

Bob Adderley, 1930-2011

It is with sadness that we report the passing of our former Chairman, Bob Adderley, who died peacefully in his home in December.

Bob was born in Kent but spent much of his youth in Bristol. He served for many years in the RAF including stints in the Far East at the time of the Korean War. He later moved into Air Traffic Control was appointed Chief Planning Officer for the new airport at Hong Kong.

He retired at 65 and in his own words scouted the South Coast for a home. He



Bob Adderley campaigning to save the Pyramids pools from closure.

had his eye on Rose Tower for a while, maybe the height and the view reminded him of his time in Hong Kong and when a flat on the 9th floor came up for sale in 1997 he bought it and often said "it was the best place in the world".

Bob always loved flying and attended as many of the air shows as he could - it is a shame he'll miss the Portsmouth air show this year. Possibly through his love of flying he became a fan of Nevil Shute who had built aeroplanes at the old Airspeed factory now Anchorage Park before becoming a successful author. Bob reviewed all the Shute novels and provided aircraft reference data to the Nevil Shute Foundation. Bob became interested in writing and he took part in story telling competitions in Rosie's Wine Bar and at the Sallyport Hotel. Some of his short stories have been published.

He entered into the spirit of his new home in Southsea and was recognised by The News as runner up in a Best Neighbour campaign. He was chair of his Residents' Committee for 10 years and chair of the West Southsea Neighbourhood Forum for 6.

In 2000 Bob joined the Portsmouth Society and it wasn't long before he was elected onto the executive committee where he took on many challenges. His street de-cluttering campaign followed a £1million City Council signing strategy which introduced a forest of signs and poles across the city. It was this strategy that introduced the new locality of Central Southsea which turned out to be the junction of Albert Road and Victoria Road South!

He was also involved in a study of the siting and safety of mobile phone masts at a time when they were springing-up all over the place. He was very concerned for the future of the City Museums Service following a Government-led "Best value" review when it was proposed to consolidate all museums onto one site. He was heavily involved in the seafront strategy and devoted a huge chunk of his time to organising the Southern Comfort meeting of civic societies from across the south in 2006.

Bob was the leading force which led to the formation of the Friends of the Pyramids who successfully lobbied for the retention of the seafront leisure and pool complex when it was under threat of demolition. He drew the potential closure to the public's attention with articles in the News and got a groundswell of support when they realised what they could lose. At the same time Bob also worried and cajoled the Council members and officers on the subject over a number of years.

Still going strong at age 79 he had his arm twisted to become chair the Portsmouth Society in 2010. In his year as chairman, he introduced initiatives to grow the society's membership and greatly increase the involvement of its grass-roots members.

Bob did a lot of good in his life and has left behind many achievements to remember him by. We are all proud to have known Bob Adderley.

John Holland with assistance from Terry Halloran and Malcolm Reeves

Progress at Wymering Manor

This article was contributed by Celia Clark in her capacity as a trustee of the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust.

I represented the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust (HBPT) at the meeting called by the Leader of Portsmouth City Council with the Portsmouth Society, Friends of Wymering, Portsmouth Heritage Watch and councillors on 9 December. To our astonishment, having asked me for £200,000 only a week beforehand, he offered us free transfer on a 33 year lease – if we could form a new trust with the aim of 'community benefit' within the next six months.

As we know, the manor is the oldest house in Portsmouth on an important site on the main south coast road at a time Portsmouth was mainly a fishing village. It was bought by Portsmouth Corporation in the 1960s to serve as a youth hostel. Thousands of visitors enjoyed its very special history and extraordinary interior including the two priest holes installed by a Catholic family, the two curly staircases and timberwork transferred from Bold Hall in Lancashire on the site of a coal mine, its associations with the Austen family, the Nugee religious community, Portsmouth Grammar School and Nevil Shute But the manor's setting was destroyed when the surrounding land was sold off and developed.



Sue McClory, Chair of the Portsmouth Society, discusses the Manor's future.

A brief history

When YHA gave up the lease in 2006 because they could not afford the repairs to the north room – still floorless six years later - local people formed the Friends of Wymering Manor with the help of the Portsmouth Society, Portsmouth Heritage Watch and HBPT. Their aim is to preserve it in the public realm, so that local people can enjoy it and use it. This group found Ian Young, local developer specialising in restoring historic who agreed to pay for planning permission and listed building consent to use the manor as a small historic hotel open to the community, in partnership with the HBPT as freeholders. This was endorsed by English Heritage. They and the Friends of Wymering, the Portsmouth Society and HBPT all saw this as the best solution. HBPT spent its scarce resources on legal advice and a dendrochronology test on the timber frame came up with a date of about 1581.

