

Portsmouth Society News

The Newsletter of the Portsmouth Society
Summer 2010



Civic Voice is Launched



The launch of Civic Voice with Griff Rhys Jones (President) and Tony Burton (Director) centred

We were delighted to welcome John Walker to the Society's June meeting to speak about the history of the civic society movement and the launch of Civic Voice. John is Vice-Chair of the Canterbury Society and Chair of the Kent Federation which is a grouping of 70 Civic Societies in that county.

The first Civic Society was set up in the 1840s but there is a dispute as to which Society was in fact the first! Today, the overall membership of Civic Societies exceeds the membership of any one of the political parties. It was in 1957 that the late Duncan Sandys launched the Civic Trust and much progress has been made since then. For instance there was the passing of the Civic Amenities Act and the introduction of Conservation Areas.

John went on to explain why the Civic Trust went into liquidation. Although the staffing was minimal, contributions from the membership subscriptions did not cover the costs; so the Civic Trust put in bids for large projects financed by the Government. When a bid was not successful the result was a decrease in income.

Following the liquidation, the Civic Society Initiative was created. It was led by Tony Burton who was seconded from the National Trust for one year and he was assisted by Ian Harvey who had worked for the Civic Trust. Regional Conferences were held culminating in a National event at Blackpool last October. There was an overwhelming feeling that a new organisation was needed to replace the Civic Trust. A sound financial base would be imperative for the new organisation.

On 17th April 2010 Civic Voice was launched in London. There had been a ballot for Trustees based on a list drawn up by a nominations committee from those who had applied. The new Trustees were introduced at the launch. To date 209 Societies have joined involving 45,000 members and the new organisation continues to grow. The Trustees have had one meeting where Paula Ridley (Liverpool) was ratified

as Chairperson and Tony Burton was confirmed as Director with Ian Harvey as Communications Officer.

At present there are two central aims based on a three year plan. The first is for Civic Voice to become the national voice of the Societies. There needs to be greater links between the centre and all the Societies. The second is to try to establish an all party group of MPs to take an interest in Civic Voice.

We all need to 'keep an eye' on the bigger picture. We need to think outwards from Town/City to County and further afield. For further information on Civic Voice, visit their Web site at www.civicvoice.org.uk where you can sign up for regular bulletins.

Terry Carter, Secretary

Letter from the Chairman

I have been delighted that so many of our members, occasionally with guests, attend and support our monthly meetings in St George's Building in Old Portsmouth. Our topics have included such subjects as Portsmouth's Past in Photographs and a review of events of our own Portsmouth Society in relation to national Civic Societies, namely the Civic Trust South-East and the recently formed Civic Voice.

The survey at our May meeting confirmed general approval for our varied meetings programme and our occasional bus trips and visits. It also attracted additional suggestions for new topics and for new destinations to visit. Where possible these will be incorporated during the next 12 months.

Meeting at the Blue Lagoon at Hilsea Lido, we also welcomed a number of members of the Hilsea Lido Pool for the People's Trust who joined with us to enjoy a First Class presentation, by their Chairman Jane Smith, on the remarkable historic development of the Lido which is about to celebrate its 75th Anniversary

This move of our meeting from our long established venue in the south of the city proved to be particularly successful. A large proportion of the audience indicated that they would happily attend further meetings there. The venue is convenient, with ample free parking and a range of bus services nearby. The Executive Committee will discuss the possibility of arranging further meetings in the North of the City

Recently, a small group of us represented the Portsmouth Society at 'Southern Comfort' at Winchester. This was a formal meeting of local Civic Societies in the South-East and included attendance from as far as Reading and Weymouth.

The lesson to be learnt was that, by definition, the Civic Societies have many common interests which they pursue on behalf of their communities. All can

benefit by closer contact with each other and by tackling common problems in co-ordination rather than going it alone. Moves to achieve this, not merely under the aegis of the national organisations of Civic Voice or Civic Trust (South-East), are now afoot, to arrange some local clustering of adjacent Civic Societies to exploit common interests. Important though these efforts to achieve wider co-operation and co-ordination may be, they have to yield second place to the priority of maintaining the stability and objectives of our own Society.

