pedestrian Guardrailing

The Department for Transport has published Local Transport Note 2/09 Pedestrian Guardrailing. The circular challenges the popular presumption that pedestrian guardrailing (PGR) makes things safer for pedestrians. It shares research findings that "there is no conclusive evidence that the inclusion of pedestrian guardrailing at any type of pedestrian crossing or junction has any statistically significant effect on the safety record".

Local Transport Today columnist John Dales reports: "Putting PGR into our streets is something we in the UK started doing in the 1930s and really got into our stride with in the 1940s... Since then the PGR safety myth - for it's never been much more than that - has been effectively promulgated through the twin perils of habit and lack of critical thought." Transport for London removed 1.1km of guard rail from the road network during June and has identified 10km more for removal, transport commissioner Peter Hendy has told TfL's board.

We have asked Portsmouth City Council to commission a study into the removal of some of the guardrailing in Portsmouth. You may remember the example of Station Square where several metres of guardrail were removed when the traffic lights were replaced by a roundabout. The quality of the environment is enhanced and pedestrian safety has not been compromised. The newly configured junction at Lake Road has a huge amount of guard-railing. The engineers will say that this is all necessary but it is very ugly and it's expensive! You can download a copy of the Department for Transport's report from www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes.

John Holland

Gift Aid – Helping the Society's Funds!

Just a quick reminder that we now operate a Gift Aid scheme where we can claim back tax paid to the Treasury. If you are a member and a taxpayer, then please complete and return the Gift Aid form which we sent to each member in April. If you've lost your form then please contact me on 023 9282 1667. Thanks!

Jean Thompson

Denis Callender

I knew Denis for many years, our interest in railways having brought us together most agreeably. Denis's knowledge in transport matters was belied by his disarming modesty. In character, he was, quite simply, the perfect English gentleman, one who commanded attention both effortlessly and naturally. His generosity of spirit and courtesy went before him, his appreciation for others' achievements exemplifying these qualities.

Starting photography in the mid-1940s, he travelled quite widely - at a time when such activity was uncommon. He amassed a significant portfolio on the railways of Ireland, to include carriages, wagons and infrastructure, constituting quite a rare archive. He became married in the 1950s, at which point he effectively gave up photography but his early black and white photographs are a telling reminder of his keen eye for detail.

In later years, following his wife's passing, Denis was thrilled to be taken to meetings in Portsmouth, for the Portsmouth Society, also Chichester, for both the Southern Counties Historic Vehicles Preservation Trust and, more recently, the Railway Correspondence & Travel Society. We were all enriched by his company and, with his passing, we have lost a loyal and decent friend.

Bruce Oliver

Treadgolds Ironmongers ...

A Government grant of almost £1 million to transform Portsmouth's Treadgolds Centre has been finalised, paving the way for work to begin to turn the historic former ironmongers shop into a centre for arts and heritage, local charities and community activities.

The grant has been awarded to Learning Links (Southern) Limited to undertake a large scale refurbishment and partial demolition of the centre. The museum and gift shop areas will be refurbished to provide space for exhibitions, concerts and educational activities, while purpose built, affordable office and meeting space will be created for local charities and community groups.

As part of the Learning Links project Hampshire County Council will transfer the freehold of the buildings to Learning Links, placing ownership and management in the hands of the community.

The project will offer access to a range of educational, employment and volunteering opportunities demonstrating links between the environment, recycling and social history. A glass covered courtyard with coffee and gift shop will create a space for a range of fairs, concerts and exhibitions. Links with the close-by historic dockyard will make the centre another valuable heritage attraction for visitors to the city.

Treadgolds is a series of historically linked Georgian and Victorian buildings, located in Bishops Street, Portsea. The buildings were once owned by the Treadgold family, who operated an ironmongers shop, a forge and iron wholesalers for over 200 years on the same site. This site was purchased by Hampshire County Council in 1988 and was briefly open as a museum, but has not been open to the public since 2003 for health and safety reasons.