While negotiations took place, Ian installed a caretaker who looked after the property, while the Friends arranged many enjoyable public events: parties, guided tours, Heritage Open Days and an educational programme with Family Learning and other visits by schoolchildren. The house's special history gained a place in thousands of people's hearts, as a local treasure, which the people of Portsmouth own.

Slow progress

The city's 'Asset Management' team took literally years to prepare the paperwork, and we all became increasingly frustrated by the lack of any progress towards securing a long term future for WM. In September 2010 Ian was still offering £400,000, but in October his caretaker was evicted, and a security firm engaged which has been paid about £2000 of council tax money a week ever since, leaving the house empty and prey to vandalism and lead theft. At the recent meeting John Goodall established that the city has spent over £140,000 on the manor since 2006 – mostly on security and lead repairs.

In autumn 2010 meetings were also held between the city Conservation Officer, local MP Penny Mordaunt and English Heritage to try to find a sustainable future for the building, but the suggestion that a local trust be formed to take on the building were rejected. By any estimate at least £500,000 to £750,000 is needed to restore and upgrade it, especially in view of the recession and its deteriorated state since it was unoccupied. Three attempts to sell the Manor at auction failed to reach the reserve price. There were bids, but these were conversions into several private houses, to which the Portsmouth Society and HBPT and local people are strongly opposed, because it would no longer be open to the public. To the city council's shame, especially since Portsmouth earns a considerable amount from heritage tourism and markets itself as a world-class historic destination, the manor is on both the English Heritage and SAVE Britain's Heritage Historic Buildings at Risk Lists.

There are several precedents for free transfer of public assets locally: Hilsea Lido, the King's Theatre, Southsea Skate Park, and in Gosport the Railway station which the Guinness Hermitage Housing Trust has restored and redeveloped for social housing. We need to learn from local and national experience of Asset Transfer, and ensure that we are being offered equivalents to the best offers being made, in order to ensure long term viability for the manor's future. Three trusts: the King's Theatre, Hilsea Lido and the HBPT as well as the Portsmouth Society and Friends of Wymering attended the site meeting on 20 December, when much useful advice was offered.

The first meeting of the new Steering Group to form a Wymering Manor trust was held on 10 January. First tasks include securing the building, perhaps via a resident caretaker, emergency repairs such as removal of the large buddleia in the hopper head in the south wall and repairs to re-establish access to the caretaker's flat, a condition survey

(English Heritage will help with this), identifying the trust's objectives, setting up subgroups to work on the key aspects and agree a viable mix of uses - before we can apply for grants. Once we have identified compatible and sustainable uses, we will need to invite entrepreneurs as partners to work with us – to achieve the 'community benefits' asked for by the council leader.

Future workshop and meetings

A Workshop to be run by Carolyn Haynes of Bursledon Brickworks - to set six working parties in motion on - Legal matters, Uses/income, Repair/Restoration/Conversion, Education and Training, Fundraising and Publicity - has been arranged for 3 February 2012 at Wymering Church Hall from 2-5 pm, preceded if Jeff Hutchins agrees, by a site visit from 1-2pm. We would like to invite people with specific skills and contacts who can make a contribution in the six areas set out below: e.g. lawyers, accountants, property experts, local businesses, funding charities, local community representatives.... The next meeting of the Steering Group is on 8 February in the Civic Offices at 3.30pm. Unlike the workshop, this is an open meeting, so come if you have something to contribute!

Celia Clark

New phone mast for Copnor



Thanks to an administrative oversight at PCC's planning department, notification of objections to a planning application for a new mobile phone mast reached the applicants after the official deadline had passed. Vodafone were therefore free to proceed with their plans. Within a few weeks a large and ugly mast was installed at Kirby Road next to College Park. It was said that the trees in the park would soften the visual impact of it but it is stark and shiny and placed in front of the trees. Other cities have phone masts disguised as trees, telegraph poles or built into street lighting columns. The least that Vodafone can do is to paint the mast a peaceful green colour.

Savoy Court, South Parade

The burnt-out remains of the former Savoy Court building, destroyed by a fire last summer, have at last been demolished. The site has been cleared and we await the tidying-up of the perimeter hoardings. Whilst this is a big improvement, we are very worried that it will remain empty for a long time and we urge its owners to come up with a good, viable scheme as quickly as possible.

