

Lymington Voice

Lymington Society Newsletter — Autumn 2017

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS



*Chairman
Clive Sutton*

After the high-profile campaigns of a few years ago, such as Redrow, Wetherspoons and the ferries, things have been quieter and the Lymington Society has not been so much in the news.

However, its work goes on through the efforts of the Committee, supported annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting. Our recent enterprise, of which you must all be aware by now, is the effort that we have put into the maintenance and restoration of the Burrard

Neale Monument and its grounds.

The Burrard Neale Monument

There is a more detailed report on this in this edition, but I think the Society can be proud of the fact that, instead of opposing and criticising proposals, the Society has been instrumental in undertaking something which would not have been undertaken by the Town Council on its own, although it is the Town Council's responsibility.

Jointly with the Town Council, the Society has regenerated the monument grounds. It has organised the submission of a National Lottery grant application, and this has recently been approved as I hope you have seen in the local paper. The Walhampton monument is therefore safe and secure for the foreseeable future. Whilst it is not technically within the Borough of Lymington our brief goes to Lymington and its surroundings, and the monument is very much in the sight of the Town.

On your behalf I would like to thank the originator of the idea Peter Stone, and Don Mackenzie, both of whom have contributed to



Don Mackenzie

much of the work with the Town Council and the fundraising. Also involved have been other members of the Committee, particularly Pam Morrissey in relation to local schools and local children's involvement. The essence of the lottery grant is to involve the local community, and there are going to be lots of opportunities within the grant funding for this involvement take place.

Planning

Planning work still continues, although major projects have been relatively dormant recently. The Travis Perkins site is now coming to fruition in accordance with proposals put forward by the Society at the planning stage.

Redrow

Redrow, the Marmite site of Lymington (love it or hate it – not many people just *like* Marmite), is also coming to fruition, with supposedly 75% of the units sold, meaning that the pedestrian foot bridge should shortly be built.

It is finally starting to show what it will eventually look like, and I have to say, given the fact that it is going to make an impact on the Town because of its size, I think that has been minimised to a certain extent, and the design will in due course be seen to have been innovative. People from Lymington and elsewhere have moved into it, and express their enjoyment of it.

With the building of the pedestrian bridge and

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Pam Morrissey

Chairman's Comments — Contd. from p1

the other features linking it to the river it will shortly become more a part of Lymington.

I want to acknowledge the sudden death of its architect Brian Avery during the summer. Brian was born and brought up in Lymington, and having achieved national status continued to be a good friend to the Society.



Brian Avery

Churchill

The Churchill development on the Dennis Knight site has gone ahead with a reduction in height, and improvements to its original rather block-like appearance, due to representations by the Society. This should take care of the requirements for sheltered housing near the centre of Lymington.

Bus Station

The bus station sheltered housing scheme is a scheme too dense and too close to the centre of Lymington and out of keeping with the conservation area guidelines for the development of the unique burgage plots off the high Street.

The developers are appealing against the refusal of their two proposals on Tuesday, 31 October (Halloween) at the Town Hall, for those who are interested to hear the arguments. The Society supports the NFDC opposition to this development in its present form, and will be attending the hearing to voice our case. We are aware of the concern about the lack of a bus stop at that part of the High Street and the wish by some people to retain the site as a bus station, but one has to say that if it had not become a bus station by accident in the past, it is unlikely that anyone would have designed a bus station in that locality, as opposed to a pickup point for passengers.

Neighbourhood Plan

Possibly one of the most important planning issues in recent years is now rumbling along behind the scenes, which is the initial proposal a year ago to increase the housing in Lymington by 1200 houses over the next 30 years by using sites on the Milford Road and at Buckland.

Whilst the Society wanted to have a Neighbourhood Plan, and the Town Council then started one, it coincided with obvious uncertainty about the eventual allocation of the eventual number of houses to the Lymington area. This was partly because the authorities objected to additional housebuilding close to the Forest for environmental reasons, and partly because of the prospect of the allocated numbers being satisfied by more development land being made available in the Waterside, which now appears to be a real

possibility.

The Town Council went ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan based on a questionnaire relating to 1200 houses, when it was quite clear at that time that that number of houses was questionable. Since the Neighbourhood Plan consultation the number of houses has been reduced, and the consultation has probably lost a certain amount of its point. The Society is trying to determine the current position as to consulting the population over the proposal for the location of 600 houses on “poorly performing” Green Belt land leaving the “better performing” Green Belt land around Buckland untouched.