... and Treadgolds Warehouse

Portsmouth Society members are cordially invited to attend the open day of the Treadgolds Warehouse in Bishop Street, Portsea (opposite Treadgolds Ironmongers) on Thursday 24 September from 11am to 6pm. The warehouse has been carefully restored and converted into living accommodation by Richard Sexton. This is a one-off chance to see the warehouse – a strong contender in the Portsmouth Society Design Awards 2010.

John Holland

UniverCities Conference - Portsmouth 23 & 24 July

A collaborative event between Portsmouth City Council and the University of Portsmouth, to promote excellence in Urban Regeneration and also to raise expectations and change attitudes of people living and working in Portsmouth. About 1/3rd of delegates came from PCC, 1/3rd UoP and 1/3rd from practitioners, lecturers, Aspex, NTR, PUSH, SEEDA etc with Sue McClory representing The Portsmouth Society.

The purpose of this 2-day conference was the launch of **CURe** (Creative Urban Regeneration group), whose aim is to bring together practitioners and academics for cross-disciplinary and cross-sectional project teams uniting private, public and community sectors to focus on Urban Regeneration programmes, which currently suffer from a fragmented process.

The members of CURe include representatives of all faculties of the University of Portsmouth, practitioners, and local authorities (Portsmouth City Council, Chichester District Council and Havant Borough Council). CURe activities will be

used in academic curriculum to give live projects for students, which in turn provides research, workshops and presentation skills to the individual projects.

Many CURE projects and events have already been undertaken including ‘Shaping Southsea’ PCC and community charrettes held as part of the Sea Change Bid; ‘Urban Lots’ with a focus on food, supermarket power, peak oil etc.; ‘Places from Spaces’ design students temporarily transform a public area to test the benefits of creative regeneration ideas - A large collaborative project looking at other south-coast and international towns.

Future CURE projects include ‘Reinstating City Gates’, ‘Adopt a Monument’, ‘Planting Trees for the City’, a redesign of Market Way roundabout, and ‘Secure by Design’ which improves housing estate design issues of safe streets and good use of public spaces. Portsmouth is also one of nine towns selected for the Department of Health’s Change4Life movement.

This UniverCities Conference was supported by The Academy of Urbanism www.academyofurbanism.org.uk who identify best practice and through the ‘learning from place’ initiative have developed a vision for 2020. UniverCities strives to create a thriving culture with a commitment to low energy, low impact urban lifestyle. UniverCities is not a template, but an approach to Urban Regeneration adapted to suit each particular City (www.univercities.ning.com).

International speakers at the conference covered various aspects of urban regeneration including - sizes and densities of the ideal city, changing travel behaviour through new-style messages, the problem of a centralising government & their short-term views, integration of a university into the whole City, and culture + sport + heritage = quality town. Project examples included the development of Barcelona for the Olympic Games, and a university new-town on Burnley Mountain (Vancouver).

John Worthington “Adaptable Environments to Achieve Resilient Cities” lectured on project management. He was pleased that engineers now discussed soft issues and were co-working with other disciplines. John felt that cities could be compact in parts and also dispersed into the region. He suggested that non-space areas in the city be looked at for better use, and new buildings should be of high quality and have a presence. Quality and resources must not be spread too thinly; having pockets of good projects was the way ahead. Work with other people, he advised, but having too many partners can lead to problems. Be responsive and change direction if required. Monitor, review and change. The advice was not to have too rigid a structure, but allow the right process to be used to suit the project. People could join a project at a different point in the process, as needed.

There was a choice of 5 workshops:- Cultural-led Regeneration, Sustainable Communities & Green Infrastructure, Economic Regeneration, Sustainable Transport and Adaptable environments to Achieve Resilient Cities. Speakers at each workshop presented papers on several relevant topics, then the groups worked through the ideas and tackled specific questions. On Day2 each group provided feedback to the whole conference.

Kathy Wadsworth, the PCC representative on CURE, would be undertaking an audit together with the UoP Business School to ensure that both PCC &UoP were working together in harmony across all departments and from the very highest executive through to the ordinary employees. They would see if improvements could be made, study differences and see how the partnership could be embedded.

