

Newsletter

Spring 2013



New Owners for Wymering Manor

The new board of trustees, chaired by Penny Mordaunt MP, took over ownership of Portsmouth's oldest house on 17 January. Wymering Manor Trust has achieved charitable status and has been entered onto the Register of Charities. We will now be able to accept Gift Aid and other donations.... The £30,000 from Portsmouth City Council towards short term running costs is being rapidly used up – particularly by the £17,000 annual cost in insurance, the asbestos survey and other hefty essential expenditure.

Trustee Andy Mason arranged interviews of six architects and surveyors to draft our Options Appraisal grant to the Architectural Heritage Fund which had to be applied for by 15 May. The maximum grant is £7,500 so the trust's fundraising committee which is already hard at work will have to raise considerable sums to meet these professional costs. As yet very little is available to spend on the building. Trust members and advisers put safety film on the vulnerable windows themselves, and a Spring Clean took place on 27 April.

A great many local people attended our May Day fun day vintage themed event at the Manor on Sunday 5 May. Tours of the manor were fully booked and there were stalls and games, bouncy castle, Cosham Fire Engine. A total of £700 was raised and the cream teas were so popular they ran out....

Celia Clark Trustee

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

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 1,20, 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 5 June <i>7.00pm</i>	Managing Contaminated Land - SARAH HAINES is Contaminated Land Manager at Portsmouth City Council. She has been involved with the TIPNER REGENERATION PROJECT for more than 10 years and will speak about the immense task of preparing the site ready for the commencement of construction work. She will also consider broader aspects of the scheme, such as community involvement, and the complications of shared/divided land ownership.
Saturday 15 June <i>2.30pm</i>	Sheds on the Seashore - A celebration of BEACH HUTS. Talk and exhibition by author and photographer Kathryn Ferry. £6, to include strawberries and cream. Booking essential, please telephone David on 023 9283 1461. <u>The event takes place at the Round Tower, Broad Street. Old Portsmouth, PO1 2JD.</u> See back cover for details.
Thursday 27 June <i>12.15pm</i>	40th Anniversary LUNCH - Join us for a celebration meal at the highly acclaimed Chimes Restaurant. Booking is essential. Please see the booking form in this newsletter
Wednesday 3 July <i>5.45pm</i>	Lakeside GUIDED WALK around the extensive new & refurbished business and retail development at North Harbour. <u>Meet by the main entrance at 1000 Lakeside, North Harbour, PO6 3EN.</u>
Thursday 12 September <i>6pm</i>	40th Anniversary EXHIBITION Launch Event. Members are cordially invited to the launch of the Portsmouth Society's 40th anniversary exhibition in the Guildhall Café.
Wednesday 2 October <i>7.00pm</i>	David Brock leads the English Heritage South East Regional Team. He will describe EH's role in the numerous current local and regional heritage initiatives, as well as giving an up-date on the organisation at national level.
Wednesday 6 November <i>7.00pm</i>	PORTSMOUTH NAVAL BASE 'Underpinning the nation's security through the 21st century' . A perspective on the next ten year's developments in the 900 year life of the Naval Base and its role supporting the Fleet around the world, including the new aircraft carriers. Speaker : Captain IAIN GREENLEES, Deputy Head Transformation, Portsmouth Naval Base.

Civic Voice calls for Community Right of Appeal

Civic Voice is joining Chris Skidmore MP in calling for a Community Right of Appeal that means communities could, if they meet a particular threshold, put forward genuine objections to developments as part of the planning process. The grounds for a Community Right of Appeal would be restricted to situations where a Local Planning Authority had departed from their own strategic policies i.e. Local Plan/Neighbourhood Plan or where it could be demonstrated that the consent was contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework.

MPs approve revised home extensions procedure

MPs have approved a revised approach to new home extensions which will require local authorities to carry out a new form of 'light touch' consultation with neighbours. A homeowner wanting to build larger extensions would write to their local council, providing plans and a written description of the proposal. The council would then tell "adjoining neighbours", who have 21 days to object. If there is an objection, the local authority, either through officers or the planning committee, would "consider whether the impact of the proposed extension on the amenity of neighbours is acceptable".



