

The Newsletter of the Portsmouth Society

Summer 2011



Wymering Manor- Building At Risk



The grand staircase at Wymering Manor

The City Council's long neglect of the second oldest historic house in Portsmouth, Wymering Manor, took a new turn at the end of May. SAVE Britain's Heritage featured it in their 2011 publication of Buildings At Risk. Celia Clark was interviewed on BBC News 24 on 31 May, along with Councillor Hugh Mason and the Friends of Old Wymering. She was appalled to discover how much this most important building has deteriorated since the developer Ian Young's caretaker was evicted last autumn. There's no provision for through ventilation - especially important in the seriously damp north wing, plaster is bulging out from the walls in the oldest

massive chimney stack, upstairs was said by the security guard to be 'dangerous', and the garden looks like a jungle. Only four or five years ago we were enjoying parties, seeing in the New Year, learning about the history of the house from the Friends of Old Wymering and the garden was well tended by volunteers. Security costs since last October are costing us £2000 a week.

Why is Wymering Manor, arguably one of the city council's most important possessions, still mouldering, when there's been a bid on the table to buy it since 2006? The Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust and local developer Ian Young who has recently restored the city's oldest house, Buckingham House in Old Portsmouth, agreed to work together, the Trust

taking on the freehold and the developer restoring the house as a historic hotel under the Trust's supervision.

At the Society's June meeting we learnt from Penny Mordaunt MP that another bid is being put together. The ground floor would be used for community activity - tours, summer fetes, Christmas parties, concerts and galleries. The first floor would be a small boutique hotel and the top floor used as offices for local charities. Local residents including the Friends of Old Wymering and businesses are involved, and a new kitchen would be staffed by Highbury College catering students. A social enterprise company and trust to take on ownership would be set up. The Heritage Lottery Fund has visited the house and is interested in the bid. But eighteen months' lead time is needed to raise the money to restore, convert and upgrade the house. Can the building wait that long?

The Society and Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust's first priority must be that decay is arrested and Wymering Manor is restored as soon as possible, with a new, viable use which allows public access, so we can all enjoy its special place in Portsmouth's history - as we were doing a few short years ago. *Celia Clark*

Civic Day Arrives

The first Civic Day – sponsored by Civic Voice our parent body – will be celebrated this year on Saturday June 25th. Civic Societies nationwide will be taking part in their various ways, at or about this time, in this national event.

Here in Portsmouth, Civic Day marks the culmination of our Schools' Project. Year 7 (the first year in the Secondary School) students have submitted entries which they have been working on during the past months and weeks covering different categories such as an essay, poetry, art and design and IT, around the theme, 'What I like about my City'. All entries have been judged by an independent Panel. All participants will receive a certificate – either Gold, Silver or Bronze and there will be a winner and runner-up in each category who will be given a special prize. The awards will be presented by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth in the Norrish Central Library, commencing at 10 am on Saturday 25th June.

In connection with the Schools' project there will be an exhibition of selected students' work at the Central Library between Monday 20th June and Saturday 2nd July during normal Library opening hours. We would like to encourage members and their friends to view the exhibition. Posters

advertising the display are being forwarded to community organisations throughout the City.

The Society will also be staffing a stall in The Cascades Shopping Centre between 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. from Monday 20th June to Friday 24th June inclusive. The aim is to raise awareness of the Society's work and interests and to encourage new members. The stall will be situated in Meadow Walk opposite the Anne Harvey store.

Pauline Powell and Jackie Baynes will also be showcasing the work of the Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens at the Summer fair and Picnic in Victoria Park on 25 June, which the Society is pleased to support.

Terry Carter, Honorary Secretary

Portsmouth Society Officers and Committee 2011-12

The Portsmouth Society elected a new chairman at its Annual general Meeting on 6 April. Bob Adderley had decided not to stand for a further year and Sue McClory was persuaded to take the post instead. Sue has been a committee member for two years but has lived and worked in the Portsmouth area for most of her life. Terry Carter and Jean Thompson retain their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively whilst David Baynes continues as vice-chairman. Hilary Read has joined the executive committee, serving alongside Charles Burns, Pauline Powell and John Holland. There are still vacancies on the committee so if you'd like to help with running the Society please do get in touch.