Incidentally we have just given a representation to the NFDC over the proposal to develop the farm buildings at Buckland with 16 units, suggesting that that is too dense and that the number of units ought to be reduced to reflect the lower density of the existing housing on either side.

Charitable Status

At our last AGM we raised the question of the Society achieving charitable status to be able to obtain tax relief on some of the funds which were donated to the Burrard Neale project. This was approved in principle by the members, and at the next AGM next March we hope to be in a position to propose the adoption of a constitution which will satisfy the Charity Commission and the Inland Revenue as to the charitable status of the Society, which will continue very much on the lines of its current objects.

The Society

Our continuing Committee members all give their support to the various tasks but I would like to mention in particular Heather Burrell who has settled in as treasurer and who in addition would like to see some innovation and greater publicity for the Society, and we will be looking to canvass for new members with a degree of relaunching of the Society and its work building on the success of the Burrard Neale project.



Heather Burrell

I hope existing members will continue to actively support this and that new members will be attracted to join the Society and support its continuing work and in due course join the Committee.

Our social programme continues and I ask you to come to as many of these as possible to support the speakers who give up their time provide some very interesting and illuminating evenings and events.

Social Programme - Upcoming Events

Nov 21st - "Local Solar Farm for Local People"



We are delighted to welcome Anthony Woolhouse, a founder of the West Solent Solar Cooperative, who will talk about the creation of our own local Solar Farm in Pennington. The Cooperative also works with local groups, especially schools, and is active in a number of funded environmental projects. Don't miss this fascinating insight into Lymington's part in a global movement for greener energy.

Lymington Community Centre, Fuller Room
6.00 for 6.30 pm Tickets £5.00

December 14th - Christmas Drinks



All members are cordially invited to our annual Christmas Party which will take place at The Stanwell House Hotel.

The Stanwell House Hotel, 6:00 pm Tickets £7.50

January 23rd 2018 - Art of World War II John Noott Collection



Steve Marshall has kindly agreed to give members a private viewing of this remarkable exhibition.

Here you will see and hear about the art that defines The Battle of Britain, the Blitz and Life on the Home Front during World War Two.

This collection includes over 100 paintings, prints and posters by artists including Montague Dawson, Edward Bawden and Felix Toploski.

Steve's talks are always well received by our members so if you have not been to a talk before then do come along, enjoy a glass of wine and widen your knowledge of this subject.

St Barbe Museum, New Street 6:00 pm Tickets £5.00

MARCH 22nd 2018 - AGM Beaulieu and the SOE



We are very pleased to welcome our guest speaker Nick Saunders, a local historian, who will talk on the Special Operations Executive in WW2 and the training of secret agents at Beaulieu. The talk will give an overview of SOE, how it was formed and its role in WW2. It will review the training that took place on the Beaulieu estate and look at a few of the characters and people involved.

Nick's talk will follow the business part of the meeting, and the members' update of our work during the year.

Lymington Community Centre, McClelland Room
6.30pm for 7pm

Tuesday May 1st 2018 - National Heritage Collection of Shell Posters



We welcome Nicky Balfour Penney of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, who will talk to members about their iconic Collection of Shell posters.

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SOCIAL PROGRAMME — CONTD.

This collection includes over 7,000 printed posters and 1,000 original art works reflecting the charm and character of a nostalgic age of motoring

Lymington Community Centre Fuller Room 6pm

**June 15th 2018 - Annual Garden Party
Chawton House Gardens The High Street**



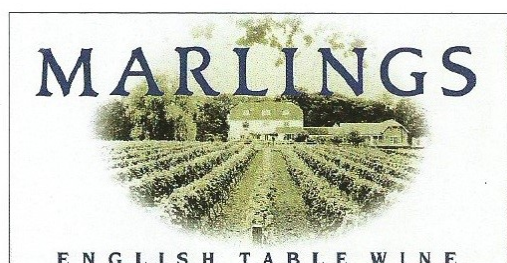
This year the Lymington Society is very grateful to Chawton House Surgery partners for allowing us to use their delightful gardens. Members will be free to explore the picturesque garden and catering will be provided with prosecco, red and white wine, soft drinks and the usual delicious party snacks.

Chawton House Surgery, St Thomas' St.

6:30 pm Tickets £7.50 to include refreshments

Advance Notice Visit to Marlings Vineyard

The Marlings Vineyard takes its name from the centuries-old practice of marling where marl was dug from pits and spread onto farm land to improve soil fertility. Marl is earth containing lime, and naturally occurs in the New Forest.



