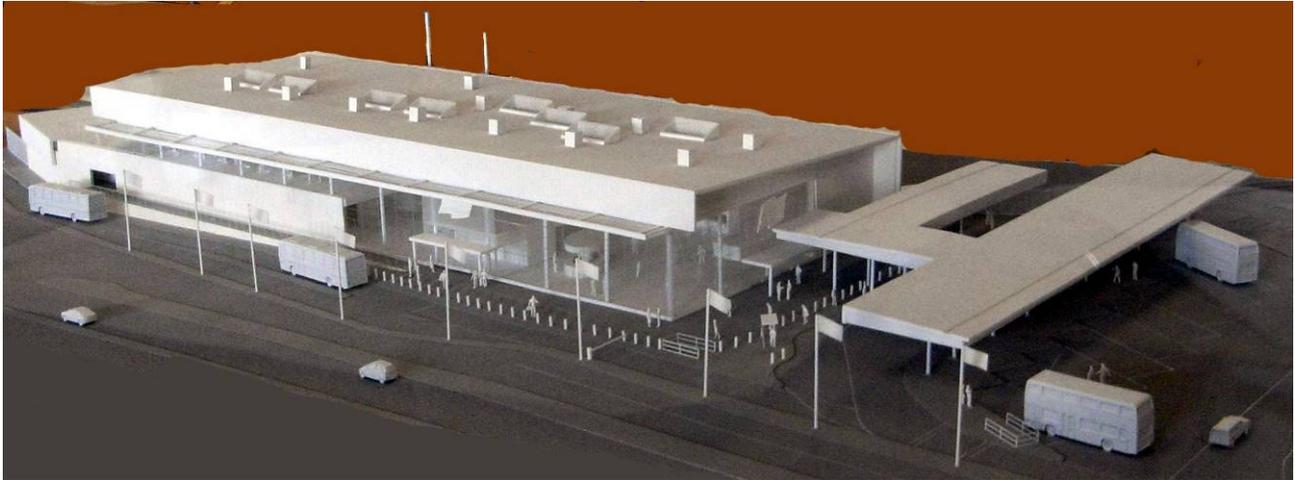


Portsmouth Society News

The Newsletter of the Portsmouth Society - Winter 2010

New Continental Ferry Port Terminal Building Unveiled



Photograph of the architect's model of the new terminal building.

Members of the Portsmouth Society committee were privileged to visit the Continental Ferry Port in November where Port Manager, Martin Putman, explained the designs for the new passenger terminal. The original building designed by Ken Norrish in 1976 was expected to have a temporary life of 8 years, but instead it has been upgraded and added to, but now needs replacing. Requirements for a new terminal are efficiency of operation and a pleasant environment for passengers

A modern feel is needed to give a good impression for visitors especially in the waiting areas. Although passengers for ships using the western channel pass through quickly, passengers for northern Spain are often delayed because of storms and have to wait some time in the terminal.

Following a selection process, engineers Halcro prepared the overall outline plan, which included changing the freight operations and the road layout. Constraints include a gas pipeline at the rear of the site, the gas regulator building and communications cables across the site.

On the layout of the port, requirements are for more space for car marshalling in the area of Mile End Gardens. The port also wanted to rotate the traffic lanes to give a line of visibility for passengers waiting in their cars. The plan had to provide for throughput peaks. Halcros prepared a simulation run for cars, drop off traffic and coach movements, with provision for cruise ship passengers. The last is a growing market for the city and the port for which they currently provide a large marquee as a temporary baggage hall.

The terminal building will be built to the east of the current terminal. The blue gas shed is to be demolished and moved to part of the Sydenham site. A casualty of this expansion was the Rudmore Cellars public house which was purchased by the port and subsequently demolished.

Portsmouth decided to go for Design and Construct contract to reduce the financial risks to the port. The detailed design was carried out by D5 Architects of Birmingham, who are working for Halcro and have an office in Chichester. Under the General Development Order they don't have to apply for planning permission, as the port is national infrastructure - harbour provision.