The Government's compromise approach will deal with most of the concerns that have been expressed, although it will still remove the right of other neighbours – whose properties do not directly adjoin the property involved but which may be affected – from making representations. Also, local councils will no longer get a planning fee in respect of these developments. Civic Voice will be writing to the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles MP (pictured) to ask for clarification of a number of issues it still has with the new proposals.

New permitted development rights come into force

Revised planning rules came into force on Thursday 30th May in what the Government hopes will lead to a boost in economic growth. When consulted on the changes to permitted development rights, over 85% of respondents opposed the proposals, yet, despite this, the Government decided to take them forward. C.V. feels that, by ignoring local opinion in this way, the Government is contradicting its own Localism agenda.

New Society Members

It is a pleasure to welcome : Miss D Crangle, The Portsmouth Cultural Trust (Mr A Grays), Ms J Laidlaw, Mr & Mrs Evans and Mr G M Newcombe.

Meeting with the Leader of the Council

I recently attended my quarterly meeting with the Leader of PCC, Cllr Gerald Vernon Jackson, along with John Holland and Pauline Powell. We had sent our agenda items in advance, and were joined by Stephen Baily (Head of City Development and Cultural Services) and Claire Upton-Brown (Assistant Head of Planning).

The recent defeat of the Lords' amendment to the **Permitted Development Rights** legislation, will probably result in a change to the original proposal in that neighbours will have to be informed about any proposed large developments in people's back gardens. We all agreed that the devil would be in the detail, and we wait to see the wording in due course.

Gerald has had meetings with the group who want to buy **South Parade Pier** and they are putting a business plan together. The current owner has undertaken improvement works to enable the opening of the front shop and arcade. It was noted that the 'Bar Blue' opposite the pier was being refurbished. We also discussed the Pyramids centre and its operation.

Stephen Baily reported on his recent submission for **City of Culture 2017** and will make information available in due course. A Creative Director has been appointed, and even if the bid is unsuccessful there will be a lot of joint projects completed with Southampton.

We discussed our forthcoming shortlisting of entries for the **Portsmouth Society Design Awards**, and invited nominations from PCC. We also discussed our recent Facebook and Twitter improvements and the proposed new website for the autumn.

Following our recent concerns about **staff restructuring in the planning, archaeology and heritage** aspects, we will be meeting newly appointed staff in due course. Gerald advised that a pool of funds had been allocated to buildings around Portsmouth Harbour which require significant works, we look forward to hearing more about this when the project starts this summer.

Pauline updated the meeting on progress of Greening the Tricorn Gap (Market Way).

We discussed the process of **Nominating and Bidding for Community Assets**. I am pleased to say that we have made some headway with certain aspects which would not trigger the bid process, and Claire will be looking closely at this possible oversight. We remain in disagreement about the term 'realistic prospect' and how much of a business plan this should require when at the 'listing' part of the process, when there is not a requirement for one at the 'trigger point' of the bidding process.

Gerald advised that the forthcoming **Site Allocation Plan** was to enable areas to be protected from development, due to urban applications always assuming in favour of developers. The Council's hand would be strengthened in determining protected areas,

and he hoped that Portsmouth Society members would make their comments about areas they know.

Flood Defence work is being planned for Southsea Promenade and the Anchorage Park areas of the City. As we know these are large areas prone to flooding and we look forward to finding out the details and timescales later on. Southern Water will be bidding for funds to provide an emergency outfall for Southsea, details awaited.

Sue McClory

The Local List of Buildings

There are many buildings of local interest in the city which contribute to the local character having special architectural and historic interest. The Local List is intended to help draw attention to a selection of these buildings which are not deemed to be of sufficient interest to become nationally listed buildings. A policy DC12 Locally Important Buildings was included in the Portsmouth City Local Plan 2001-2011 and this policy has been saved as part of the Local Development Framework.