I am acutely aware that our membership numbers remains static. We have about 200 signed up (if not fully paid-up) members. Only a mere 20% attend our monthly meetings. We need to build up upon this respectable, and dare I say mature - strength of our membership in two respects.

Firstly, we need to be seen to broaden our horizons to embrace the whole of Portsmouth and not appear to be solely embedded with the Southsea/Old Portsmouth segment of the city. The quest for the Design Awards has always incorporated a city-wide search. For instance, in recent years it has included an amazing Adventure Playground in Paulsgrove and a unique Recycling Centre in Hilsea. Consequently our now famous architectural bus tour, (as this year scheduled for 7th August) involves a route that circumvents the city. Last year its turning points were at the QA hospital and the Milton Lock. Soon, as I have mentioned, we hope to stage certain of our monthly meetings in the north of the city as well as in the south

Secondly, we need new blood. New blood, not so much to invigorate our stalwart cadre of faithful members, but new blood in the shape and energy of the younger generation who will import new ideas and new vigour into our enterprise. It is well recognised that, in common with Civic Societies throughout the country, our membership, is largely comprised of the 'elder generation'. Whilst we welcome all our present members, we equally welcome the up-coming generations.

We need fresh ideas that can be in harmony with the changing developments of the burgeoning world. We are not merely concerned with preserving our heritage. We are equally concerned with new building developments to suit new generations of our populations. This needs the younger population to set and safeguard the standards they seek.

Members – please continue to come to our meetings, but bring a new generation with you, so that, in their turn, they can take responsibility for the building environment of their lifetime.

Through the courtesy of the City Council we are now displaying our Recruitment leaflets at all the City libraries and have staged displays at the Green Fair in Victoria Park and The Lions Carnival on Southsea Common.

Bob Adderley

Southern Comfort 2010

Nine members, led by President Dr Celia Clark, had the pleasure of representing the Portsmouth Society at 'Southern Comfort' at the Ghurka Museum in the former Peninsular Barracks in Winchester. This was a formal meeting of local Civic Societies in the South-East, hosted by the City of Winchester Trust, and included attendance of about 40 delegates from as far afield as Reading and Weymouth.

We were welcomed by Ian Patton Chairman of the City of Winchester Trust who explained the purpose of Southern Comfort – to facilitate co-operation and understanding between neighbouring Civic Societies. He recalled that almost four years had elapsed since the last Southern Comfort, which was hosted by the Portsmouth Society, in 2006.

The President of the Winchester Trust, His Honour Judge Christopher Clark chaired the morning discussion and restrained the panellists so that the delegates were not only able to pose questions but also to explain the situations that prompted them. We were represented by Celia Clark on the Panel and she was joined by Tony Fookes, Ian Harvey and Michael Carden who respectively represented Civic Trust (SE), Civic Voice and The Winchester Trust. Celia was asked about Ministry of



Defence's practice of disposing of surplus MoD property and estates to the highest bidder - commonly to the subsequent profit to a developer and she highlighted how this often failed to benefit the local community; Haslar being a prime example.

The Landscape Architect Kim Wilkie who delivered the keynote address, was a really inspirational and visionary speaker. He illustrated his theme with pictures of the V&A's garden that he transformed from a barren quadrangle to an oasis of calm and beauty that has spurred increased public attendance – at least to the garden, if not to the V & A itself. By even cleverer transition, the central pool can vanish (beneath the surface) to form a solid platform for large scale parties.

His current proposals follow the rejection of other plans for the development of Chelsea Barracks, (as objected to by HRH Prince Charles). He illustrated a 'Green' environment, incorporating large cultivated areas to replace the former parade grounds with planned and self-sustaining horticulture for the benefits of the residents.

After lunch (and networking), delegates chose from one of four workshops:

1. The Future of Southern Comfort. A productive session, which set an excellent - and achievable - target to strengthen the movement for the next two years: first for each city or town to develop closer links with smaller societies and associations within its surrounding area, which will strengthen the Civic Voice movement nationally, and for Southern Comfort to be held in Guildford in 2012.

2. Membership of Civic Societies, recruitment and subscriptions. The ability to recruit varied between societies. Significantly small communities eg: Fordingbridge achieved a much higher proportion of membership than large urban area e.g. Portsmouth. No constructive ideas about recruiting younger members. Subscriptions varied, generally £10-£12 maximum £20. The consensus was that subscriptions could be raised to reflect a valuable product/service. The Winchester Preservation Trust encourages ex- councillors to join them - this is a way of influencing the City Council through indirect contact to members. A party to welcome new members was also suggested.