Previous plans for Savoy Court were for it to be converted into flats, retail and leisure use. It is now likely that both the Savoy Court and adjacent Savoy Buildings will be developed as one scheme as they are under common ownership. The approved plans for Savoy Buildings are for a large block of flats which in our opinion would not sit happily with its neighbours in the Southsea seafront conservation area. We're not asking for a pastiche, but we would like to see a really stunning building of the highest quality. Our seafront deserves nothing less.

Architecture à la Café



*Portsmouth International Port, venue for
"Architecture à la Café" on 31 March*

but between 11.00 and 11.15am at each venue there will be a welcome and description of the project from the host organisation.

The Fort is on Portsdown Hill Road near the crossroads at the top of Nelson Lane, (turn right up Station Road off the A27 in Portchester and you will reach Nelson Lane after going under the rail bridge and over the motorway).

To complement the Visitor Centre, the approach to the Fort has been re-landscaped, with a new car park and a footpath to the nearby Nelson Monument. You may wish to stay on to visit (free) the recently re-furbished Royal Armories 'Voice of the Guns Gallery' in the Fort.

On Saturday 31 March we will be in the café (on the Terrace if sunny!) at the City's new International Port building at Mile End. Hopefully, later dates will include Holy Spirit Church (Best Restoration Award 2011) and the new café at Southsea Castle.

Do come along on the 18th - friends and potential Society members are also most welcome! Call Jackie Baynes on 023 9283 1461 if you have any queries.

Audrey Jane Mullis, 8 September 1934 - 1 December 2011

Long standing Portsmouth Society member Audrey Mullis died in December. Audrey was a girl about the village, wife, mother, great cook, animal & human rights campaigner, hoarder, Granny, theatre fan & worker, friend, supporter of public transport, eco-warrior & activist in Portsmouth politics, projects and protests. And photographer of countless fading shop fronts and phone boxes across, at least, five Counties.

She took a traditional route of running away to sea; though actually to the land-based HMS Vernon here in Portsmouth. On joining the Wrens – the Women’s Royal Naval Service – her housekeeping skills were quickly recognised as she rose through the ranks to become an Officers’ cook. It was in Portsmouth that she met and married Henry, who was based at HMS Nelson.

Audrey developed a great love of Portsmouth – its island feel, its closeness to the sea, its closeness also to rural Hampshire across Ports Creek and over the escarpment of Portsdown Hill, part of the South Downs, where Maria and Donald remember trips out to go blackberry picking.

She was an active member of The Portsmouth Society which was a focus for her passion and civic pride for the built environment, re-used buildings, well-designed new architecture and civic business.

2011 Design Awards

Plaque Unveiling – a date for your diary

The 2011 Design Award Plaque unveilings by the Lord Mayor will be on Saturday 10 March, with the first one taking place at 10am at the Somerstown Adventure Playground in Waterloo Street. We will then move on to Holy Spirit Church in Fawcett Road, Southsea and finally to Victory School in Allaway Avenue, Paulsgrove. Please join us if you can. Call David Baynes on 023 9283 1461 for more details.

Colour Awards brochure

A splendid full-colour pictorial souvenir fold-out brochure has been published. It was designed by Gail Baird, using photographs taken by Society members and text by Celia Clark. It is being used to promote the Society and raise awareness of the Awards scheme in and around the City. To obtain a free copy call David Baynes on 023 9283 1461.

Please can you help?

The Portsmouth Society's executive committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month and it is in need of some administrative support. We'd very much like someone to come along to take the minutes as currently we struggle to produce them.

We're also looking for some help with press and publicity. From time to time we need to write press releases and produce publications. Help with the web site and social media would be welcome too!

If you could spare a couple of hours each month and you'd like to help, please do contact the Secretary, Terry Carter on 023 9269 9167 or email mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk. Thank you!

Tricorn Shop Centre sign



Portsmouth Society President, Celia Clark, with one of the remaining Tricorn ShopCentre signs before it was auctioned.

There were two bidders for the Tricorn ShopCentre sign at Nesbits on 7 December. Shoppers can now see the sign which is mounted on the ceiling of Andy's Army Surplus Stores at 25 Charlotte Street, Portsmouth (off Commercial Road). Owner Paul Andrews also bought the sales brochure with all the prices of the different sized shop units listed, along with some classic 1960s imagery, which would be great to borrow for our 2014 exhibition.