The main purpose of a local list is to highlight buildings of interest and to alert owners, occupiers and other council officers.

- It should also help encourage the consideration of retention and reuse of buildings.
- The inclusion of a Local List policy in the Local plan gives some support to the retention of local list buildings.
- It DOES NOT however give demolition control.
- Some local list buildings are in conservation areas and already get some protection against demolition.
- It also helps identify buildings which might merit possible future statutory listing.
- There is also the possibility of future conservation area designation and Article 4 Directions.
- There is the possibility of grants when available.
- There are also other initiatives such as design briefs or other guidance e.g. Southsea Shopping Centre.
- There is the possible recording of buildings which are to be lost.

The Local List is available from the Portsmouth City Council web site www.portsmouth.gov.uk or on application to the city's planning department.

Meet the committee – Simon Ball

Hello everyone. I just wanted to take a minute to introduce myself as the newest member of the Society's Executive Committee, responsible for our social media and online presence. I came to know of the Society through my undergraduate dissertation during the final year of a Property Development with Quantity Surveying degree at the University of Portsmouth. The focus was on the reuse of historic buildings and arguing

the environmental and financial benefits of doing so. As I was using the Old Naval Academy in HM Dockyard, I was introduced to Dr Celia Clark who was kind enough to be interviewed. Quite helpfully she had a lot to say on the matter!

Shortly after I joined as a member but it wasn't until a good year later I attended my first meeting. Afterward I was pounced upon by David Baynes offering opportunities to get involved and was invited to a committee meeting along with my colleague from University, George Munson, and asked how we felt the Society's online presence could be improved for both the benefit of its members and to attract new ones along the way. After discussions with George, we put forward our plans for change at the next committee meeting.

We are now making better use of Twitter (@PortsmouthSoc), with regular updates on the Society's news, events and local goings on. For example, the upcoming consultations by Portsmouth City Council are posted with reminders on the day and the day before. We hope that this will keep members more updated in addition to the newsletters and emails we send out meaning that more of you can get involved and have your say.

We plan on redeveloping the website, which will be a longer process. Although in its current state the website is a useful resource for members, it is agreed within the committee that it requires an update, not least aesthetically. George and I have plans to incorporate social media into the website (for example you will see our Twitter feed on the homepage) and to introduce a discussion forum for our members. This is something that has been recommended in the past and we are excited to give you a place to converse on matters without waiting for our monthly meetings. Again, I hope this will give members the opportunity to get involved more and have their say. As we develop the website we will be running trials and asking for feedback before anything is finalised. If you have any suggests on what you would like to see on the new website then please get in touch with my email below!

Finally we also now have a Facebook presence (Facebook.com/PortsmouthSociety) which we envisage will be a go-between the new website and the Twitter feed.

In the longer run I have ideas about attracting new members and getting involved with the students at the University. I am still in contact with the committee of the Civil Engineer & Surveying Society (which I was Vice President of in my final year) and will introduce myself to the architectural department in due course. Even if we don't get many new members, I feel the Society can be a fantastic resource for those studying, just as Celia was for me during my dissertation.

As the Society celebrates its 40th year I feel quite humbled by the help and encouragement I have received from the Society's members in my short time here and I hope that our ideas will further strengthen the Society and prepare it for the next 40 years!

Simon Ball, ballsimon@hotmail.co.uk

Architecture a la Café at St. Cuthbert's Church Copnor



*Interior of St Cuthbert's Church.
Picture by Celia Clark.*

Continuing the very successful programme of Saturday morning Portsmouth Society visits, St. Cuthbert's church in Copnor was our destination on 19th January 2013. This vast red-brick Byzantine Basilica-style church, designed by architect Stanley Hall, was built between 1914 and 1916 and with its tower stands well above all the surrounding buildings. Stanley Hall also designed Liberty's in London.

It was a bitterly cold morning but the Vicar David Power gave us a most warm welcome. He explained the challenge that faced him when he was appointed in 1979. It was an under-used cold building which was due for closure, because it was far too large for its purpose.