Andrew Handyside

What do St Pancras Station and the Connaught Drill Hall have in common? Well, they all feature extensive work by the Victorian iron founder, Andrew Handyside and made at the Britannia Foundry in Derby. We have been contacted by Andy Savage of who is researching the work of this famous entrepreneur.

Andy has invested a several hundred hours of his time in researching this company and has created a "World Map" of all Handyside items which is available on the Internet at www.derbyphotos.co.uk/features/friargatebridge/andrewhandyside/locationsmap/

There is also a "Handyside group" on Flickr so photographers around the world can add images of his work to a pool of images. *John Holland*

What's Portsmouth For? – Penny Mordaunt MP



Penny Mordaunt MP spoke at the Portsmouth Society's June meeting which was held at the Blue Lagoon, Hilsea. She shared her views on Portsmouth, and the projects of her first year as a "newby" MP in the Coalition Government. Penny believes that Portsmouth should be more renowned for its great world harbour with unique heritage, its naval, space and hi Tec industries and with ever higher educational aspiration.

Penny Mordaunt, MP for Portsmouth North

Her talk first centred on Localism and the opportunities it could present. She linked that to the planning frustrations of developers that now appear to "hold the aces". This inhibits planners from the longer, larger vision, of developing Portsmouth Harbour from Gosport to North End as a world class harbour. The key themes of her talk were:

MOD Procurement/ Treasury rules: Penny spoke of her work to get change in the costly treasury rules of MOD procurement from which the public are currently excluded. This is an obstacle to creating "one of the truly great harbours of the world", to regeneration, and to re-using good and historic Portsmouth buildings.

The planning process: Penny believed that there should be more transparency and public engagement. This would lead to better designed quality buildings that were truly fit for purpose. She explained some of her work as a Planning Aid Trustee and her support and contribution to the development of St Cuthbert church project.

She expressed frustration at the "untransparent" Section 106 process and how the public had no say in where "developers contributions" were best spent locally. She estimated that the north of Portsmouth has lost £2million pounds investment over the years, at the same time struggling to manage crumbling yet vital community buildings that are beyond the end of their life.

Penny described how a vital part of good regeneration is strengthening and building skills in the community. This enables communities to express their own voice as “the local experts”, and to build partnerships with businesses and local authorities to help deliver the best local solutions. She gave examples of charity training days on fundraising with the private and public sectors, and developing their business plans with social enterprises. She highlighted the local initiative to rescue Wymering manor, her recent negotiations with PCC planning department, and the active involvement of some 50 volunteers.

Penny shared the experience of the changing role of a 21st century MP, and her aim to practically challenge issues to influence life in her constituency. “OK” isn’t not good enough. Her office has 3 parliamentary assistants, and a specialist team of interns to support her work.

Questions and comments from the floor included:

- Examples in Sweden and USA of advantageous procurement rules.
- Concerns about the South Parade blight on the site owned by Harry Redknapp.
- Good community consultation was a skill lacking in many councillors and officers.
- There are some mixed models of community leadership e.g. neighbourhood fora, Community and residents associations, community boards. These need strengthening. Democracy is not cheap.
- PCC need to monitor contracts e.g. Colas, more efficiently.

Penny emphasised that transparency and local engagement would be achieved

- When planners were vigilant and developers rewarded by pre-application consultations with local residents.
- When Local authorities publish their expenditures in an accessible form. Benchmarking is being developed to compare Local Authorities (HR: This is well developed in schools and education.)
- When the Treasury supports MOD procurement solutions as proposed by English Heritage and others.
- When engaging the hard to reach is better achieved.

She added that 2 proposed new Portsmouth Technical Colleges should improve and broaden local education and training opportunities.

On “Zero carbon Portsmouth”, Penny supported sustainable travel in the form of better bus services, more electric car charging high-speed points, and listening to people’s concerns. She expressed dissatisfaction because

PCC had acquired £12.5m to retrofit Portsmouth homes with improved insulation. There was nil spend on this until prompted by her office.

Penny joins 75 other MP's to examine and renegotiate national PFI contracts, through profit splitting arrangements, and drawing down profits locally. The leak of private profit from public funds from the UK must be stopped.