The design of the terminal pleasantly surprised us. The aim is a light, airy feel. It is a partly open and partly closed box, open to the landward with a double height hall and escalator to the upper floor and a large covered open space to seaward for baggage handling. Upstairs is an open air terrace facing the ships with 'Portsmouth' in giant letters. The design takes advantage of the slope to the seaward side. There is natural ventilation via positive pressure inside. The building is warmed and cooled via heat exchangers using sea water, and they will use harbour water for flushing - as they do on ships. They decided not to use solar panels or wind turbines.

The building is expected to have a life of 30 years and it is designed to BREAM standards above very good towards excellent. Materials: roof and north side profiled aluminum sheet, south side a light stone composite with aluminum waffle on the south and east facades. There must be a barrier or street furniture on the landward side to withstand a 7 and a half ton truck driven at 50 mph. The terminal will be open in 2011, leaving the present one in operation until the other is ready.

The turnover of the whole of the commercial port is £33million of which the ferry port contributes £16-18million. Ownership of the temperature controlled warehouses passed to the city when MMD was purchased in February 2008 and is now operated as a local authority owned company. Albert Johnson Quay is also owned by the city.

On an historical note, there is a plaque in the terminal to a VC, buried in a mass grave in Mile End Cemetery after the Battle of Inkerman where the sea wall came through to the east of the cemetery.

Portsmouth is by far the largest of the 65 municipal ports in England and Wales, far larger than Ramsgate - the next in size. The smallest is Bridgewater in Somerset which has just one jetty. Plymouth is owned by Associated British Ports and Poole is a Trust Port where all profits are reinvested in the operation.

Celia Clark

Civic Society Initiative – Conclusions and Next Steps

The Civic Society Initiative was set up in June 2009 with a year's funding from the National Trust and other sources following the collapse of what had been our central body, the Civic Trust. Its purpose is to determine whether the civic society movement needed and umbrella body, how it should function and how it should be financed. A major consultation was launched at the national convention held in Blackpool in October attended by Celia Clark, Deane Clark and Roger James and the conclusions are:



- There is near universal support for a new national body for the civic movement.
- There are different views about the priorities for the new national body but the emphasis is on its role in representing the movement through campaigning, lobbying and profile raising.
- The proposals for more fluid arrangements for civic societies clustering together are widely supported and stimulating a number of fresh ideas and initiatives.
- Regional arrangements are supported in some areas but a majority of respondents are keen on more local clusters and more flexibility.
- There is real interest in networks of civic societies working around different topics of interest. The arrangements for civic societies working together should respond to the demands expressed by civic societies and not be centrally managed or prescribed.
- The proposals to base the common thread of the civic movement on place, pride, identity and community has near universal support with respondents keen to define what makes the movement distinctive.
- There are divergent views on the proposed funding arrangements but a majority support the principle of a per capita levy (as members of the National Trust and CPRE pay for the central organisation as well as regional and local branches). It is widely recognised that the shift towards civic societies funding the new arrangements and securing their independence is both essential and difficult to achieve.

We will be discussing the proposals at our AGM in April since the introduction of a per-capita levy will mean that we will have to increase our membership subscriptions by £1-£3. We welcome comments on this proposal.

The Civic Societies Initiative Web site, www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk, contains a wealth of information on this and many other subjects.

Civic Trust South East Autumn Conference

Tony Fooks, Chairman of the Civic Trust South East, was the Master of Ceremonies for conference which was held in at the Millmead Centre in Guildford 43 societies, 4 councils and several Portsmouth Society members were represented. Councillor Pauline Searle, Mayor of Guildford, welcomed delegates and talked with passion about Guildford, highlighting places of interest and local achievements. She talked about the strength of the Civic Societies and the influence they have around the country.

Lord Onslow, President of the Guildford Society and High Steward of Guilford then spoke and gave a warm, humorous welcome to the delegates.