We toured what is, as a result of David's drive and vision with help from others, a most successful transformation. The church divides into three parts over three floors. Funding came from various sources. The architect of the conversion was Nicholas Lee Evans of the Lee Evans Partnership in Canterbury - he is also working on plans for St. Jude's in Southsea.

The church now has specially created areas, starting with a central information point on the ground floor and then leading on to a doctors surgery, a pharmacy and the Sure Start Children's Centre with an outside play area. There are Portsmouth Housing Association flats on the site of the church hall. On the third floor a replacement church

hall with a domed caustic ceiling is rather excitingly decorated with clouds and a dark blue background. A new circular window in the hall, suggested by English Heritage, enables one to look down onto the nave which now forms the main body and worship area of the church. It is also used regularly for concerts and other community events.

Further restoration projects - including the stained glass and the wind organ - are either underway or planned.

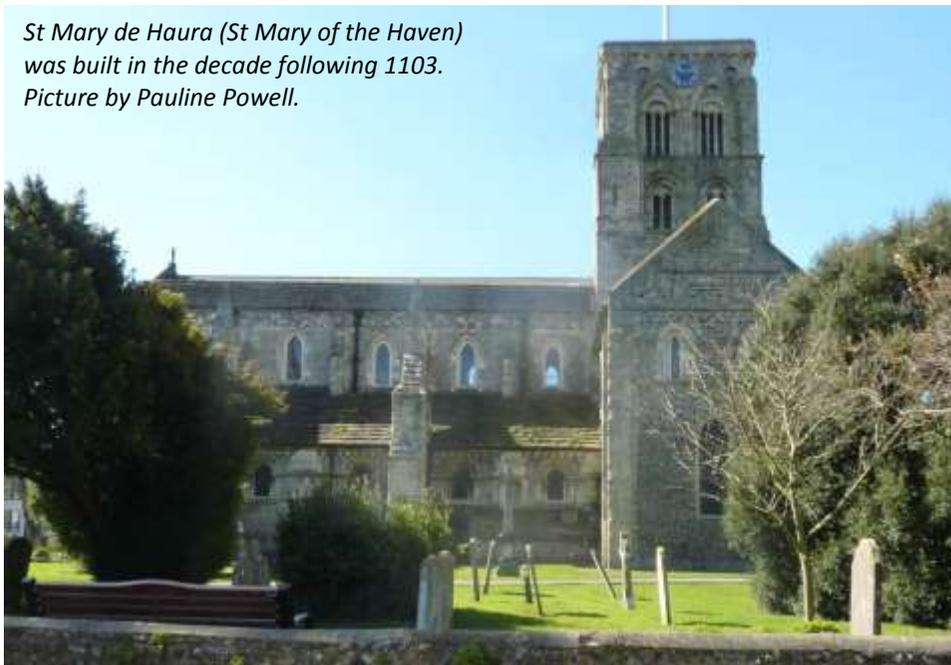
It was a great visit - seeing what has been achieved at this church by opening up the building for other uses. Uses which nevertheless relate to the faith of its founders in 1914.

After a question and answer session at the end of the morning the members and guests who attended expressed their gratitude to the Reverend Power and also the ladies who provided coffee and the excellent home-made cakes and biscuits.

Deane Clark R I B A

Shoreham-by-Sea Visit 20 April 2013

*St Mary de Haura (St Mary of the Haven)
was built in the decade following 1103.
Picture by Pauline Powell.*



We were blessed with blue sky and sunshine, although still somewhat cold. Travelling by train, we arrived a little after 10.00 am and were led by Jackie Baynes through the streets, passing by the lovely old Church of St Mary de Haura nearly opposite the ugly public library building, to the Community Centre for coffee.