Penny concluded by inviting anyone to write or email her with any Portsmouth concerns. *Hilary Reed*

Portsmouth's Favourite Trees

Do you know of an outstanding tree? It may be particularly old or big for its species or it may have wildlife or landscape value. It could have been the centre of great events or linked to a famous person. It could even be rare. It does not have to be a native tree; it could be an exotic or even a fruit or hedgerow tree. The Den Haag Elm is a fine example on Southsea Common.



Den Hague Elm on Southsea Common

The closing date for entries is 31st December 2011 and there is an entry form at www.portsmouthsouthseatreewardens.co.nr

We intend to publish a booklet of the chosen trees and possibly produce a calendar featuring twelve of these trees. Entries will be judged by a panel of experts. This is a chance to recommend a tree of your choice and contribute to a local (and national) record.

Our City's trees enhance our urban landscape, provide shade, support biodiversity and are good for our communities, your nomination is valuable.

Pauline Powell

St Peter's Church and Institute Somers Road

The Society has been asked for help with trying to save St. Peter's Church, the Church Hall and vicarage, from demolition and replacement by a block of flats. The Parochial Church Council are trying to sell the site. They plan to build a new church near the police station and Wellington Street. The congregation numbers 50 and there are 60 on the electoral roll. Many of the congregation would like to stay in the church and the church hall is extensively used by



St Peter's Church, Playfair Road, Southsea

drama groups, especially now with the New Theatre Royal closed to build the new facilities back stage. The chair of the Cultural Forum is working with the user groups, who are very concerned that they may lose their performance space.

The tall red brick Gothic St. Peter's Church was designed in 1882-3 by the local architect Alfred Arthur Hudson (1852-1930), replacing an iron mission chapel built by St. Jude's Southsea in 1871. St. Jude's congregation also built the pretty pebble coursed school in Rivers Street, now known as Rivers Street Hall. The cost of the new church was largely met by public subscription and a few large individual donations. The high altar and reredos of 1905 has rich blind-tracery carving in oak and painted figures on gold backgrounds: Christ in Glory, the Agnus Dei, Adoration of the Magi and the Three Maries at the Sepulchre. The glorious late Victorian aisle, chancel and Lady Chapel windows are by Walter Tower of Kempe & Co: English saints and the Nativity. The baptistery windows are by Francis Skeat, symbolising Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination; installed in 1975 as a memorial to a former parish priest, the Revd. Gordon King. An application has been made to English Heritage to list the church, to save it from demolition.

The old mission chapel continued to serve as a church hall until it was replaced in 1923-4 by the St Peter's Institute, designed by the architect Alfred Ernest Tutte (1881-1964), which combined the functions of hall, Sunday school and amateur theatre.

Hampshire County Council paid for the landscaping of the church garden fronting onto Somers Road. Rivers Street Hall, was once the church school and in the 1970s a performance space. We formed Somerstown Community Association to save it from demolition - winning the SAVE Britain's Heritage award of £2000 which helped us to restore it. It is now lost as a community building because it's now a house and architects' office. If housing is built on the St. Peter's site, more community facilities will be lost. The Diocesan Advisory Committee would presumably be involved if the church is declared redundant and a new one built elsewhere. *Celia Clark*

Consultations

The executive committee recently held a special meeting to comment on several strategy documents on which Portsmouth City Council were inviting comments.

The Climate Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new way of collecting contributions from developers to help fund infrastructure projects for city wide or neighbourhood benefit. This will run in parallel with 'Section 106' contributions which deal directly with infrastructure required for a specific development site. The CIL is a national regulation which cannot be changed, but the tariffs and other details are local matters.

Our comments were the concern about tariffs in adjoining regions resulting in Portsmouth losing prestige developments to cheaper areas; we requested information on frequency of tariff changes and regional consultation; we also asked for consultation on how the funds would be spent. Criteria for educational establishments need clarification as some businesses could use this to avoid the tariff.