3. Historic Town Status. The future of Historic Towns Status is impossible to predict until the Government gives clear guidelines. The latest statements conflict with existing parliamentary legislation and can only be used as possible guide lines. The Winchester Trust is proposing a new layer of planning control, in addition to listed buildings/ancient monuments and conservation areas, in order to manage change in the most historic towns. This would presumably require government legislation.

4. Trustees, volunteers and managing our workforce. As reflected by other groups, many societies have much greater memberships than others. Maybe they were selling themselves but I detected more organisation; Guildford had 4 sub-teams; planning, transport, heritage and communications. Portsmouth has been investigating trustees and was able to advise others which had less well developed thinking of what a trustee is and who should be one. They were also less aware of incorporation although some had dual Charity and Limited Company status.

The conference concluded with a choice of two guided walks. **Queen Elizabeth II Court** is a successful remodelling and refurbishment of the Hampshire County Council headquarter offices in which have been most imaginatively transformed. **Peninsula Barracks: “The unfinished Versailles”** - No money had been spared to transform these former army barracks to palatial homes surrounding elegantly landscaped gardens. The dispersed structures on and below the hillside had also been sympathetically converted to graceful dwellings.

We thanked our hosts and departed for the very successful and convenient Park and Ride - a lesson for many crowded cities and towns. A more detailed account of Southern Comfort appears on www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk.

Bob Adderley

Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead as the world's first 'cultural seascape' to be inscribed on the World Heritage list

This spring, to the great disappointment of the thousands of local people who support our vision to spotlight world attention onto what makes our harbour, anchorage and built heritage unique, our bid was not put forward to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Their long awaited invitation to people who aim for their areas to be inscribed as World Heritage sites was issued in March, but we have missed their June deadline. Rather than cancel the project - which began in November 2006 and was launched in January 2008 - the leader of Portsmouth City Council - the leader of Portsmouth City Council - was persuaded in February that he should take into account research on what the economic effects on the area might be.

The Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust is asking the Centre for Local and Regional Economic Analysis (CLREA) at the University of Portsmouth to undertake a study into how Portsmouth Harbour (and adjacent areas of the IOW) could be branded as a maritime cultural asset of national and international significance. Once approved by Hampshire county museums service and PUSH's cultural officer, the study will look for answers to three questions. The first is whether or not Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead could be branded as a destination and how the mix of assets and attractions compare with competitor destinations both in the UK and internationally. The second is to identify the most appropriate public/private management body to market and manage the site, and the third is to investigate whether or not World Heritage status would be beneficial to Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead as a destination. Key stakeholders will be presented with the findings and asked to contribute to a final report which is to provide them with a roadmap for future action.

Research into our bid is also being undertaken by a student at Nottingham university who is interviewing members of the steering group, including our fellow civic societies, on their responses to the bid.

Celia Clark

Meet the committee – part 1

The Portsmouth Society Executive Committee meets each month to discuss the myriad of topics affecting our city. In this short series we're taking the opportunity to introduce each committee member to you.

Firstly, our new Secretary, Terry Carter.

I was born in Reading, Berkshire and attended Reading Grammar School for Boys. I worked for a while in a bank but then decided to train for the Ministry in the Church of England. I took a BD degree at Kings College London, and the A.K.C.

Diploma. Subsequently I took a BA (Hons) degree in Philosophy and I obtained the Graduate Certificate in Education. I held several parochial posts and was for three years a Priest Vicar at Southwark Cathedral. I decided to teach full time but to continue to help in churches on a part-time basis. I held a number of teaching posts and came to Portsmouth in 1978 to take up the position of Deputy Head Teacher at the City of Portsmouth Girls' School.



I retired from teaching when I was 59 but I remain active in the Community. I am Chair of Fratton Neighbourhood Forum, a member of the Community Network Executive Committee and a member of The Community Improvement Partnership Board of the Local Strategic Partnership. I am Vice Chair of Portsmouth Link (Health and Adult Social Care) and an Independent Custody Visitor for Hampshire Police Authority.