Dr Geoffrey Mead of the Shoreham Society and a lecturer in Geography at the University of Sussex then gave a presentation called 'The Spirit of Shoreham : a thousand years of history'. He began by explaining the geology of the area and the effect it has had on the town. We learnt a new word "slub" which is a Sussex dialect word for thick mud which is responsible for the silting up of the river Adur along which Shoreham lies. There is a shingle bar which moves eastwards and the port itself has moved relentlessly south, streets ending at the shore. He told us about the bridges across the river, the conservation area with its vernacular buildings, some made of beach cobbles and in Old Shoreham up river, the Saxon/Norman Church of St Nicholas made of flint, Horsham slabs and clay tiles. Much of the historical industry is now lost as are the boatyards of this once very important port. He mentioned the William IV Town Hall/Custom House and Marlipins Museum run by Sussex Archeological Society which we would have the opportunity to visit in the afternoon. The Museum tells the story of Shoreham's maritime and local history from prehistoric to medieval times.

He also told us about Shoreham Airfield; an Art Deco building the oldest surviving one in Britain built in 1910 and visible over the river and the Shoreham Beach film industry, once the centre of the UK's silent movie industry. The film companies set up here in 1914, drawn by the special quality of the light. Who remembers Joan Morgan star of Little Dorrit made in 1920? Not forgetting the collection of houseboats moored up on Riverbank and once popular in the 1920s/30s with bohemian theatrical folk until it was cleared in 1940 because of wartime arrangements, but now repopulated. This unusual residential option consists of a number of wacky houseboats moored permanently in the tidal estuary.

The lack of handrails along the concrete path some six-feet above the level of the car park and access roads, made one wonder if people had occasionally fallen into the piles of wood and other items stored at the bottom of the drop when returning from a night out! There was a mixture of boats of all types, size, age and condition decorated in all styles and colours. A permanent community which seemed to be from a bygone era, on a sunny day is a life that many of us might want to try out ourselves, but how cold it would be in winter.

Geoffrey ended by mentioning the modern developments of Emerald Quay and Ropetackle with its art centre.

Following his talk he led us on a guided tour of Shoreham starting with St Mary's Church which is only 2/3 of its original size, huge as it is, and taking in some of the vernacular buildings he had told us about including one called Scantlings House whose present owner kindly came out and told us a little of its history.

After a very good lunch at Chambers Bistro we were free to take the shuttle bus to the Shoreham Beach houseboats area with Geoffrey or walk upstream past the nature

reserve and the airport to visit St Nicholas Church, with Lancing College in the distance or drop in to the Museum in the High Street. Thank you to David and Jackie Baynes for organizing such an enjoyable and interesting visit.

Pauline Powell and Sue McClory

Shoreham Outer Beach – a personal view

We had a very enjoyable trip to Shoreham an excellent guide and plenty of interesting buildings to view especially in the older part of the town. BUT the extension of the trip over the river to the houseboat community on the outer beach was something else. You could either view it from a whimsical view point and delight in its quirkiness (a key word



in today's house buyer's dictionary) or wonder more seriously if this was not the result of a clever do-it-yourself job avoiding all planning and building regulations by developing on the estuary rather than on land.

To my eyes it was an awful mess of piled up rubbish, a fire hazard of some large proportion, no doubt rat infested and negating all the normal safety requirements meted out to those who would live on the land. But where did the boat end and the land start? Piles of old timber to be used as firewood along the bank footpath and junk everywhere waiting to be recycled at some distant date and how did the services get connected? We were not too sorry we didn't get invited on board such a mess, it could have made an interesting question and answer session. The highlight was one craft with a for sale notice! asking price £300,000.

Malcolm Reeves

St. Peter's Update for the Portsmouth Society AGM - 10th April 2013

For the benefit of anyone not familiar with St. Peter's, the site comprises a large vicarage, (part of which has been converted into flats); a grade II listed Victorian church in the Gothic style; a two-storey institute building, housing community rooms on the ground floor and a very special community theatre on the 1st floor - one of only six of its type in the whole of the UK.