The second item was the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which we found to be comprehensive and setting some high standards and objectives. We made a dozen or so comments and offered the assistance of The Society in locating extra areas for allotment sites, should the Council require help. Do have a close look at the document online www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/20574

The final document was the pre-submission stage of the Portsmouth Plan, which sets out the vision and objectives for the development of Portsmouth up to 2027, pulling together all the policies written over recent years. It covers the large development projects, housing standards, transport and management policies. Our comments requested higher standards for reducing carbon emissions, investigation of pedestrianising more areas, and an aspiration towards Purple Flag (a night-time balanced economy). We have also requested longer consultation periods and better engagement with the general public on developments. *Sue McClory*

Dockyards In Art: Art in Dockyards

*Ken Norrish Memorial Lecture by Dr Celia Clark at the Norrish Central
Library Portsmouth 7pm, 22 June 2011*

Did it all begin with a paint box; model maker's or sculptor's tools; architect's model, building plans, blueprint, camera...? Why are dockyards depicted in visual art, and why does artistic activity arise in dockyards? Can structures designed for hot war or cold defence ever be great art? How does artistic activity generate new futures for former naval bases whose original purpose has gone?

Taking the widest definitions of both art and dockyards, this brief overview of twin and entwined subjects draws mainly on visual, three dimensional, architectural and engineering art, though music, drama and film are mentioned.

Dockyards in art

Images glorifying national fleets and sites of naval activity appear in many countries with significant investment in naval power. It's the dockyard setting behind the ships in painted images we are looking for, though of course, the two were painted as an ensemble. The French navy has long had official naval artists on its payroll. In the eighteenth and nineteenth century naval ships were adorned with splendid embellishments: figureheads, stern decorations.... often glorifying the ruler or figures from mythology. Models of dockyards to different scales were commissioned, particularly in the eighteenth century. Special materials: ivory, mica and silver were used, reflecting the importance of the model and the site. From the eighteenth century, midshipmen in the British navy were trained to record the topography of the countries they visited. Naval officers who were writers, poets, collectors, mystics such as Pierre Loti may leave significant collections to be enjoyed by subsequent generations.

Navy Days posters inviting people to enjoy their national fleets in their bases are often iconic pieces of art as well as important indicators of social history. Topographical images, painted or engraved, vividly bring dockyard activity to life. Portsmouth ex-rigger John Green celebrates the dockyard workforce, as do historic graffiti and cartoons. Photography may be official – ships' launches - or informal or primarily artistic. Dockyards make atmospheric film sets – as themselves – or deputising for other places.

Dockyards' architecture and infrastructure often has a workmanlike poetry and texture: the 'beauty of utility'; their functionality has an elegance all of its own. Specialised dockyard towns such as Rochefort and Pembroke Dock offer a complete ensemble of storehouses, workshops, dry docks,

foundry, ropery, victualing, educational and training establishments, armouries and magazines, often walled and elaborately defended. Monumental naval buildings and ceremonial gateways by famous architects and technological innovation in port infrastructure reflect national pride.



Joseph Vernet 1714-1798 *Vue de Port de Rochefort*

Art in Dockyards

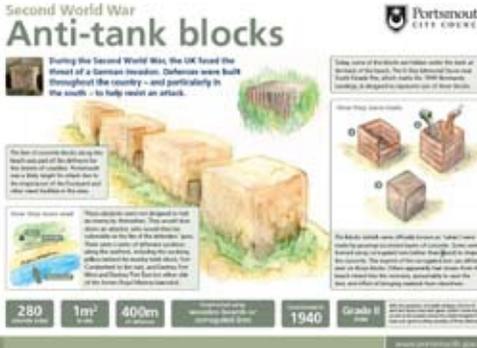
Art installations in dockyards – whether one-off events and performance - or permanent - are often linked to their re-animation once the navy leaves. Economic and social regeneration of former dockyards and their workforces may entail revaluing dockyards as public spaces and settings

for public events. Dockyard buildings are ingeniously and brilliantly adapted to new uses by talented architects. New buildings can enhance and link to naval sites' history in innovative ways. Industrial photography, including celebrations of technological innovation and images of decay evocative of vanished activity is deservedly popular. Art installations can help people to look again at these very specialised sites. Dockyards offer large adaptable spaces for new activity. The biennales of art and architecture brilliantly use the varied spaces of the Arsenale in Venice. Naval sites offer special opportunities for museums, whether related to the previous uses or not. Stumholmen island in central Stockholm has been transformed into an island of art and museums. Suomenlinna in Helsinki has six museums including a gallery of Nordic art. Events such as Victorian Steam Fairs, opera, community plays, light shows, musical performance and fireworks are the successors to Navy Days. They bring people into dockyards which were once only open to those who worked there.