We are organising a visit to this very local vineyard in Sway, which produces a pink sparkling wine. This is likely to take place in July/ August and we will let members know nearer the time once a firm date has been agreed.

RECENT EVENT

Marine Archaeology of the New Forest



The Lymington Society kicked off its 2017 / 2018 Social Programme in fine style with an excellent talk held at the Lymington Centre on the 20th of September.

National Parks archaeologist Frank Green gave Lymington Society members and their guests a fascinating insight into recent archaeological work along the New Forest and National Parks coastal areas

Frank spoke about projects by both Historic England and The Maritime Archaeological project run by the National Park and gave a chronological walk through areas of the coast where recent finds and discoveries have helped widen knowledge of how former societies have impacted on the landscape.

Trenches dug in the shore at Lepe showed ancient water channels when the climate was much warmer than today, and this also helps give an insight into future trends. Rising sea level and sea surges may well destroy archaeological remains, necessitating a need to record as much as possible in the area while we can.

Coastal erosion at Lymington, for example, has meant the loss of the salt marshes. Historic aerial photographs help to reveal the former position of the coastline and future projections for the area as sea level rises can be predicted.

Frank's talk also highlighted areas like Hengistbury Head where there were extensive iron workings in the 19th Century which led to a devastating effect on the landscape.

Following his talk Frank answered a range of interesting questions asked by members and their guests, after which a vote of thanks was given.

Tickets for all events available from Clive Sutton solicitors
3 The Old Printworks, 85b High St Lymington, SO41 9AN
Or on the door

UNCERTAINTY OVER RESULT OF LOCAL PLAN REVIEW AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Plans by the New Forest District Council in their “Local Plan Review” to push through proposals for huge numbers of new dwellings in the southern coastal strip from Lymington to new Milton are now in disarray following intervention by environmental advisers and revised advice from the government on preserving good quality Green Belt land.

As a result of government guidance, local planning authorities such as the NFDC had been ordered to undertake a review to ensure that sufficient land is made available for housing. Strict targets have been set by the government to ensure that sufficient housing land is allocated to meet the expected demand in each area between now and 2036. Failure to meet these targets could result in the government imposing conditions on local authorities and allocating land directly.

The initial draft of the Local Plan Review, which was featured in a consultation exercise at the Lymington Centre in July last year, set out targets for almost 3000 new dwellings in the coastal communities of Lymington, Milford on Sea, Everton, Hordle, and New Milton. Land around Lymington mainly to the north of Pennington (870 dwellings) and either side of Milford Road near the entrance to the amenity tip (about 240 dwellings) were to supply almost 1200 dwellings between them.

Plans by a developer envisaged an even larger allocation north of Pennington stretching to the Sway Road, of 1500 homes.

The NFDC justification for these huge numbers around Lymington and the coastal strip, was not that Lymington needed these houses but that there was insufficient land elsewhere in the district to meet the government's demands for increased housing allocation. The fact that these dwellings could only be provided by most of the houses going into the Green Belt was apparently acceptable to the NFDC because of the exceptional circumstances that they found themselves in.

In its submission to the consultation exercise last year, the Lymington Society made the point that imposing these huge numbers of dwellings on Lymington was unreasonable and that congestion on the roads leading into this area from such a huge expansion of housing was both environmentally and logistically unsustainable. We also made the point that there was far more suitable brownfield land available on the Waterside round Fawley and Marchwood etc. which was much nearer two major conurbations where housing was needed.

We also criticised the dubious tactic employed by the NFDC which sought to downplay the importance of Green Belt land by portraying much of this land as not very attractive, scrappy land and therefore not worth keeping.

Thankfully, pressure from environmental regulators, (rumoured to be Natural England) as well as restatement of the government's position on preserving good quality well performing Green Belt land has forced a radical rethink by NFDC policy chiefs.

At a recent review of the strategy, the NFDC have now removed all the land to the north of Pennington from their plans leaving only the land adjacent to the Milford Road near the community tip together with a small site to the north and east of the hospice as being allocated for new homes.

Where this leaves the recently published consultation for the Lymington and Pennington Town Council Neighbourhood Plan is unsure as they appeared to be backing the plans by the NFDC for large numbers of houses. They also consulted on the developer's plans for 1500 homes in effectively a new suburb between Pennington and Sway Road. With the dramatic retreat ordered by the NFDC, the Society awaits with interest the Town Council's revised plans for the Neighbourhood Plan in the near future.

