

Portsmouth Society News

The Newsletter of the Portsmouth Society - Spring 2010

“Green Lung” Destroyed at Mile End Road

We are saddened at the destruction recently completed with the cutting down of a vast swathe of trees and bushes from the land between the north and southbound carriageways of Mile End Road. The road entrance to the city was a unique feature with its centre so full of greenery; no other city had an approach like it.

We owed its existence to the landscape architect of the county council at the time the motorway was built. He had the brilliant idea to use the land inevitably left over from a major construction like this to create a nursery for young trees. This had now matured and but has

been cut down to make way for the £7.6m Trafalgar Link Road which will connect the dockyard's Trafalgar Gate to the Mile End Road.

The road building will take eight months after which southbound traffic will be able to turn right onto the new link road. Whilst some tree felling to create the scheme was inevitable, we feel that the wholesale destruction was not. We are told that there will be re-provision but have no knowledge of where and when. It is doubly upsetting for the felling took place in the springtime when the flora and fauna was emerging from the long winter.



The tree felling in progress at Mile End Road

New Chairman for the Portsmouth Society

At the Annual General Meeting of the Portsmouth Society on 7 April Dr Celia Clark retired as chairman of the Society. She had been secretary when the society was first formed in 1973 and chairman continuously ever since a new secretary was appointed. On her retiring at this year's AGM Dr Clark was elected president of the Society.

Bob Adderley, one-time Chief Planning Officer in Hong Kong and well known for his successful efforts to save the Pyramids swimming pool, was elected to succeed her as chairman.

Dr Roger James retired from being secretary, a post which he has held for almost as long as Dr Clark. The Rev. Terry Carter was elected to succeed him as secretary.

Incoming chairman Bob Adderley said "the success embedded in The Portsmouth Society by Celia and Roger for more than a third of a century was an inspiration to the membership".

Stephen Appleby is the new Vice-Chairman whilst Jean Thompson retains her role as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Elections were also held for the executive committee which now comprises: Gail Baird, David Baynes, Charles Burns, Roger James, Terry Halloran, John Holland, Sue McClory and Pauline Powell.

Roger James

Membership Subscriptions

We regretfully announce an increase to the membership subscriptions. In order to help finance the new central coordination body, Civic Voice, which the Executive Committee believes is necessary to replace the Civic Trust, the Portsmouth Society will contribute £2.00 per person which we will collect from our members from April 2010.

Subscriptions have been held at the same rate for ten years made possible by donations given by members and by those who do work for the Society doing so at their own expense – often considerable. We will also need to purchase Public Liability Insurance for the future – possibly adding £150 - £200 annually to our expenses.

From April 2010 member's subscriptions will be as follows: Full member: £10, Joint members £15, Senior £8, Senior couple £10, Student £5. If you pay by standing order, please remember to adjust the amount paid to the society. A joining / renewal form is included in the back page of this newsletter

A Message from Celia Clark

As you know, my health has suffered severely this Spring. I have to curtail activity which causes me stress, but it is with great sadness that I resign as chairman. I was the founding secretary of the society in 1973, and have served as an officer almost continually since, apart from one year when I was training to be a teacher. I represented the Society on the Civic Trust's first national Local Amenity Societies Committee, and its much later successor, the Civic Trust South East. I combined local and national action when I was Education Officer of the Civic Trust from 1989 to 1991, when I worked with the education officers of the National Trust and English Heritage to ensure that active local environmental education was in the first National Curriculum. It would be good to review the society's achievements – and some failures – over that long period of thirtyseven years. We've saved several buildings including the Palace Cinema, St. Agatha's, Rivers Street Hall (which won a national award), the Theatre Royal, St.Mary's House, the Tourist Information Centre on The Hard....

Roger James too believes it is time to go. He has served as Hon. Secretary almost since the beginning. While he was a councillor for Fratton ward for ten years, he took a very small part, but he has ably represented us at the council's Development Control/Planning committee many times when he has made deputations on our behalf. He can reasonably claim to have changed the committee's mind on several occasions.

What is so exciting is that the Executive Committee is being renewed with new blood: people with new ideas. In this pre-election period, what used to be called the 'Third Way' and is now called 'social enterprise' and partnership working. These are still not only valid, but essential if we are to renew local as well as national democracy. Our movement's aim is to shape our places by active participation. Long may we continue to do so!