Recently, the parishes, of St. Peter and St. Luke have been joined to become, the Parish of St. Luke and St Peter, and the Priest-In-Charge, Rev. Alex Hughes, became Vicar. The future of the buildings continues to be of great concern. In February this year, a press release, given by Rev. Alex Hughes, included the following:

"Alex was appointed to develop new ways of worshipping in the inner city and so immediately his biggest challenge emerged – what to do with two old, large churches which were not drawing the numbers to be viable. The answer, after much agonising and with support from the current bishop, is to eventually demolish both buildings and build a new church, possibly on vacant land in Winston Churchill Avenue as part of the regeneration of Somers Town."

In November last year, a petition of over 5,000 signatures, in support of St. Peter's Theatre, was presented to the City Council. This was discussed at a Full Council Meeting and as part of their response, the council gave the following recognition:

"This Council recognises that there are only 6 theatres in the whole country, available for use by amateur theatre groups that have a fly tower. One of them is St Peters. This council also notes that St Peters has been used as a theatre for amateur productions since 1924, was designed and built that way, paid for by public subscription and is normally in use as a theatre for over 50% of the year, and therefore believes it to be an integral part of the fabric of cultural life in Portsmouth."

The Council also invited the Save St Peters Campaign Group to submit a bid under the auspices of the Localism Act to seek to register St Peters Theatre as an asset of community value, and also urged the church and the theatre/hall groups to work together to come to a satisfactory conclusion about the use of this space. Sadly, despite the efforts of the City Council, the church appear unwilling to take part in discussions with the theatre/hall groups.

In January this year, the Theatres Trust, a national organisation supporting theatres, applied to Portsmouth City Council for a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development. This would officially recognise the theatre as a theatre, and given it greater protection. Unfortunately, this was refused by Planning Services, and the Theatres Trust is presently considering whether to appeal.

On the 27 January the final performance was held at St. Peter's Theatre. The following day, the church council changed the locks and removed all external signage which

identified it as a theatre. The resident theatre groups had one month to remove their belongings and theatrical equipment.

In February an application was made to the City Council to have the building registered as an asset of community value. However, on the 25 March, Planning Services reported that the application had been rejected. The nomination met most of the criteria and its importance to the immediate community has been successfully demonstrated.

Unfortunately, the application was rejected on the economics of the business plan. The theatre community are presently looking at how they can strengthen the financial aspect in order to re-submit.

Also in March, the official Board of Trustees for the newly formed St. Peter's Theatre Trust met for the first time. Currently, the number of signatures on the petition, to save St. Peter's Theatre, has risen to over 6,000 signatures.

April Gooch

3 Portland Terrace – Request for information

My husband and I have an album which contains various rhymes, messages of thanks, sketches and some wonderful pen and ink drawings, some in colour, dating from 1917 until May 1930. They all refer to patients' stays at 3 Portland Terrace Nursing Home, Southsea during that time. Some sound like they were servicemen, although there are entries from ladies and children too.

There are several references to Sister Betty, (Wilson), Sisters Mary and Ella.

We know of no connection to Southsea within the family. My husband's family all came from Herefordshire and the Welsh borders.

However, we believe my husband's Grandmother may have had a friend who went away to nurse in the south of England and wonder if this belonged to her.

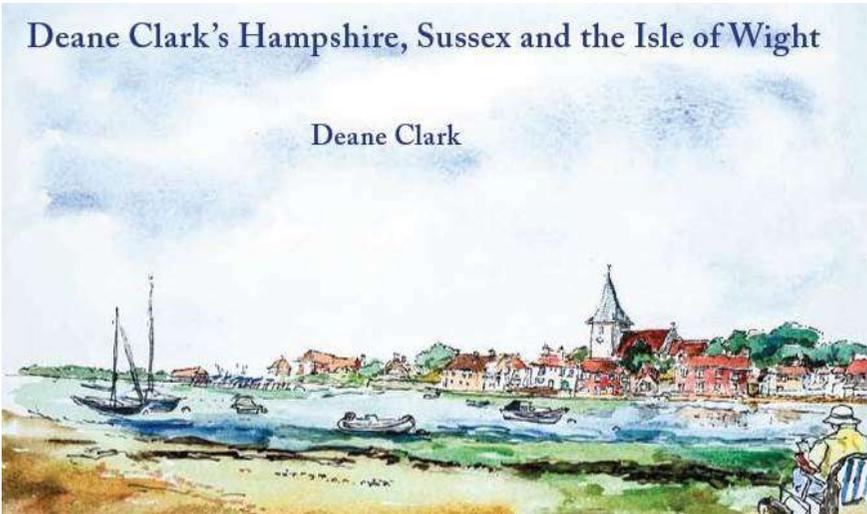
I am intrigued to know a little more about the Nursing Home and would be delighted if you know of anyone in the area who may be related to any of the Sisters mentioned. I appreciate if still alive, the Sisters themselves will be very elderly now.