Councillor Mike Appleyard from Bucks County and Wycombe District Councils spoke on 'What is the future of regional strategic planning?' With a great deal of personal experience, having served on many of the committees, he gave an overview of SEEDA, SEERA and SEEC and also talked in depth about the South East plan.

Russell Walters, Head of Operations Planning and Development at English Heritage, spoke about 'Heritage at Risk'. He recommended that historic buildings, wherever possible should be used for their original purpose but demonstrated that changes can still be made to listed buildings in certain circumstances. The conservation of places of worship, graveyards, parks and a wide range of monuments were highlighted. Russell showed a number of before and after photos of buildings and talked about how the restoration of shop and house fronts can often influence the whole façade of a street. He said that many local authorities don't now have a Conservation Officer which makes it more difficult to deal with planning applications in those areas. He encouraged Civic Societies to work closely with conservation groups and residents associations and to work with their local authorities.

'Working with Westminster' was the title of the talk by Anne Milton, Member of Parliament for Guildford. In Guildford they not only had a very active Civic Society but also several strong residents groups. She touched on the South East Plan and its impact on Guildford, highlighting that the government should pay more attention to the infrastructure before building thousands more new homes. Her presentation was bold and clear and the message was to work with your MP - she suggested that societies should meet with them at least once a year to discuss local issues. She said that an MP's workload is such that they don't always know what is happening in local areas. Anne finished with "Be a nuisance; it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil!"

Griff Rhys-Jones sent a pre-recorded video message to the conference. He gave an inspiring message on how our societies have a powerful voice to make changes in the way we live and support our heritage.

Laura Sandys, daughter of the founder of the Civic Trust, Duncan Sandys, thanked Tony Burton for his energy and commitment to the Civic Societies Initiative. She reflected on the history of the Civic Trust and how it was set up to influence local government and have a strong national voice. However, she said we must now look to the future. By using our strength wisely we can be very powerful, with over 200,000 members belonging to Civic Societies. When considering the future, 200,000 letters for a Secretary of State to receive is a very frightening thought!

The last speaker of the day was Tony Burton, Director of the Civic Trust Initiative, who spoke on 'The Civic Society movement – which way forward?'. He started by saying that they now know of around 1,200 Civic Societies with a combined membership of over 250,000. He touched on many topics, covering cultural, ethnic, age of population, quality of life, networking and the new movement. With his team they are evaluating all the feedback questionnaires from the meetings and forums they have taken part in around the country. With this information the next steps were: Blackpool Conference 15/16 October, Proposition at the end of 2009, Implementation by Easter 2010.

Delegates then split into workshops looking at two questions; (1) What is the common purpose that unites the Civic Societies? (in no more than 10 words). (2) How and why would Civic Societies neighbouring counties network together?

The afternoon ended with a feedback session led by Tony Burton. The message came loud and clear from all there that there is a commitment to a new initiative. The AGM of the Civic Trust South East followed and this concluded what we all felt was a very informative and constructive day which was well represented by South East societies.

World Heritage Bid

Support for the bid to inscribe Portsmouth Harbour, the Isle of Wight and Spithead on the World Heritage list as the world's first 'Cultural Seascape' is growing, especially on the Isle of Wight where several key councillors heard our presentation to the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society. There is discussion of whether Islanders would like to extend the boundaries east and west as far as East Cowes and Bembridge or stick to Quarr Abbey to Seaview. The Nomination Document continues to develop, making the historical case for our site as important in world terms on the theme of Defence of the Realm. Technological advance is a particular focus and much research is needed - for example on the achievements at ASWE, QinetiQ Ship Testing tanks, radar at Eastney Fort East, freeze-drying at Royal Clarence Yard...If you know anything about these topics, please get in touch. The City of Portsmouth Girls' School is to link our project to theirs on The Way We Were about the school, the surrounding area and Portsmouth in the second half of the twentieth century.