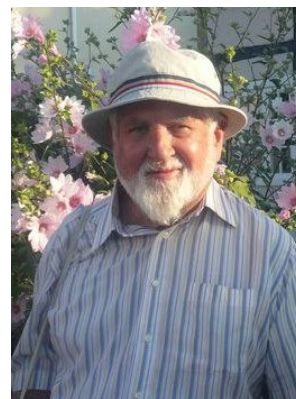
Celia Clark 30 March 2010

Introducing - Bob Adderley

Bob Adderley, the newly elected chairman of the Portsmouth Society, saw war service on the ground and flying with the RAF and RAAF in Korea and then served for twenty years, initially as a military air traffic controller, before becoming an Air Staff Officer at Headquarters Far East Air Force in Singapore.

He moved back to UK to become an operations analyst and then an Aviation Consultant for ten years with a Systems company at Farnborough, working in North America and in eight European countries, on Airport planning projects.

He was elected Master of the London Lodge of the Guild of Air Traffic Controllers (GATCO); a Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society (MRAeS); a Member of the British Association of Aviation Consultants.(MBAC); and qualified as a glider pilot at Lasham in Hampshire.



For five years he served as Chief Planning Officer for the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department responsible for the Master Planning of the Replacement Airport at Chek Lap Kok. He also led a survey to establish a network of heli-ports throughout the Territory. Whilst there he helped to form the new Hong Kong branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Back in Farnborough, he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS) and was responsible for developing technology for Air Traffic Management and Safety Projects in European Airspace.

As an independent consultant for five years, he represented the International Airlines (IATA) on roles varying from: trouble shooting and accident investigation at individual European airports; to negotiating airport capacity and safety with Aviation Ministers in Asia.

He became a member of the Portsmouth Society soon after moving to Southsea in 1997 and was elected to the Executive Committee particularly because of his interests in transport systems. He led a successful campaign to reduce the proliferation of street signage and strongly supported the minority view that a Monorail System was the best possible solution to resolve traffic congestion throughout the city. His pleas to the City Council to develop a Seafront Strategy have been widely reported.

For six years he chaired a vociferous Neighbourhood Forum that successfully expressed its views on West Southsea's parking, shopping and policing challenges. He has no political affiliation; his neutrality was often well demonstrated by him being equally vehemently abused by supporters of rival political leanings.

When the city Council decided to dispose of the Pyramids Leisure Centre he formed the Friends of the Pyramids and led a campaign that successfully petitioned the council to Save the Pyramids from the bulldozer. This has led to the facilities remaining open for an additional two years to serve over 200,000 swimmers. After protracted negotiations it is now to be leased, in May 2010, to a private operator to run the entertainment and leisure amenities, with additional health and gymnasium facilities, at no burden to the city ratepayers.

Bob Adderley served on the Executive Committee for a number of years but, because of other demands on his time, has not stood for re-election since 2008. It is only after Celia's recent illness, from which she has happily recovered, together with Roger's planned retirement from his long held role of secretary, that, somewhat reluctantly, he heeded their personal invitations to accept nomination and was duly elected at the AGM as the new chairman of the Portsmouth Society.

New National Voice for Civic Societies

The Portsmouth Society was represented by Terry Carter and David Baynes at the launch at the Building Design Centre in London of Civic Voice - the new national charity for the civic movement. The event on Saturday 17 April was accompanied by the first results of Civic Voice's new Love Local campaign where everyone is being invited to say what they love about where they live and why.



The results show that a friendly and active community with peaceful green spaces nearby, a wide range of cultural activities and independent shops and markets, a strong sense of history in buildings and architecture, and people willing to get up and do something for their local area score highest. People are also fearful that they will lose historic buildings and street pattern, green fields and open spaces and the independent shops and markets that they love about their area.

Speaking at the launch of Civic Voice, Griff Rhys Jones said, "Civic Voice is being launched as the nation debates its political future and communities are campaigning for more care and control over what happens in their local area. The time is ripe for a powerful new voice that helps turn local action into national movement to make the places where we all live more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive."

Tony Burton, Director of Civic Voice said, "Everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of. The civic movement should be in the driving seat of a new politics which responds to the pride people have

in the place where they live. Civic Voice will campaign nationally and work locally to protect the best local places and to improve those which should offer more to their communities.”