BBC Reel History 2 Film Event

Two 30-minute films will be screened on Tuesday 7 February at 6pm at the Omega Centre. One shows the city in transition recovering from the extensive war damage, with voiceover by Telly Savalis. The second features a 1960s teenager talking about her home life and the social mores of her time. The director of the latter is the young John Boorman. For more information or to book go to www.portsmouthfilmsociety.org.uk. Telephone enquiries 07854 700 126. There will a discussion led by Dave Allen and some of the people appearing in the films.

More news of members

Professor Greg Ashworth of Groningen University, chairman of the Society in the 1970s, an expert in heritage whose expertise is worldwide, has been knighted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. Greg taught geography at Portsmouth Polytechnic and Angela was a city councillor - before they moved to Holland.

Quebec House, Old Portsmouth

As the popularity of sea bathing grew in the second half of the eighteenth century, public bathing houses began to be built, although they were not common until the nineteenth. "The Portsmouth baths", situated in Bath Square, must have been a successful facility, since a hotel was later built next door for the bathing house patrons, and the name Quebec House adopted to commemorate the battle fought in 1759. Lake Taswell's *The Portsmouth Guide*, published in 1775, describes the provisions of Quebec House:

'In 1754, was built by subscription of the inhabitants, a large and commodious bathing house, containing four fine baths of different depths of water, two of them large enough to swim in. It is situated near the mouth of the harbour, close to the run of the tide, and every flood is plentifully supplied with water. In it are two good dressing-rooms, one for the gentlemen, one for the ladies, with every other necessary accommodation.'

'It seems likely that this sophisticated operation evolved from a simpler provision dating from 1735, when Joseph Bucknall leased the beach on the site of Quebec House, with bathing rights and the right to build bathing huts for 1,000 years. It is not possible to establish what class of patrons used Quebec House, for Bath Square and this area of Portsmouth Point generally had a highly coloured reputation: Thomas Rowlandson's contemporary paintings depict the Navy drinking and carousing whilst ashore there.'

This is an extract from Vivian Rolf's *Bathing Houses and Plunge Pools* Shire Library Shire Publications 2011 which gives a fascinating account of bathing houses, including interesting examples at Cams Hall and Lymington.

Celia Clark

Conservation or Change – the care of Church Buildings

The following are extracts from a talk given by the Very Reverend David Brindley, Dean of Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral and Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, at the Society's November meeting.

Some facts: 50% of church buildings are Grade 1 Listed. 86% of the population entered a church building last year; 40% of the population attended a church service last year; 52% of whom go to church regularly; there are 15,000 church buildings in the country.

There is a continuing discussion, concerning the use of church buildings in the C20 – are they essential? To what extent are they a drain on the congregations, preventing them from doing outreach work in the community? 90% of the money currently spent on buildings comes from the regular worshippers. This would appear to be not sustainable in the long term. Are churches viewed by their local communities as worshipping spaces or as community use spaces – as one or the other, or as both?

There are no funds provided by the Government for Cathedrals. £2.5million is made available for church buildings via English Heritage. Are there new solutions possible for some of the current problems? A church building needs to be seen in a context:- The population in the area, the numbers attending the church and the financial situation of that parish, the present or possible future use of the church building for community purposes, and the present state of the building.

The Dean then began using slide illustrations picking out some of the church buildings in the Diocese and relating them to his comments thus far. There are 174 buildings in the Portsmouth Diocese of which 18 are in Portsmouth (too many in fact). Some of the churches have never been filled since they were built.

St. Peter's and St Luke's

The St Peter's congregation and the Diocese have decided to explore the possibility of having one new church building covering the St Peter's and St Luke's areas, connected with the new Somerstown Hub.

St Luke's building is no longer in use. The small congregation meets in nearby high-rise flats. The condition of the fabric is not good and the electrics have been condemned as dangerous under Health and Safety Regulations.

Conclusions

Each church building has to be seen in a context. There is no 'one size fits all' solution. Relevant factors are: the size of the local population, the numbers of regular worshippers, the financial situation, issues relating to that particular building, and present or possible future community uses of the building.

The Dean then undertook a short question and answer session in which he said, for instance, that there are few Churches in the Diocese with 'hidden wealth' e.g. Church Plate or Significant paintings. The majority of church land is held in trust and goes towards Stipends and Pensions. Some vicarages are old – some new. Not all vicarages have substantial land attached to them.