Sue McClory is born and bred in Portsmouth. She is currently working part time as Company Secretary to the Kings Theatre Trust Ltd, and also taking a full-time degree in American Studies at Portsmouth University. In her spare time Sue belongs to Portsmouth Players, Downland Singers and the Portsdown Decorative and Fine Arts Society. Sue is also extremely practical and is responsible for the Society's stall at the Green Fair and Southsea Carnival, constructed almost entirely from recycled materials (although you wouldn't know it!).

Terry Halloran is a new boy, moving here with his wife Andrea from Yorkshire in 2006. His career was in IT before it was IT! He then travelled far as a management consultancy partner with Price Waterhouse. He is also the planning sub-committee member for the Friends of Old Portsmouth.

John Holland –committee member since the year dot. So, just how does one become involved with the Civic Society movement? For me it was a case of indoctrination as my parents were committee members of the Southborough Society (the Kentish borough near Tunbridge Wells, not the Bromley one) way back in the 1970s. I can remember them hosting stapling and envelope-stuffing sessions for the inevitable newsletter – a task which has continued to haunt me ever since.

I escaped the Home Counties to study at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

and ended-up working in the (then) industrial City of Derby. Faded-glory summed-up public face of the city (it's quite different there now) and cuts in public spending (yes they had them in the early 1980s too) meant that the streets were dirty and litter-strewn. I wrote a letter to the Derby Evening Telegraph and the result was a tap on the door from Derby Society member Ouida Haroun, an eccentric but extremely likeable lady. Once again I was a member of a movement with members who strove to improve their locality and who would certainly not take no for an answer.



A move south in 1983 found me picking up a now familiar green joining form at Portsmouth Central Library. I phoned Jean Thompson right in the middle of a lively committee meeting (I could hear the heated debate) so I joined right away. Enlisted onto the committee I was handed the newsletter and that has remained with me ever since. The stapling and the envelope stuffing continue.



Pauline Powell, Portsmouth Society Tree Officer. I was recruited to the Executive Committee in 2008; because of my interest in The Porter's Garden I was offered and accepted the role of Tree Officer. Earlier this year I was instrumental in reforming the city Tree Wardens which are now flourishing as the Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens. I am also a member of the Portsmouth Environmental Forum.

What the Victorians left to us

Vigour, grandeur, poverty and squalor – all these co-existed in Victorian Portsmouth. Surprisingly, over a century later, much of what the Victorians built survives into the present, giving shape to the modern city we live and work in.

Portsmouth's special role as the home of the Royal Navy and Spithead as the setting for international events was well celebrated in the nineteenth century. The most magnificent of the many Fleet Reviews was in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Queen, on board the Royal Yacht opened the new Steam

Basin in the dockyard in 1848, with its splendid Vanbrugh-style Steam Factory alongside, joined soon after by the Smithery & Iron Foundry. The increasing speed of shipbuilding's technological revolution made this extension obsolete before completion, so the dockyard trebled in size from 1865. There were also economic slumps later in the century, when dockyardmen were dismissed. A fund was set up to pay for the emigration of their families in troopships to Canada in 1870.

However, it was the military who were much more evident in the town than the navy – and inclined to clash with the townsfolk. New barracks were built: Colewort Barracks in Highbury Street, Cambridge Barracks (1853-4), Victoria Barracks and Clarence Barracks (1880) on the site of Portsmouth's ramparts, and Eastney Barracks (1862-7) for the Royal Marines. Sailors were not given quarters ashore until HMS Nelson in Queen Street in 1899-1903, built over the Portsea fortifications. In response to a French invasion threat in revenge for Trafalgar and Waterloo, Palmerston's Ring Fortress was constructed in the 1860s and '70s: a series of massive brick forts a thousand yards apart and four granite, teak and iron seaforts to refortify what was the country's largest dockyard. Most of these forts are still evident. But in an island town short of land, the now redundant ramparts, bastions and glacis defences of the towns of Portsmouth and Portsea were swept away from 1871-8, except for the seaward defences still evident in Old Portsmouth. King James's Gate (1687) was moved from Broad Street to Burnaby Road.