Conclusion

Art - in the form of Naval, Building Architecture and Engineering – created the dockyards. National pride celebrated them in painting and sculpture, while graffiti and cartoons expressed their working lives. Art in many forms also reanimates and generates many dockyards whose primary purpose has ceased, as it helps these special places to find new uses. Now we can enjoy dockyards' rich artistic heritage, distanced from the nationalism, rivalry, antagonism and even hatred that first gave rise to them. *Celia Clark*

Anti-tank defences at Eastney beach



During the Second World War when the UK faced the threat of a German invasion, defences were built throughout the country – and particularly in the south – to help resist an attack. The line of concrete blocks along the beach at Eastney was part of the defences for this stretch of coastline. These obstacles were not designed to halt an enemy by themselves. They would slow down an attacker, who would then be vulnerable to the fire of the defenders' guns.

One of the interpretation boards explaining the WWII anti-tank defences

Today, some of the blocks are hidden under the bank at the back of the beach. The D-Day Memorial Stone near South Parade Pier, which marks the 1944 Normandy Landings, is designed to represent one of these blocks. In the past year, English Heritage has recognised the historical importance of these defences and 280 of the blocks along a 400 metre stretch of Fraser Beach are now Grade II listed.

Eastney Signage Campaign has launched an appeal to raise £2,500 for interpretation boards and they have asked us to publicise it. If you'd like to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to Eastney Beach Signage, to Eastney Beach Signage Campaign, PO Box 551, Portsmouth PO5 1ZN; pay direct at Nationwide, with sort code 070093, account reference 0373/704236700; or pay at another bank adding Nationwide identity account number 33333334.

Gog and Magog

We have been alerted to the missing wooden figures on the Flemings clock tower building on the corner of Castle Road and Great Southsea Street.

We understand that they were removed for refurbishment some two years ago but they have yet to reappear.

Can anyone shed any light onto the mystery?



Flemings Tower

Greening the Tricorn Grey

The bare expanse of the car park on the former Tricorn Centre site does not give the impression of a vibrant, innovative, well designed approach for visitors to the Historic Dockyard, shoppers, university students' parents... not to mention how it feels to Portsmouth residents. There is currently a gap on the south side of Market Way in the 'green corridor' which otherwise extends from the new landscaping in Mile End to St. Agatha's park. Portsmouth as a city is seriously lacking in green space and this proposal would bring visual benefit - a green link - to a grey area. It would also be the first temporary greening of an empty site in the south.

A group including the Portsmouth Society and Portsmouth Tree Wardens is proposing to make a bid for the elongated triangular site bordering Market Way and the Cascades approach which is not used for car parking. Any greening would be (up to 5 years), pending the redevelopment of the site.

Although there are 875 people on the waiting list for allotments it was regretfully agreed that the site was not suitable for growing food, because of lead pollution from traffic and there are no 'eyes on the street'. We propose shrubs and trees in planters - maybe sewer pipes or builders' bulk bags, initially positioned on the tarmac surface at the curve of the road turning to the back of St. Agatha's, which is prominent in the view from vehicles. Drought resistant plants adapted to growing in containers would be selected, and provision in the bid would be costed for maintenance and watering from bowsers (DM). An approach to the Naval Base Property Trust was being made for a boat or boats as to be used as planters. *Celia Clark*



Re-enactment in the Ops Room during a visit by Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding in 1958

The Bunker

On Sunday May 15 I went on a coach trip organised from Midhurst to see what is known as The Bunker at RAF Uxbridge; Celia and Deane came too. This is the place from which the Battle of Britain was fought. It is the place we have all seen on TV and in the Battle of Britain film where WAAFs shovelled counters on the call of Angels 15. This room still exists deep underground, in fact some

60 feet, and is being preserved. It is sited at RAF Uxbridge now being sold off for development for housing, though the bunker itself is being kept.

We were led down some 65 steps and then seated, 25 of us, round the table. The presiding officer then gave us a brilliant account of what led up to the building of the 11 Group Operations Rooms Bunker and what went on there. One wall of the room, known as the Tote board, is full of coloured lights signifying the approaching enemy aircraft and the availability of RAF aircraft with their readiness. It is being kept as it was on 15 September 1940 when Winston Churchill was there on one of several visits and where he said to Air Vice-Marshal Park “What reserves have we?” and received the precise answer “not any”.