Hilary Reed and Terry Carter, Hon Secretary

Visit to St Peter's and St Luke's Churches, Saturday 25 February

On Saturday 25 February we are pleased offer a visit to the churches of St Peter's in Somers Road and St Luke's in Greetham Street, Southsea. We will meet at 9.30 at St Peter's Somers Road and finish by 11.30 at St Luke's. 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 Luke's was built by Thomas Hellyer of Ryde in 1861. It is listed Grade II and has a polychromatic interior. Our thanks go to the Revd Dr Alex Hughes, Priest-in-Charge of St Peter's & St Luke's Southsea for arranging this event.

Farewell to ASWE



Portsmouth Main, built on the top of Portsmouth Hill in 1952 for the Admiralty, has been demolished. The Art Deco building, most recently owned by DSTL and last occupied in 2007, was said to be structurally unsafe. This picture was taken in July 2011.

Romsey trip - A fine day, a fine town...

The sun shone on thirty-one members for the summer trip to Romsey on 22 August. Though the coach was a bit late, with a pickup at Hilsea Lido we made up the time and arrived promptly at King Johns House, Church Street, Romsey for morning coffee in the restored medieval garden.

We were warmly welcomed by members of Romsey & District Society led by their enthusiastic and knowledgeable Chair Cheryl Collier. Their Society was formed in 1974 and has almost 1000 members active and influential in local planning, environmental and countryside issues.

At 13th-century King John's House we had a talk about the timber-framed building and its garden from the late 1530s when King Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries. It has been restored, with beautiful gardens, by dedicated volunteers. Pre-18th-Century plants flourish, along with a Victorian terrace and a fountain courtyard. Our visit coincided with a free local art exhibition inside.

We then went on a guided walk that began at Romsey Town Hall. We were welcomed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk who shared some Romsey history and artefacts.

By contrast we looked at a recent 21st Century house in the conservation area. We went on to No's 64, 66, and 68 The Hundred. This was the of first many restoration projects of the Romsey and District Building Preservation Trust. These hidden cottages were rescued, restored and are now occupied.

We sat down to a delicious lunch at the historic The White Horse Hotel & Brasserie, now well restored. The White Horse's stucco frontage hides a Tudor inn with medieval cellars. We lunched in a sympathetic modern refurbishment which has been added in the rear courtyard.

Most of the group headed for a guided tour of Romsey Abbey, the Abbey Church of St Mary and St Ethelflaeda. It is one of the finest examples of Norman architecture in Southern England with origins back in 907 AD.

Some of the party explored the nearby Stable House Studio with Romsey artist and potter Rex and Geraldine Trayhorne, the War Memorial Park and some interesting independent shops. With more time, there is more to see in historic Romsey.

The group gathered again at King Johns House for tea and cakes in the sunshine of the pretty garden after which we boarded our return coach to Portsmouth. Many thanks to all those who added their special help on the day. Particular thanks go to our colleagues of the Romsey and District Society who were marvellous and generous hosts.

A fine day, a fine town, and fine company. If members have an idea for a future Portsmouth Society trip, do give me a call or send me an email. Tel : 02392 865938 email: hilarysails@btinternet.com.

Hilary Reed

New Elm Trees for Ladies' Mile, Southsea Common



The Lord Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Buggy and pupils from St John's College at the tree planning on Southsea Common on 2 December. Picture by Jon Stokes.

Friday 2 December saw the Lord Mayor, Councillor Cheryl Buggy, a crowd of Portsmouth Tree Wardens, members of the Portsmouth Society and the Southsea Association, primary pupils from St John's College and local residents plant "New Horizon" elm trees on Southsea Common as part of National Tree Week. Jon Stokes of the Tree Council was also in attendance. This event was organised by Malcolm Reeves and a commemorative plaque is being planned.

This species of trees has a high resistance to Dutch Elm disease which has wiped-out so many of our elms in the recent years. The location, along Ladies' Mile, was famous for its avenue of fine trees until the Great Storm of 1997 toppled so many of them. Portsmouth City Council have continued the tree planting scheme so we will have a fine avenue of trees once more.

From the Membership Secretary

We'd like remind you that membership subscriptions will become due on 1 March. If you pay by standing order, please will you check that the payment will be on or near this date. If you have any queries please contact me on 023 9232 7868 or email eunice.conybeare@ntlworld.com . Thanks!

Memories of the Great Storm of October 1987



Young members of the Clark family on one of the fallen elms after the Great Storm.

The recent tree planting on Southsea Common brought memories of the Great Storm of 15-16 October 1987 which resulted in the loss of many mature trees on Ladies' Mile.