The Department of Culture Media and Sport have announced in a Parliamentary Question that they will let all the applicants and responders to their discussion launched a year ago 'by the end of the autumn'. They had promised to let us know by last May whether there would be any more World Heritage sites, and if so whether on the basis of their current Tentative List (which Chatham is on) or a new one - which we would aspire to be on. We are also asking for the project to be adopted by PUSH, which has a cultural dimension, since there are obviously so many gains to be

made to be working more closely together with neighbouring authorities - in planning, tourism marketing, heritage protection etc. There would appear to be useful synergies with Portsmouth and Southampton's joint bid to be Cities of Culture.

Steve Pitt of the new Portsmouth City Council Cultural Partnership has offered to chair a meeting between city councillors and officers and advocates of the bid in January, two years after the launch in Boathouse 6. Peter Goodship and Celia Clark met the Naval Base Commander in January to ask him for support of the bid, provided it does not impede naval operations. The boundaries and management will anticipate likely change and will be drawn up by the Navy as a major stakeholder.

Celia Clark

MOD disposals - new research commissioned by the Bill Sargeant Trust

As you will all know, the South East Region has the greatest concentration of defence site in the UK, and many of them have been sold or are going through the disposal process. Research commissioned by Andrew Mason Head of Resident Involvement and Community Regeneration at First Wessex Housing Group was discussed at Portsmouth Housing Association's offices at: Peninsular House, Wharf Road, Portsmouth in November 2009. The focus of the research is community benefit in disposals of Ministry of Defence land. Those who took part were: Dr. Samer Bagaean of the University of Brighton, Dr. Celia Clark researcher and academic, Cllr Peter Edgar Gosport Borough Council, Tim Goodhead Dean Faculty of Technology University of Portsmouth, Peter Goodship Chief Executive Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, Tim Houghton Director Groundwork Solent conducting public consultation at HMS Daedalus, and Wendy Shillam, Whitehill-Bordon Eco-Town.

The researcher, Julian Dobson asked our responses to these questions:

1. The potential: what community benefits is it possible to realise from Defence Estates disposals?
2. Successes: what has been achieved in recent years, and what lessons can be drawn?
3. Barriers: what are the most significant obstacles to future success and how can they be overcome?
4. New models: what options are there for doing things better in the future, and how can they be realised?
What international solutions could be adapted to a UK context?
5. Next steps: how should this research be taken forward? Is there an appetite for a wider research project or inquiry? If so, what should be its focus?

The discussion was recorded and there will be a transcript of what was said.

Others to be interviewed include Kathy Wadsworth, Strategic Director, Portsmouth City Council, representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency, Defence Estates, South East England Development Agency, and members of the House of Commons defence and communities and local government select committees. We look forward to the results of this research, which is so important to the future of the south east communities.

Celia Clark

Greening Southsea

Greening Southsea has taken the challenge of being the first area in Portsmouth to run a Greening Campaign. The first meeting took place in September at the King's Theatre, and was well attended by local people who have now formed themselves into an enthusiastic committee to take the campaign forward.

The evening was organised by Heather Todd, a Southsea resident keen to bring people living in Southsea together to tackle Climate Change. 'It is being run by communities all over the UK. It is a fun and interesting programme for residents to start to tackle climate change in their homes and where they live' said Heather. Terena Plowright the originator of the campaign, attended the event and explained how the campaign started and its aims. In the coming months, schools, businesses, community groups and residents will be asked to pull together and take part in the launch of the campaign in Southsea in March.

The Greening Campaign is made up of local communities supported by the Greening Campaign nationally which helps them to engage and motivate local people, businesses and community organisations in beginning to reduce the energy their community uses and to live more sustainably.

At the first meeting local people agreed on the 8 challenges that those living and working in Southsea will be asked to commit to. These are small, achievable challenges that anyone can do. If we all do them together we can save hundreds and hundreds of tons of CO2 from being released.

- Turn off the lights when you leave the room.

- Boil only the amount of water needed.
- Change 3 light bulbs to low energy.
- Turn the thermostat down by 1 degree.
- Turn off all standbys.
- Reduce the toilet flush by using a 'Hippo' (brick) etc.
- Walk or cycle if journey is less than a mile.
- Turn off the taps when brushing teeth.