There will be other seminars and events over the coming months and your Society hopes to have a practical involvement as part of the local community inclusion in the planning process.

Sue McClory

Meetings and Events

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (not Jan/Aug/Sep) and are normally at the University’s St George’s Building in St Thomas’s St, Old Portsmouth which has free on-site parking and is served by buses 5, 6, 23 & 700. There is no admission charge - all are welcome. For the latest programme see www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk .	
Sunday 20 September 2009 <i>2pm, Highland Road Cemetery, Southsea</i>	Launch of new tour “Local names” – Names you may know, people after who roads were named. Tour starts at 2pm, £3 per person. Organised by the Friends of Highland Road Cemetery. The Chapel with story displays opens at 12 noon (free). www.friendsofhighlandroadcemetery.org.uk .
Thursday 24 September 2009 <i>11am-6pm, Bishop St., Portsea</i>	Treadgolds Warehouse Open Day - An opportunity to see the completed conversion of the former Treadgolds warehouse. (See article on page 8).

Meetings and Events (continued)

Wednesday 7th October 2009 7.00pm, St George's Building	Portsmouth Pubs – Professor Ray Riley, society member & author of many publications including some of the Portsmouth Papers, will speak on one of his favourite subjects. An interesting & amusing evening is in prospect. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 4th November 2009 7.00pm, St George's Building	New Plans for the New Theatre Royal – Caroline Sharman, Director, will speak on the New Theatre Royal's development plan and their 'Memories' project. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 2nd December 2009 7.00pm, St George's Building	2009 Design Awards - The judges report back on their findings from the Society's design competition. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Saturday 12 December 2009 10.30am to 12.30pm	Visit to the Kings Theatre - A chance to look at the restoration work in the auditorium, which received joint first award by the Society for 2007. Advance booking essential. See booking form distributed with this newsletter
Wednesday 3rd February 2010 7.00pm - St George's Building	Climate Change - Myth or Reality? – A debate with Dr Roger James of the Portsmouth Society, Sue James of Portsmouth Climate Action Network and Jasmine Fletcher of Portsmouth Sustainability Action Group. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm.</i>
Wednesday 3rd March 2010 7.00pm - St George's Building	The Somerstown Regeneration Project - Speakers: Bev Lucas (PCC Planning), Lance Morgan (PCC Housing Development Manager) and Jan Dod (Somerstown Community Board). <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 7th April 2010 Depart Guildhall Square 1pm	Annual General Meeting - plus members' Questions & Answers. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 5 May 2010 7.00pm - St George's Building	Portsmouth's Past in Photographs - Bruce Oliver will show us some nostalgic images from his extensive collection. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm.</i>
Wednesday 2 June 2010 7.00pm - St George's Building	American Portsmouths - a look at Portsmouth New Hampshire and Portsmouth Virginia by Celia Clark and David Baynes. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>

The Portsmouth Society – Membership Application Form

If you would like to join the society then please complete the form below.

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Post Code Phone Number :..... Email Address:

I enclose cash* / cheque*/Postal order made payable to The Portsmouth Society for £..... (*delete as necessary)

* I wish to pay by Standing Order (we will send you a form to complete).

Type of membership (annual: Full (£7) Joint (£10) Senior (£5) Senior couple (£7) Student (£5)

Please tick if you have any special interests: Historic Buildings Planning Transport Trees & Shrubs

How did you hear of the Society?

Data Protection Act : We will record only the details you supply on this form solely for administrative purposes. We will not pass this information to any third party without your prior, written, consent.

Please send completed forms with remittance to: The Membership Secretary, The Portsmouth Society, 6 Livingstone Road Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 1RT. Visit our Web site at www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk for more information.

The Portsmouth Society, Registered Charity no. 266116

Chair: Celia Clark, 8 Florence Road, Southsea, Hants, PO5 2NE, Tel 023 9273 2912

Secretary: Roger James, 10 Captains Row, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2TT, Tel 023 9273 4555

Treasurer: Jean Thompson, 6 Livingstone Road, Southsea, Hants, PO5 1RT. Tel 023 9282 1667

Email: mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk Internet: www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk

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