The town's transport infrastructure – railways, trams, piers for pleasure steamers – developed from mid-century. Once breaches in the town's defences were permitted by the War Department, the railway line extended from Portsmouth and Southsea Station (1866) to Portsmouth Harbour (1876), with a link across The Hard into the dockyard. The addition of the East Southsea Railway in 1885 from Fratton Station to Grenada Road brought holidaymakers closer to the seafront, beach and to Victoria (1842), Clarence (1861) and South Parade (1879) Piers – for shows and steamer trips. Thanks to national railway links, holidaymakers could marry Grimsby fish to local chips. Large breweries: Longs in Hambrook Street, Pike Spicer in Penny Street, Brickwoods in Queen Street catered to naval and well as civilian thirst. Clarence Esplanade, the carriage road along the crown of the beach was created in 1848 on War Department land using thousands of tons of mud and shingle from the Dockyard Steam Basin. Like much else, it was built by convict labour. For entertainment, Portsmouth had five theatres, two of which survive: the Kings and the Theatre Royal designed by prolific theatre architect Frank Matcham. The Horndean Light Railway took people out of town to enjoy the Portsdown fairs and to the country beyond. The new Town Hall by William Hill (1886-90) was opened in 1888 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, symbolising civic pride, growth in population, extension of the boundaries and the granting of County Borough status. In 1892 Portsmouth was the first Municipal Corporation to establish its own turbo-alternator power generating system - in St. Mary Street, Old Portsmouth, close to the Camber and coaling ships. On June 6th the Mayoress switched on the Ferranti dynamos, bathing the building in incandescent light.

Like many ports, Portsmouth also had its darker side: prostitution, alcoholism, grinding poverty, crime, thousands of children with no access to schooling, cramped, badly built and overcrowded housing with a single tap in the central courtyard, contaminated water supplies and food, no sanitation, disease including serious outbreaks of cholera in 1848 and 1849. The workhouse (1846) by TE Owen and Augustus Livesay, the prison (1877) to a Victorian radial design, and the Lunatic Asylum (1876-9) by George Rake awaited those who could not cope. Prevention of contamination of the water supply and sewage drainage were achieved by a series of pumping stations at Eastney from 1868.

Delays in the election of a School Board to educate the thousands of poor children after the Elementary Education Act was finally passed in 1870 prompted the editor of the Hampshire Telegraph to compare the Mayor arrayed in his robe of office to the Lord Chancellor “with a foggy glory round his head” hearing the interminable case of Jarndyce and Jarndyce in Charles Dickens’ Bleak House. However, Portsmouth School Board (1872-1902) provided 27,000 school places and built eleven new schools. Impressive new churches offered spiritual and practical help included St. Mary’s, Fratton Road (1887-1889) by Sir Arthur Blomfield. St. John’s Roman Catholic Cathedral (1881-1906) by John Crawley, Joseph Stanislaus Hansom and Canon Alexander Scoles was built for the new Catholic diocese. Father Richard Dolling intended St. Agatha’s Church (1893-1915) by JH Ball with its mosaic Lady Chapel and sgraffito apse by Heywood Sumner to raise local morale in an area full of social problems.

We’ve found new uses for many of our surviving Victorian structures, though pubs may not all now be drinking havens and beer is supplied by micro-breweries. Portsmouth Grammar School occupies Cambridge Barracks; the City Museum and Records Office is in the only surviving block of Clarence Barracks, and Eastney is now residential. Many thousands of terraced houses have been modernised for twenty first century living. Kingston Prison and St. James’s Hospital are still in their original uses, as are several board schools. St. Mary’s Hospital developed next to the workhouse, now flats. Especially welcome is the fact that civilian firms in the dockyard now build ships again – after a hiatus of forty years.

Celia Clark



The New 2010 Strand Mural

The Art & Soul Traders, Portsmouth's prolific muralists based in the Lodge Arts Centre in Victoria Park, originally painted the mural in The Strand, Southsea, in 1997. Due to subsidence, it has been necessary to remove the mural and the wall has been re-rendered using a specialist mesh. We are delighted to learn that a new mural will be painted and the map theme will be used once more as it proved popular with residents and visitors. The map has been a valuable source of information helping people to navigate their way around Portsmouth and Southsea.