I was awoken about 2am by the very strong winds. We live only two blocks in from the seafront. Our Victorian end of terrace house which faces down Florence Road to the sea starting rocking. By 3am the heavy clay ridge tiles were being flicked off the front roof into the valley gutter with regular monotony. Slates from the roof crashed down into the back yard. The water trap in the WC pan was rocking from side to side in a sickly manner.

The storm subsided about 4am and I thought 'Thank goodness it's over' - but then the wind built up again and more slates came crashing down. Looking out of the window I saw sea spray and gravel hitting the glass, tree branches across the road and empty milk bottles rolling down the street like a ten pin bowling alley!

By 5.30 am the storm subsided and the birds began to sing; it was great to hear they were still alive and awake.

Nothing on the radio - until 6.15 am when the local radio station, Ocean Sound, reported the damage caused by the storm. There was a lot of destruction on a caravan site at West Wittering. Trees were down on all the main roads - no other local radio - no advice. Everyone was stunned and reeling under the shock. There was advice before the 8am news not to travel to work.

Outside the house at 7.15 - wearing a hard hat, I saw that our garden wall was down, the bricks lying flat on the pavement like slabs of chocolate. Before long our daughter Catherine helped me pile them all up inside the garden. It was a very backbreaking job but a young volunteer on his way to Priory School stopped and helped us clear the pavement.

We were very upset when we saw the great Huntingdon elms on Ladies' Mile all crushed over on their sides. Our children had great fun climbing on them - easy as they were horizontal - until the tidy-minded council cut them all up and took the timber away. Celia pleaded for at least one to be left - as a memorial - to no avail.

Celia Clark

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)..... Corporate bodies (£25)

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, 31 Allenby Grove, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9RP.

Visit our Web site at www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk for more information.

Meetings and events

Our regular meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (not Jan/Aug/Sep) at the University's St. George's Building, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HY. Buses 5, 6, 23 & 700 pass the building which is a 5 minute walk from Portsmouth Harbour station. Free on-site parking is also available. Free admission. For the latest programme see www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk

Wednesday 1 February 7pm	The Dickens Archive and the Dickens 200 Festival. Speaker: Dominic Kippin, Literature Development Officer at Portsmouth City Council.
Saturday 18 February 10.15am onwards.	Architecture à la Café - Fort Nelson Visitor Centre. Enjoy a sociable cup of coffee at the new Visitor Centre at Fort Nelson on Portsdown Hill Road, PO17 6AN from 10.15am. There will be a welcome and description of the project by the museum's director at 11.00 - 11.15.
Saturday 25 February 9.30-11.30	Visit to St Peter's and St Luke's churches, Southsea. An opportunity to take a look inside these two Southsea churches. Meet at St Peter's, Somers Road, PO5 4QA at 9.30am.
Wednesday 7 March 7pm	The new Mary Rose Museum. Robert Lapraik from the Mary Rose Trust will tell us about the design and construction of the new home for the ship and the artefacts that were recovered with it.
Saturday 10 March 10am to 12.30pm	Lord Mayor to unveil Design Award Plaques. Members and guests are invited to the unveiling of the plaques for the 2011 Design Awards by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Cheryl Buggy. Start at Somerstown Adventure Playground, Waterloo St. at 10am, then Holy Spirit Church in Fawcett Road, Southsea & finally to Victory School in Allaway Avenue, Paulsgrove.
Saturday 31 March 10.15am onwards.	Architecture à la Café - Portsmouth International Port. The second outing in our new venture will be to the café at the City's new International Port building at Mile End, from 10.15am onwards. There will be a welcome and description of the project between 11.00 and 11.15am.
Wednesday 4 April 7pm	AGM and interview with local architect Mick Morris. After the formal business we are delighted to welcome Mick to talk about his life and career, including the award winning eco-home in Drayton.
Wednesday 2 May 7pm	May monthly meeting. Speaker to be confirmed.
Wednesday 6 June 7pm	June monthly meeting. Speaker to be confirmed.

<p>The Portsmouth Society, Registered Charity no. 266116 President: Dr Celia Clark. Vice-President: Dr Roger James Chairman: Sue McClory, 329 Chatsworth Avenue, Cosham, PO6 2UW. Tel: 023 9242 8683 Secretary: Terry Carter, 15 Balliol Road, Portsmouth, PO2 7PP. Tel: 023 9269 9167 Email: mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk Web: www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk Editor: John Holland, Design by 131 Design, Printed by Asher Print & Design. The views expressed in each article are not necessarily those of the Society.</p>