For more information contact Heather greeningsouthsea@googlemail.com or telephone 07736 073449

Housing Space Standards: Rising or Falling?

At a recent meeting of the Civic Trust South East it was alleged that the sizes of rooms in new flats were getting smaller and smaller. We are happy to report that First Wessex (of which the former Portsmouth Housing Association is part) say that the opposite is true. All housing associations that receive Social Housing Grant are required to meet space standards set by the Homes and Communities Agency. According to Hazel Warwick, Group Development Director,

these compare favourably with the Parker Morris standards (details available). Quality design in their view requires not just high space standards but good site planning and good quality construction. These were certainly exemplified in Priory View by Downland Housing Association, winner of our Best Design Award in 2009. First Wessex consults residents and carries out community consultation, as well as feed back on new homes. They explore new technologies and modern construction methods to deliver homes affordable to run, reducing their environmental impact from development. They are also required to meet a minimum of the CABE building criteria, the Secure by Design Standard and at least Level 3 of the code for Sustainable Homes. These stringent requirements are not applicable to private developments.

As we judge our Design Awards each year, we are aware of how much 'space is the new luxury'. Some private schemes, with tiny rooms, are likely to become the slums of the future...

Celia Clark

Local Transport Plan 3

The next round of transport planning has started with the public consultation on what is known as Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) which replaces the previous plan - LTP2 - in 2011. LTP3 differs in that it is a rolling plan rather than being for a definite period and it will not be monitored as closely by the Department for Transport. Instead, local organisations under the umbrella of the Local Strategic Partnership will take a controlling role. Another change this time is that Portsmouth, Southampton and Hampshire County Councils will be working together to produce a plan for the whole of South Hampshire (there will be separate plans for Central and Northern Hampshire).

The three authorities have agreed a set of common goals which are: (1) Support economic growth, (2) Tackle climate change, (3) Promote equality of opportunity, (4) Improve safety, security and health, (5) Improve quality of life.

The Portsmouth Society will be responding to the consultation which closes on 5 February. Previous transport plans have tended to be aspirational – the main reason being that most transport planning is conducted on a national or regional basis. It is almost impossible to influence national policies on rail or road through a local transport plan!

John Holland

Site of Savoy Buildings, South Parade, Southsea

The Portsmouth Society strongly backs the South Coast Design Forum (SCDF) in urging action by the Council on the now-empty site opposite South Parade Pier. The SCDF's call to action is as follows.

“The land on which the Savoy Buildings, South Parade, Southsea previously stood is to be sold by its current owner. This land occupies a site of absolutely key significance to Southsea seafront, which itself is world-class and the city's major asset. “



The site of the Savoy Buildings.

with the potential to transform the seafront and set a benchmark for further development in the area.”

“This new building or buildings might house all manner of facilities for the residents of and visitors to Portsmouth for example: parts of the new Portsmouth museums, an arts centre, sports facilities, climbing walls, rooftop spas, internal atria with retail and restaurants; all within a striking external form which responds to the unique character of the site.”

“The prestige of such a project would attract private investment to partner the development.”

“While the timescale is tight, the opening of part of such a building could be linked to the London Olympics and be a focus for much positive press for the city and the sub-region.”

“The returns in value, civic pride, investment, visitor numbers, community well-being and positive publicity that such a landmark facility would bring to the city far outstrip anything offered by another apartment block. We believe that the published asking price of £6million represents excellent value when weighed against the enormous potential benefits. This opportunity to effect real change for the seafront cannot be allowed to pass.”

We have spoken with the Leader of the council, Cllr. Gerald Vernon-Jackson, who is keen to see a sensitive development on the site but is unable to commit any public funds to the project. We are co-ordinating our input – and a possible meeting with Harry Rednap’s agents – with others concerned about the future of the site.



Savoy Court, South Parade, also awaiting refurbishment

Roger James

Fawcett Rd, Emanuels & Willesden

Some recent correspondence on the Jewish Cemetery in Fawcett Road, Southsea has revealed the history of a local family, many of whose members are buried there. The cemetery is a delightful oasis in the urban environment. The Jewish community in Portsmouth was well integrated: the gravestones facing the street are in English and the other faces in Hebrew!