To take part in the Love Local campaign visit the Civic Voice website at www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/love-local.

New use for Beneficial School, Portsea

Groundlings Theatre Company has recently completed the purchase from Portsmouth City Council of the old Beneficial School in Kent Street, Portsea. After years of neglect, this Grade II* listed building is being brought back to life as a theatre, dance studio, multimedia studio and rehearsal rooms.

Many of the original features, fire places, large wooden dresser, original floorboards and flagstones together with two very large ornamental sash windows remain and give this building a unique atmosphere. A well-known fact is that Elizabeth (Barrow) Dickens, the mother of Charles, was attending a performance of a play at the ‘Beneficial’, when she went into labour with her son Charles Dickens. We wish Groundlings every success at their new premises. You can see what’s on at the Beneficial by viewing their Web site at www.groundlings.co.uk.

Can you help?

The Friary, Southsea. Rosemary Clark writes ... “I am wondering whether any of your members has detailed knowledge of the history of The Friary in Southsea? This is a very impressive and intriguing building which I had passed a number of times without having any idea of its purpose or significance to my family.”

“Researching family history has shown that members of the extended family were resident at various times from at least 1861 to the late 1880s and possibly beyond. This included the deaths of two men at different times (husbands of one lady who 'adopted' my grandmother around 1900) and involved flats 4, 18, 20 and others - I am still piecing this together.”

“I have found several interesting references through your newsletters and website. If you are able to offer any information or suggest contact with any member, that would be very helpful.”

The Black Gate – Geoff French asks ... “I have recently been passed some of my grandmothers papers including her diary of 1907. She mentions walking along ‘the front’ as far as ‘the black gate’ which must have been a well known landmark in those days. I was wondering if anyone at the society had any idea where it is (or was).”

If you can help Rosemary or Geoff then please contact the editor at mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk or telephone 023 9283 9660.

Space, Place-making and Urban Design - SPUD

Space, Place-making and Urban Design (SPUD) is the name of a new network of architectural youth groups across southern Hampshire. Groups have been running in Eastleigh, Portsmouth and Southampton since Autumn 2001, each consisting of 12 young people aged 14-19 years old who are passionate about the built environment and interested in helping influence the future of their towns and cities. Each group has a specific design project and will work with an architectural practice, Planning Aid and their local authority to develop concept designs for their chosen areas.

The programme will run initially for 12 months with the students gaining a range of new skills and experience, and where possible accreditation to take back to their schools and colleges. The groups are open to any motivated young people living in Eastleigh, Portsmouth or Southampton.

This website will be the place to find out more about the programme as it develops – with the student group creating all the content on the site. Check back often to see how things develop and take a look at what is happening in the other areas too and add your own opinions to the blog! Visit www.spudgroup.org.uk for more information.

Book Review - 'Kilo Sierra Five One' (Policing Portsmouth in the 1980s)

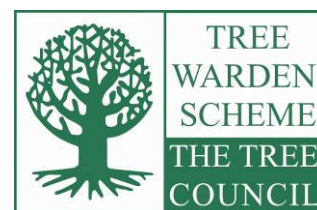


KILO SIERRA FIVE ONE is part auto-biography, part history book on the policing of one of Britain's toughest cities; Portsmouth. Written by a Police officer who experienced at first hand a turbulent and violent decade, it takes us from his very first days at training school in 1978 right through to the late 1980s and includes national events like the year-long miners' strike, the Falklands conflict, New Age Travellers, the Greenham Common Peace Camp and the 1987 hurricane. But it is perhaps the local incidents he attended that will make you either laugh, cry or shout out loud in disbelief as he deals with human beings and all their failings, from horrific car accidents to football hooligans he gives us a candid view of what it's like to be involved in such incidents and how it can affect the lives of those that do. This book tells the story of his first years in the 'the job' and how he very nearly got thrown out because he didn't measure up. It's a warts-an-all personal account, a real life Ashes to Ashes.

STEVE WOODWARD served in the Hampshire Constabulary from 1975 to 2008. He was one of the stars of the BBC TV series 'Traffic Cops' and made other appearances in 'Real Rescues' and 'Southern Crime Stoppers' together with a drama documentary on 'The Great Storm'. The book is published by Author House Books at £11.30 (plus p&p), available from www.authorhouse.co.uk.

Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens

The Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens network is part of the Tree council's UK-wide Tree Warden Scheme, a national force of local tree champions and a key part of their community action programme. The Department of Communities and Local Government is backing the scheme with a grant from its special grants programme in support of the 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' agenda.



The network was set up at a meeting at the Lighthouse Community Centre Southsea on 25 February 2010 which voted to move forward as a group. Southsea Town Council has granted us £250 and Councillor Donna Jones councillor for Hilsea has secured another £250.

Some of the things we plan to do include: survey our City's trees and gather information about them; involve our neighbours in tree projects; provide early warning of threats, disease, decay, or vandalism; get together with like minded people for training and field trips.

New members are welcome. For further information, contact Pauline Powell on 023 9266 7962 or visit www.portsmouthsouthseatreewardens.co.nr

Days Out with the Portsmouth Society

The Portsmouth Society will be running a day trip to the Isle of Wight by vintage double-decker bus on Wednesday 16th June. We will take the vehicle ferry to Fishbourne then travel to Brading Roman Villa. We'll have two hours before making our way to Appuldurcombe House for a walk-about after which our excursion will continue with a drive along the south coast road returning to Fishbourne via Newport. The price of £20 per person includes entry to the Roman Villa and to Appuldurcombe House plus a donation towards the cost of the fuel for the bus

We will be running another of our popular Architectural Bus Tours of the city by vintage double-decker bus on Saturday 7th August. We will be looking at new buildings, restorations and landscaping schemes including those that have featured in, or will feature in, the Portsmouth Society's Design Awards. This is an enjoyable way to see Portsmouth from a different angle and we guarantee that you'll see things and visit places that you would not normally encounter.

A booking form for both tours is included with this newsletter. Please note that advance booking is essential.

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 .	
Wednesday 5 May 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>
Sunday 23 May, 2pm to 4pm (Meet 1.50pm at gate in Milton Rd opposite St James Church.)	A tree identification walk around Milton Park guided by Jon Stokes, Director of Rural Programmes at the Tree Council. All welcome. Portsmouth Tree Wardens tel. 023 9266 7962 or www.portsmouthsouthseatreewardens.co.nr .
Wednesday 2 June 7.00pm - St George's Building <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>	It's your Society! Citywide and nationally the outlook is good for our civic society – come along to listen, contribute and discuss. A representative from Civic Voice will be joining us. Plus a short film of Southsea Seafront in its heyday.
Wednesday 16 June 10.15am from Guildhall Square	Day trip to the Isle of Wight - Travel by ferry and historic bus to visit Brading Roman Villa and Appuldurcombe House followed by a drive along the scenic southern coast. Booking essential – please see enclosed form
Wednesday 7th July 7.00pm – <i>Blue Lagoon, London Road, Hilsea</i>	Hilsea Lido: The People's Pool - Jane Smith, author of <i>The Book of Hilsea: Gateway to Portsmouth</i> , will speak on the architectural aspects of the Lido's 75-year history. Note that this meeting will be held at the Blue Lagoon, London Road, Hilsea (next to the Lido).
Saturday 7 August 2010 9.30am-1pm. Depart from Guildhall Square	Architectural Bus Tour of Portsmouth - Now an annual event! View your city from the top of a preserved double-decker 'bus. We will be looking at new buildings, restorations and landscaping schemes which have featured in our Annual Design Awards. Booking essential – please see enclosed form
Wednesday 6 October, 7.00pm	Monthly meeting. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 3 November, 7.00pm	Monthly meeting. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 1 December, 7.00pm	Monthly meeting. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>

The Portsmouth Society – Membership Application & Renewal Form

If you would like to join the society or renew your membership then please complete the form below.

Name: Address:.....

..... Post Code

Telephone Number :..... Email Address:

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

Type of membership (annual: Full (£10)..... Joint (£15)..... Senior (£8)..... Senior couple (£10)..... Student (£5).....

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

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

Chairman: Bob Adderley, 26 Rose Tower, Clarence Parade, Southsea, PO5 2HX. Tel: 023 9229 7103

Secretary: Terry Carter, 15 Balliol Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7PP. Tel: 023 9269 9167

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.