To me the most surprising thing I learned was how much of it was done before the war. In fact the decision to build the control room underground was taken in 1936.

We were shown a letter from Buckingham Palace dated 9 February following a visit to the bunker 2010b by the Queen which said:

“Her Majesty was interested to hear that, in this anniversary year, the historic Number 11 Group Operations Rooms Bunker has been listed and preserved as a Royal Air Force asset. Hopefully, the facility will continue as a permanent reminder of those who fought and won the Battle of Britain”.

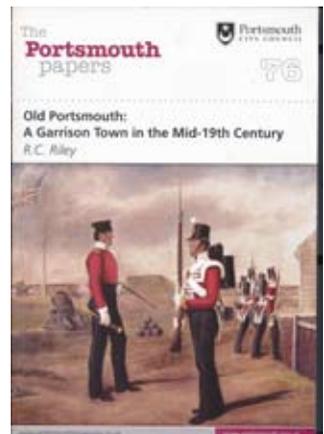
We then went on to see the RAF Museum at Hendon.

Roger James

Old Portsmouth: A Garrison Town in the Mid-19th Century **R C Riley Portsmouth Paper No.76 Portsmouth City Council 2010**

This is Professor Ray Riley’s eighth Portsmouth Paper, if you don’t count the two he has also co-authored. Through both his teaching at universities - on economics, geography, history and heritage and to industrial archaeology groups, he has immeasurably enriched and informed our knowledge – in this case, of our home city.

His topic this time is the neglected subject of the importance of the army – not only embodied in the fortifications around the two walled cities of Portsmouth and Portsmouth Common (Portsea), Fort Cumberland and the Palmerston forts on land



and sea – but in soldiers' part in the town's social and economic life. This amnesia has recently been symbolised in the substitution of the ceremonial presentation of a naval sword to the Lord Mayor in the mayor-making ceremony for the handing over of the city's historic keys by a senior army officer.

Historians have underplayed 'the weighty power exercised by the military which, while possessing ramparts, barracks and an infirmary, owned no social overhead capital such as shops or schools and but few houses... In other words the garrison town differed from the classic company town' - where housing, parks, libraries, sports grounds might be provided by the major employer. Portsmouth Corporation was subject to 'the exigencies of the War Office' which lead to tension between the garrison and civilian authorities.

By 1851 soldiers occupying the five barracks and fortifications of Portsmouth's walled town numbered more than 2000. In 1860 these fortifications accounted for no less than 50 percent of and land area, giving the town 'a distinctly fort-like form', and resembling continental cities. Movement in and out of the town was limited to the two city gates, which were closed at night, causing congestion to traffic, not least to the Camber dock, to ferries to Gosport and steamers between Southampton and the Isle of Wight. The cholera epidemic of the late 1840s may have been worsened by the curfew, because the moats were flushed irregularly. The military objected to a new dock office on the Camber and to the extension of the railway to the harbour.

Riley examines the extent of military property and the social structure of the town, using the 1851 census identifying soldiers' families and richer inhabitants. Some military wives resorted to prostitution to support their families because their husbands were so poorly paid. Manufacturing of boots, shoes and tailoring, brewing and retailing were major industries inside the walls.

The paper reveals much fascinating social detail and keen analysis of the plans of key buildings and the ramparts. Highly recommended! *Celia Clark*

Portsmouth Society on Twitter

For all you Twitter users we've now opened our own account @PortsmouthSoc. Please follow and tell your followers!

Committee Minutes

The Executive Committee would very much like to hear from any Society member who would be prepared to attend our monthly meetings to take the minutes.

You would not need to become a Committee member and this is an excellent opportunity to keep up-to-date with Society activities and issues, while also making an invaluable contribution to the work of the Society.

We meet at The Dolphin in Old Portsmouth on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm.

You would: Take notes of the discussions and decisions which take place at the meeting. Write and email draft minutes to the Chairman. Incorporate any amendments and then email the final version to the Society Secretary, for circulation to Committee members.