“Frederik Michael Jacobs had an older half sister called Julia [born 16 Jul 1859] who married Michael Henry Emanuel [born about 1851] at 51 Tavistock Square on Valentines Day 1877. Their eldest daughter Annie Josephine was born 1 Jan 1878 Tavistock House, St George's Sq., Portsea. There were also three younger siblings, Louise [born c1881],

Joseph [born c1884] and Lewis [born c1886] all born in Durban South Africa. They went back and forth a bit and the children were known to have travelled third class alone during the Boer Wars."

"Michael Henry Emanuel came from a notable Portsea family. His father was Henry Michael, his mother Anne nee Moses. Michael was the 9th of ten children to the couple. Two of his brothers were notable in Portsea civic circles, that is Abraham Leon and Samuel."

"Abraham, for example, was Grand Master of Manchester Oddfellows 1871. He was responsible for setting up a synagogue within Portsmouth Convict prison, and also attended Parkhurst Prison weekly. For saving life of one of boats crew at the Hayling Island Regatta 1873 he was publically rewarded with a goblet on 12 Sep 1873. On 16 Nov 1877, though seriously ill he was presented with a silver dinner service bearing an inscription, plus an address on velum. And on 7 Dec 1877 following his representations Jewish prisoners in Jersey were from then on allowed to keep the Sabbath and such other festival days pertinent to the Jewish religion."

"Michael's father Henry was town councillor for over 12 yrs, also overseer for the poor 1871 and 1875 and set up the firm Messrs H M Emanuel & sons which was appointed to the Queen. Amongst other works they made cups for the Hayling regatta. His wife Anne sadly died from burns in a fire which was reported in the media."

Terry Bridger

Some Unexpected Choices? (by David Baynes)

I recently gave a talk about the Portsmouth Society to the Drayton Methodist Church Ladies Group. I began by inviting them to tell me their 'Favourite', 'Most disliked', and 'Most valued' buildings in the City. Members may be interested to know the first five that were called out in each case.

Favourites

Clock Tower, Castle Road Southsea
The King's Theatre
The Guildhall
William Wyllie's House (Tower House), Old Portsmouth
The New Theatre Royal

Most Disliked

Étap Hotel, Fratton Way
Lake Road Flats
The Zurich Building
The Lipstick Building (No.1 Gunwharf)
Mile End Road Flats (along the end of the M275)

Most Valued

The two Cathedrals
Market House Tavern (Havisham Road, Mile End)
St Mary's Church
The Carnegie Library, Fratton Road
Drayton Methodist Church.



What do you love about Portsmouth?



Having a stall at the Green Fair in the Guildhall Square on September 5 was well worth the effort. We gained two new members (including the Conservative candidate for Portsmouth South) and sold one Tricorn book. The photos of Pitt Street Baths and Buildings at Rick provoked lots of discussion and a lot more people know about what the Society does. Cllr. Gerald Vernon Jackson offered to meet us on a regular basis: the first meeting took place on 11 December.

We asked the question - "What do you love about Portsmouth?"

"Everything maritime. I used to work at Leigh Park House as a Scientist. What a shame they demolished it. I went to West Leigh House and conducted trials at sea from

Vernon on the Affray submarine. I played football for them. Captain Argles was a Gary Cooper lookalike. I've got a photo of the team. I went to HMS Excellent - all the staff went to Bournemouth during WWII - the Admiralty Underwater Weapons establishment. There were lots of characters. Commander Crabb had a silver topped cane. I've just send a picture to the Evening News of five ladies who worked in Gunwharf in WW1 dressed in smocks and bonnets in the munitions factory. One of them is my father's sister...." Barry Briscoe.

"Apart from the fact that it's home! I love the diversity of life here. Also very many memories of the Tricorn. Such a shame it was lost. Many people loved it and could see great possibilities for it." Tara Keenan.