The Art & Soul Traders are strong believers in bringing art out of the galleries and into the public domain whilst leading participatory arts by encouraging local people to contribute to their art works. They wish to hear from anyone with ideas, stories and local characters that could be portrayed on the mural. They'd also like to hear from potential sponsors who could help to provide funding for the necessary materials etc. Anyone interested should contact Mark or any member of the team at The Lodge, tel 023 9287 0880 or email info@artful-lodgers.org.

We wish them luck and look forward to the new mural.

The old Strand Mural from 1997



PPS5 - Planning for the Historic Environment

The Government published a new Planning Policy Statement – PPS 5 - in March on how the historic environment is to be dealt with within the planning process. This repeals the old PPG 15 & PPG 16 and is the biggest shake up of how heritage is dealt with within the planning process for 20 years.

The Statement means that historic buildings and archaeology are no longer dealt with separately and that archaeological sites and buildings should now be treated as “heritage assets”. It also says that the “significance” of individual sites be assessed, which also allows for the protection of non-designated assets.

This means that the argument that nothing can be done to protect a site or building because it is not listed is no longer a valid one. The guidance document also explicitly says that the local value of heritage assets should be a contributory factor in the decision making process and that local groups should be involved in the process.

Although many professionals have some reservations about how this is going to work in practice, as far as the Portsmouth Society is concerned, it now allows for much freer dialogue with the local planning authority. We think the new regulations should allow us to have greater say in the planning process.

View www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/pps5 for those who may be interested in full guidance.

Stephen Appleby

Plan to put up memorial to 14 victims of air raid

Terry Halloran is trying to raise £3,000 to put up a memorial to the 14 people who were killed when a German bomb fell on the house where they were sheltering.

The 10th January 1941 was the night of the Portsmouth Blitz when 300 bombers focussed on Portsmouth using St. Thomas’s Cathedral as a guide to the dockyard. As well as high explosive bombs like the one which destroyed 101 High Street they dropped 25,000 incendiaries, killed 171 people and destroyed the Guildhall and the Nave of the Garrison Church.

Terry said: ‘Remember the power cut we had last month when we thought we were badly off? Well on 10 January 1941, one of the first bombs disabled the electricity generating station and the power didn’t come back for four days! On top of this-bombs were falling, air raid sirens blaring and rubble everywhere. What carnage they went through.’



The aftermath of the bomb which flattened 101 High Street, Old Portsmouth, January 1941

Also to put the level of destruction in context it's worth noting that the beautiful Georgian High Street of Old Portsmouth which had 137 properties in 1939 was reduced to only 35 properties in 1946.

101 High Street, which is now the Green outside the Cathedral on the corner of Lombard Street, used to be a confectioners, probably with a large cellar. This is presumably why 12 people from different families, on hearing the sirens and unmistakable drone of the bombers, went there assuming it was safe. - Only to find they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Terry has permission from the Cathedral to install a raised stone tablet on the site of the house with a summary of events and the names of those who perished. His aim is to unveil the memorial on the 70th anniversary which is 10 January 2011. Terry said: 'It's important we record our local history and the innocent casualties of war for generations to come. There are no public funds available so we need to pull together and be part of recording Portsmouth's history for the future. Then when you pass the Cathedral next year you can look at the memorial and know that you helped to make it possible.'

Please send donations to Terry Halloran at 69 St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2EZ. Cheques should be made out to the '101 Fund'.

Footnote: during his research, Terry reviewed the Council minutes after the bombing when the meetings were held at the Royal Beach Hotel. Whether for humour or educational purposes the manager of the Odeon Cinema in Southsea was granted permission in February 1941 to hold a special children's matinee of Charlie Chaplin's 'The Great Dictator'!

Terry Halloran

Do Street Trees have a Future?

Symposium at University College London, Wednesday
May 12th 2010 – a report by *Pauline Powell*

The symposium, which I attended thanks to the generous support of the Portsmouth Society, considered the case for and against street trees and addressed issues such as health and well-being, economics, aesthetics, wind throw effects on trees and insurance and sought ways of influencing planners and locality decisions. There was an interesting selection of presentations ranging from Dr. Hazel Conway of the Garden History Society, Victorian Society and Open Spaces Society who spoke eruditely about the development of tree lined streets and avenues 1860 – 1930, through Katie Roberts of Trees for Cities who spoke enthusiastically about Trees for Cities, to Gerald Dawe of UK UNESCO MAB Urban Forum, who spoke on the Benefits of Street Trees and provided a questionnaire on this topic and Dr Ian Rotherham of Sheffield Hallam University on the Politics and Economics of Urban Street Trees. See www.ukmaburbanforum.co.uk for more details and downloadable presentations.