If you are interested in helping the Society in this way, please call David Baynes, Vice-chair, on 02392 831 461 or email: baynes.david@btinternet.com

Summer Day Trip to Romsey: Monday 22 August 2011

What can Rev W Awdry and Strong's Brewery have in common? 'Thomas the Tank engine was.... So Drunk He Must Have Been to Romsey'. (Old Romsey saying). The Rev W Awdry and many, many Strong's pubs existed in Romsey once upon a time. The 2011 Summer Portsmouth Society day trip to Romsey has little to do with that.

Join this trip to explore old and new secrets of Romsey. Guided by friends of the Romsey & District Society, we will explore the core of historic Romsey, including many architectural gems, with some 21st century surprises. Coffee and tea will be in a 13th century house with a gorgeous historic garden, and lunch will be served in a fine 600 year old coaching inn, sensitively refurbished. There will be time to experience the 1000 year old Norman Abbey, with more optional delights during the afternoon. The Coach will leave The Hard at 9am calling at Hilsea Lido shortly after. We should return at around 6pm.

If you are interested to join us for this splendid day out, please contact me soon as possible to reserve your place. The party will be limited to 30. Details of the cost and a booking form will be sent to you in due course. It will be also be available on the website. All enquiries 023 9286 5938, Email: hilarysails@btinternet.com, Address: 87 Ringwood Road, Southsea PO4 9JJ *Hilary Reed*

Meetings and Events

<p>Our regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (January, August and September excepting). There is no admission charge and all are welcome. Most (but not all) meetings are at The 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.</p>	
<p>20 - 24 Jun 10am - 2pm daily</p>	<p>Portsmouth Society Exhibition. Volunteers are needed to man the stall which will show the work of the society. If you can help please call Terry Carter 023 9269 9167 or email mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk. <i>Cascades shopping centre (Meadow Walk outside Anne Harvey)</i></p>
<p>Wed. 22 Jun 7pm</p>	<p>Inaugural Norrish Lecture - Dockyards in Art; Art in Dockyard. A richly illustrated talk by Dr Celia Clark; part of the Portsmouth Festivities. Free. <i>Menuhin Room, 3rd Floor, Central Library, Guildhall Square.</i></p>
<p>Sat. 25 Jun 10 -11.00am</p>	<p>Civic Day Event: Official opening of the exhibition of work by local schools by the Lord mayor for the society's Civic Day competition, What I Like About My City. <i>Norrish Central Library,</i></p>
<p>Sat. 25 Jun 11.30am - 1pm</p>	<p>Civic Day Walk: Exploring Spaces in Portsmouth. Join Celia Clark of the Portsmouth Society for an exploration of Portsmouth's buildings - old and new. Part of the Portsmouth Festivities. <i>Meet outside main entrance to Portsmouth Grammar School, High St., Old Portsmouth.</i></p>
<p>Wed. 6 Jul 6.30pm</p>	<p>Guided Walk - The City Centre's Best 20th Century Buildings. Led by Ben Cracknell, Conservation and Design Planning Officer with Portsmouth City Council. <i>Meet at entrance to University Library, Cambridge Rd. Car parking at St George's Building.</i></p>
<p>Mon. 22 Aug</p>	<p>Day trip to Romsey. Explore secrets of old Romsey town. We will be guided by knowledgeable friends of the Romsey and District Society. Booking essential. Contact 023 9286 5938</p>
<p>Wed. 5 Oct. 7.00pm</p>	<p>Somertstown Community Hub - The £12m Community Hub project is now underway. Steve Loughe (architect) and Mary Devaney (PCC project leader) will give presentations on the wide-ranging community facilities & housing to be provided in the first phase of the scheme. <i>St George's Building, entrance off St Thomas' Street, Old Portsmouth</i></p>
<p>Wed. 2 Nov 7.00pm</p>	<p>Conservation or Change - the care of church buildings. David Brindley, Dean of Portsmouth and Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches will look at the challenges and issues of maintaining and re-developing church buildings and land in the City'. <i>St George's Building, entrance off St Thomas' Street, Old Portsmouth</i></p>
<p>Wed. 7 Dec. 7.00pm</p>	<p>Portsmouth Society Design Awards 2011. An illustrated report from the judges of the recent Design Awards. <i>St George's Building, entrance off St Thomas' Street, Old Portsmouth</i></p>

The Portsmouth Society, Registered Charity no. 266116

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