"What I love about Portsmouth is it is very old and has a lot of history".

Other comments ...

"I miss Pitt Street gym. I used to train there" Carly Blackmore.

"My nephew was very sad when Pitt Street was pulled down. He was just learning to swim when he joined the navy. He was very sad to see it demolished. What is happening to Portsmouth?" I Branson.

"Sorry Pitt Street gym demolished and left empty with no further plans at present" C Smith

"There are not too many really rich people here".

"I used to work in the Duke of Buckingham's house when Branston and Childs solicitors were there. I was the housekeeper. I remember 24 August, the date of the Duke's murder."

"Why employ the university to plan the seafront? They have no local knowledge" R Jackson

"Savoy Ballroom space is wasted. Could be entertainment/restaurant"

What's your favourite building?

"The Mountbatten Centre" Henny Woods 11 years

"My House" Lydia Morris 8 years

Celia Clark

Patricia Sheridan (Paddy) 1930-2009 An Appreciation

I met Paddy when she first came to Portsmouth in the early Seventies to become Principle Area Officer to the Southsea Social Services and was being shown around St James by the then Medical Director Douglas Brough. I did not know at the time but Paddy's reaction on meeting me was "I can work with this man"

Our catchment areas were co-terminous and joint meetings with the Mental Health Team and the Social Service Area Team were held fortnightly and fostered a good relationship and understanding between the two teams. Community Psychiatric Nursing was just starting and their presence made the meetings even more relevant. Paddy and I attended a national meeting on Mental Health Care where we extolled the virtues of our joint working. However regarding the national picture we were accused of looking at everything through "rose tinted spectacles"

Later when Community Psychiatry really took off in Portsmouth in the Eighties a statutory group the Portsmouth Care Consortium was set up with representation from the Social and Mental Health Services, the City Council and the Portsmouth Council of Community Care, Service Users and Carers. Paddy was chairperson of the Consortium through to the time of her illness. By then the meeting was a voluntary coming together of the original groups of people. It did much to promote good practices in Mental Health Care and the care of Service Users and support for Carers.

Paddy had a great feeling for mental health sufferers. She had previously been a Mental Welfare Officer in the London County Council. It was never expressed in an ostentatious way but in a true humanitarian feeling for others which was her attitude in all her work such as Child Care and the Care of the Elderly.

In retirement she continued her work for the Community as Chair of the Portsmouth Care Consortium. She was a member of the Community Health Council and a Trustee Director of the Portsmouth Council of Community Care now Community First and to which she was subsequently elected an Honorary Vice President. She had a huge interest in all that was going on in Portsmouth and the players in the drama. Her Evening News arrived every day and was read thoroughly. Often newspaper cuttings would arrive by post to share her interest in what was going on, particularly in Mental Health Care.

She loved travel and in her retirement did wonderful journeys with many stories to tell of her experiences sharing a cargo boat going to South Africa with Lawrence Van de Post, arriving in Suriname in the middle of civil unrest and the holds had to be welded to prevent looting, becoming good friends with a Polish Captain and his crew.

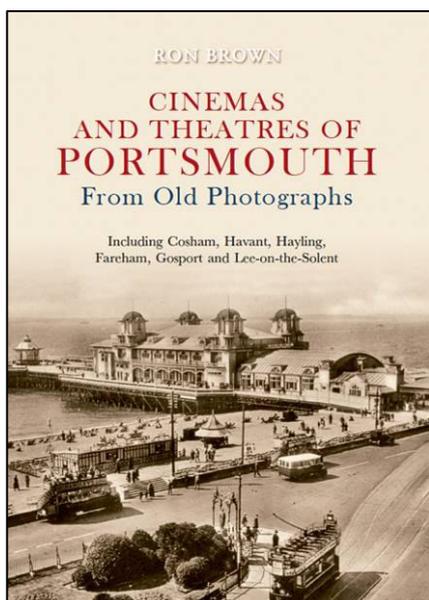
Her stroke and subsequent dysphasia was a blow but she magnificently was able to live with it and carry on communicating her thoughts. Sometimes she was a little irritated when we were too slow on the uptake. I admired her courage when she spoke at a Conference on Speech Disorders about her experiences as a sufferer. All the time her difficulty in walking because of osteoarthritis of the knee joints was gradually getting worse. Her friends pleaded with her to exchange her flat for something more suitable but she steadfastly refused to consider it. We watched in anguish as she bravely kept going. She never had to leave her flat and this was a great blessing for her.