Jacqueline Pocknell

If you have any information please email mailbox@portsmouthsociety.org.uk and we will forward it to Jaqueline.



New Books



Architect Deane Clark enjoys sketching his favourite buildings and boats in his home county Hampshire and nearby Sussex and the Isle of Wight. A major part of his work as Historic Buildings Architect for Hampshire County Council was care of churches and the county's rich heritage of 12,500 historic buildings. This book, put together like his last book Deane Clark's Portsmouth, shows his style developing from formal pen and ink at Portsmouth Art College School of Architecture in the 1950s, to watercolours, fet tip pens and bright crayons. He continues to enjoy making new images - at home and abroad.



'An Earthly Fairyland' - The Story of Southsea Rock Gardens and the Rock Garden Pavilion

Jackie Baynes recently launched her book about the Southsea Rock Gardens and the Rock Garden Pavilion. This full-colour publication draws on the memories of local people to tell the story of one of Southsea's best-loved seafront attractions and the rise and fall of one of its most successful entertainment venues. Available from W H Smiths in Palmerston Road, City Museum, Anglican Cathedral Bookshop, Blackwells and Waterstones or on 02392 831 461.

Picture Parade



The Lord Mayor, Councillor Frank Jonas, unveiled the plaques for the Portsmouth Society's Annual Design Awards in March. Here he is with the winners of the Best Re-use/Conversion category - Southsea Library.



The new Mary Rose Museum opened as we sent to press. This view shows the exterior of the museum with its unique hull-like shape and HMS Illustrious in the background. Picture by Deane Clark.

Portsmouth Society Fortieth Anniversary Lunch

The Lunch will be held on Thursday 27th June and a warm invitation is extended to all Society individual and joint members. It will be held in the Chimes Restaurant at Highbury College in Winston Churchill Avenue, PO1 2DH.

12.15pm for 12.30pm. Dress code smart casual.

Please circle your choices against the menu options on the form below and send it to Jean Thompson, 6, Livingstone Road, Southsea, PO5 1RT, with a cheque payable to The Portsmouth Society to cover the cost @ £15.00 per person.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS IS MONDAY 17th JUNE.

Starters

- A. Leek and potato soup with watercress and crostini
- B. Butternut squash risotto with parmesan biscotti
- C. Smoked salmon with herb salad and lemon dressing
- D. Smoked duck salad with radish, raisins and balsamic glaze

Mains

- E. Chicken chasseur with wilted greens, mushrooms and tarragon jus
- F. Roasted hake with chive mash, pea puree and tempura prawn
- G. Braised blade of beef with watercress and horseradish mash
- H. Fishcakes with warm nicoise salad and beurre blanc sauce
- I. Aubergine rolls with oatmeal cake and lentil sauce

Desserts

- J. Vanilla panacotta with seasonal fruit
- K. Spotted dick with custard
- L. Apple strudel with spiced cinnamon cream
- M. Chocolate orange tart with orange sable biscuit
- N. Lemon cheesecake with fruit compote
- O. Fresh strawberries in a meringue nest

Name(s) :

Telephone :

Email :

I enclose a cheque, payable to the The Portsmouth Society, for £_____ for _____ place(s) at the Anniversary Lunch on Thursday 27 June at 12.15pm..

Signed :

Date :