Spring Blossom in Copnor Road

Portsmouth and Southsea Tree Wardens Tree Identification Walk in Milton Park



Jon Stokes describes a composite leaf from an Ash Tree to a rapt audience

The walk on Sunday 23 May was led by Jon Stokes, Director of Rural Programmes with the Tree Council. Approximately 30 people attended on a perfect sunny Sunday afternoon. Jon provided us with an erudite and stimulating, to say nothing of passionate, two hours of fascinating information about the trees in Milton Park. We followed the Milton Park Tree Trail to some degree but Jon was happy to go “off piste” and describe the nature and habit of other trees of interest. Some of the oldest he calculated were roughly 100 years old.

We all came away much wiser about trees and their problems in the parks of the UK today and were encouraged to take action on their behalf. Jon’s talk was warmly received and we were afterwards treated to a light tea by the Milton Arms close by for which we were very grateful and we would like to thank them for their support.

Pauline Powell

Design Awards 2010 - Nominations invited

The Portsmouth Society’s Design Awards will be judged in September. Please contact the David Baynes on 023 9283 1461 if you’d like to propose a New Building, Restoration or Landscaping scheme for the 2010 competition. To allow for a settling-in period, we will judge only those schemes completed before 31 December 2009.

Entries so far include :

New builds	Restorations	Landscaping
Queen Alexandra Hospital	The Friary, Marmion Road	Tudor playhouse, Landport
Mountbatten Centre	Isabelle Mansions, Osborne Road	Portsmouth Town Court, Old Portsmouth. Large communal garden
Highbury College Cosham campus	Guildhall Clock tower and bells	Play area, Victoria Park
Landport Community Centre	Treadgolds Warehouse	
Marine House, Raymarine	Quay House Broad Street (former Wightlink offices)	
Fratton Station footbridge	White Swan, Guildhall Walk	
Carlisle Road GP Surgery	Air Balloon, Rudmore	
15 Drayton Lane	Former Jubilee Tavern, Jubilee Terrace, Southsea	
Apartment block, No.6 Portsmouth Road (next to Roebuck Close) Cosham	Cumberland House, Southsea	
Houses in Wilton Place, off Marmion Road	Southsea seafront promenade shelters	

You can download & print a nomination form from www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk.



Portsmouth Green Fair

Portsmouth Climate Action Network (PCAN) held their annual Green Fair event as part of “Green Week” on Saturday 17th July where The Portsmouth Society had a promotional stand. This year’s event was much larger than last year with the majority of participants being in Victoria Park, leaving a smaller number of stalls in Guildhall Square along with some of the entertainment. The weather was kind to us although a little gusty, and there were a large number of people visiting throughout the day.

In a bid to increase membership numbers, our information leaflet has been revised to include the new logo and up-to-date meeting information, and many of these were given out. We have also attended the Portsmouth Lions Carnival and Fair on Southsea Common, held on 24th and 25th July. Let’s hope we see some new faces for the autumn season, so feel free to introduce friends or work colleagues to the Society.

If you are aware of any other events where we can have a promotional stand, please pass the contact information to Sue McClory.

Letter to the Editor from David Barnard of Kidlington, Oxford.

A review of a book by a Police Officer in a recent “Society News” reminded me of when, as a small boy, my father hired a large Daimler and chauffeur to take us to the Silver Jubilee Review on the 16 July 1935. There was a crush of traffic to leave a car park on the Common when a Police Officer leapt on the running board (yes, they existed then!) and told the driver to follow his instructions. We left by a separate gate and avoiding the long queues of traffic threaded our way through back streets until we were off the Island. He jumped off, saluted and left, I have wondered to this day who he thought we were, was a VIP left stuck in traffic and, if so, led to frequent return visits. His father was treated by Dr Conan Doyle.

Portsea Island Discs

A request from Simon Gibbons, Community manager and Head of Music at Express FM 93.7.