She was a marvellous friend to many, including myself, always loyal with a great sense of humour and light touch, always interested in people and life. Perhaps she shared these qualities with her famous forebear, Richard Sheridan, the playwright. I believe she made a full and interesting life for herself and we will greatly miss her company on our own journey.

Dr Rod Bale, Consultant Psychiatrist

Two new local history books from Ron Brown

Cinemas and Theatres of Portsmouth from Old Photographs



The Portsmouth area was once a lively and thriving area of at least thirty 'palaces of pleasure', all operating at the same time, and playing an important role in the lives of the local people.

Sadly, many were lost during World War II and through subsequent building work but this book vividly brings to life, once again, the golden days of entertainment when they were affectionately known as 'Bughutches' or 'Fleapits'.

Cinemas & Theatres of Portsmouth presents a selection of portraits and illustrations of the work of some of Portsmouth's most famous sons and daughters and the places that showcased them. Stars such as Peter Sellers, Evie Green and Austin Melford are featured, as are visitors Harry Houdini, Sean Connery, Max Miller, Vesta Tilley, Gregory Peck, George Formby and Laurel & Hardy, who all performed here.

This book covers not only Portsmouth but also Cosham, Havant, Hayling, Fareham, Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent and is sure to be of interest to anyone interested not just in local history but also the rich and varied history of entertainment in general.

The Pubs of Portsmouth from Old Photographs

This book gives a reminder of the role that pubs, inns and taverns played in the social history and development of the old town of Portsmouth. The author has an archive of over 1300 Portsmouth pub names and the book contains over 200 photographs. He details a formidable inventory of drinking house names and streets in five sections, viz: Old Portsmouth; Portsea; Southsea; Landport and Eastney, Copnor, Milton and Hilsea, and he also includes an A-Z of pubs.

Some of the more unusual names are: Crocodile's Return - Havant Street, Portsea; Hit-or-Miss - Greetham Street, Landport; Lads of the Village - Somers Road, Southsea; When Shall We Three Meet Again? - Charles Street, Landport; The British Workman - Telegraph Street, Southsea; Flitch of Bacon - Lucknow Street, Landport; William the Conqueror - Silver Street, Southsea; Glazier's Arms - St Thomas's Street; Sandwich's Head - Sandwich Street, Portsea; The Land of Promise - London Road, North End; Ropemaker's Delight - Oxford Street, Landport; Sons of Neptune - Copenhagen Street, Landport; Hat-In-Hand - Camden Alley, Portsea; French Maid - Chandos Street, Landport; The New Found Out - Sussex Street, Landport; The Dog Tory - Semaphore Place, Old Portsmouth; The Naked Boy - Crown Street, Old Portsmouth.



Both books are priced at £12.99 and are published by Amberley Books www.amberley-books.com 01285 760030

Pauline Powell

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 3rd February 2010 7.00pm - St George's Building	Climate Change - Myth or Reality? – Nick Pepin from the University of Portsmouth will give a presentation, followed by a debate with Dr Roger James of the Portsmouth Society and Sue James of Portsmouth Climate Action Network. <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 (Somerstown Community Board)). <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 7th April 2010 7.00pm – John Pounds Memorial Church, High Street, Old Portsmouth	Annual General Meeting - plus members' Questions & Answers. ** Note change of venue ** <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>
Wednesday 7th July 7.00pm – Blue Lagoon, London Road, Hilsea	Hilsea Lido: The People's Pool - Jane Smith, author of The Book of Hilsea: Gateway to Portsmouth, 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).

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.