Express FM, Portsmouth’s community radio station, is making a programme called ‘Portsea Island Discs’ thanks to funding as part of the Generations Together initiative. The thought behind the show is that we ask people of different generations in Portsmouth to remember moments from their youth such as a first dance, birthday party, first job, holiday etc and the music that is associated with it in their memories. The idea is that we ask young people (under 18s) the same questions with the expectation that many answers will be the same, even if the music is different. We

are looking for residents of Portsmouth aged over 40, with emphasis on those over 60, to interview and ask these questions to.

If you would like to take part in the programme then please contact Simon on 02392 751530, 07842 111041 or email simong@expressfm.com.

Meetings and Events

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (not Jan/Aug/Sep). They are normally at the University's St George's Building, 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	
Saturday 7 August 2010 9.30am-1pm	Architectural Bus Tour of Portsmouth - Now an annual event! View your city from the top of a preserved double-decker bus. We will be looking at new buildings, restorations and landscaping schemes which have featured in our Annual Design Awards. Booking essential.
Sunday 26 September 2.00pm	Visit to Portsmouth Grammar School. Discover the archaeology, history & architecture of PGS. Talks and tea. Booking essential - please see the form in this newsletter.
Wednesday 6 October 7.00pm	Portsmouth School of Architecture. Head of School, Todd Wakefield, will update us on their current courses, student projects & research programmes. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 3 November 7.00pm	Portsmouth City Council leader Gerald Vernon-Jackson will be with us in non-political mode to give a report on current issues relevant to the Society. Followed by a question & answer session. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>
Wednesday 1 December 7.00pm	Design Awards winners & losers. Our president, Dr Celia Clark, will give her annual hard-hitting presentation on the 2010 competition. <i>Coffee from 6.45pm</i>

If you haven't already paid your subs - at the new rate - please could you contact the membership secretary. Many thanks to all those who have!

THE PORTSMOUTH SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name

Address

.....

.....Post Code

Phone Number.....

Email Address

I enclose cash* / cheque*/Postal order made payable to:

The Portsmouth Society for £..... (*Please delete as necessary)

Type of membership (annual rates): Full (£10) Joint (£15)

Senior (£8) Senior couple (£10) Student (£5)

Please tick if you have any specialist interests : Historic Buildings

Planning Transport Trees & Shrubs

How did you hear of the Society?

.....

Signed

Date

Please send completed forms with remittance to:

The Membership Secretary, The Portsmouth Society, 6 Livingstone Road
Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 1RT.

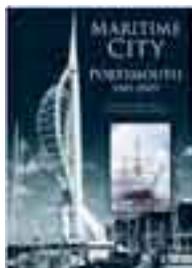
Visit our Web site at www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk or telephone 023
9282 1667 for more information.

As a registered charity we run a Gift-Aid scheme for UK tax payers, please ask for details. Data Protection: 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.

Titles available from the Society:



The Tricorn The Life and Death of a Sixties Icon by Celia Clark and Robert Cook. Published by Tricorn Books, www.tricornbooks.co.uk. Corrected re-print with colour, 2010. ISBN: 9780956249852 £19.99. Love it or hate it- there's no middle ground in reactions to the Tricorn: the Brutalist, bold, multi-layered and multi-use megastructure built in Portsmouth between 1962 and 1966, and demolished in 2004. Celia Clark and Robert Cook explore what makes an architectural icon - and what unmade it.



Maritime City: Portsmouth 1945-2005 - In Old Photographs by Ray Riley. Published by Sutton Publishing Ltd. 2005. ISBN: 9780750943635. This book originated from an exhibition of photographs assembled by the Portsmouth Society to celebrate the millennium. "Maritime City" paints a fascinating picture of the Portsmouth that many have forgotten, and at the same time provides a record of the changes, which have occurred over a wide spectrum of the city's life during the last half-century.

Portsmouth's summer attraction

Situated on Southsea Common, this life size replica of the Ultrasauros, is a collaboration between Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, Firstsite, Colchester and Aspex, Portsmouth.



Officers of the Society

President: Celia Clark

Vice-President: Roger James

Chairman: Bob Adderley

Secretary: Terry Carter

Treasurer: Jean Thompson

Executive Committee : Gail Baird,
David Baynes, Charles Burns, Terry
Halloran, John Holland, Sue McClory,
Pauline Powell



www.portsmouthsociety.org.uk