As always, we will do our best to keep members fully informed as to the rapidly changing plans put forward on this important topic.



Examples of Good Quality Green Belt land between Pennington and Sway Road that have been recognised as unsuitable for development



LYMINGTON SOCIETY SECURES HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND FUNDING FOR £132,500 RESTORATION AND HERITAGE PROJECT FOR THE BURRARD NEALE MONUMENT

As members will be aware, the Society has been involved for the last three years in a major project to secure the future of the Walhampton Monument to Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale, having been originally introduced to the project by Committee Member Peter Stone.

Together with Peter, Don Mackenzie - Chairman of the Burrard Neale subcommittee of the Society - has for the last three years been coordinating a project to restore the grounds surrounding the monument, with the aim of eventually facilitating the restoration of the monument itself.

The initial project concerned raising sufficient funds (which were mainly provided by the New Forest National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council) to completely transform the grounds around the monument. This was mostly completed in time for the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Harry at Walhampton House in 1765.

However, the project to repair and restore the monument itself, required the raising of much greater funding and for the last two years the Society has been trying to organise a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help pay for the bulk of the cost of this project.

Initially a fundraiser was appointed jointly with the Town Council, on a no win no fee basis, to put together the necessarily very detailed bid required by the HLF but unfortunately this appointment did not work out and almost a year was lost before this arrangement had to be terminated.

Last August the Town Council agreed to accept an offer by the Society to jointly fund, for a total cost of £5,000, the employment of Jan Mein an experienced Associate of SPUD,



The Monument today

who are a well-known social entrepreneurial charity based in Sway who specialise in putting heritage and art based projects together and making bids to national funding bodies.

Peter Stone and Don Mackenzie worked closely with SPUD and a host of other local organisations including schools, St Barbe Museum and Forest Forge Theatre group to put together a detailed grant application to the HLF, which eventually was submitted.

This bid included not just the costs of the restoration of the monument itself but also the essential necessary “learning and engagement” programme which the HLF also require to part of such proposals. This programme is designed to ensure that important educational and heritage benefits for the local population were included in the project.

The bid was eventually submitted in June in the name of the Town Council, who own the land and the monument. Although the decision was not expected for two to three months, the HLF were able to make a quick decision after only three to four weeks which most likely reflected the quality and strength of the bid itself.

Alongside the effort to secure funding from the HLF for the major part of the costs, the Society has been working locally to secure the necessary “match funding” required as part of the funding mix.

At an early stage, we were fortunate to receive a very generous offer of funding from Charles Burnett III, the well-known philanthropist who maintains a house at Newtown Park, although he mainly lives in Houston in the US. Mr Burnett made an offer of £20,000

spud

Burrard Neale Monument — Contd. from p5

towards the project, and £5,000 of this money was spent in the early stages of the preparation of the bid to pay for cleaning trials and the extensive surveys required to ascertain what work was required.

We were also pleased to receive a donation of £7,000 from a family with a close connection to the Burrard family, as well as several smaller donations, including a further £2,000 from the NFNPA, all contributing to a match funding total of £35,000

Following the successful bid to the HLF, the Society has now undertaken to coordinate many aspects of the programme which will now proceed over the next year. This will involve the appointment of a Conservation Accredited Project Manager to ensure the capital works to the monument take place using experienced contractors, together with the appointment of several people who will undertake the “learning and

engagement” programme.

Initial meetings have taken place between the Society and the Town Council to facilitate the appointment of the necessary contractors and consultants, and more details will be forthcoming in the next month or two with the view that work will start on the project in the Spring.

The Society should be proud that it has taken the initiative to rescue this important monument and surrounding grounds from neglect and virtual abandonment with the aim that this Grade II* Listed monument is preserved for future generations. The Burrard Neale Subcommittee will endeavour to keep the membership fully informed as work progresses.



Nigel Seth-Smith, Peter Stone, Heather Burrell and Don Mackenzie from the Lymington Society, with Caroline Godfrey the Town Clerk (third from left) and Mark Tomlinson, director St Barbe museum (far right)

Do You Know Anyone Who Would Like to Join the Society?



Members enjoying a Summer Drinks Party at East Grove

New members are always welcome to the society. Membership brings benefits with our social events and, perhaps even more significantly, it enables the Society to play an important role in local affairs, as defined in our constitution. As a Society with more than four hundred members we are considered as representative of caring citizens in the community, and it is this recognition which helps us to influence the various local authorities.

If you know anyone who shares your love of the neighbourhood and is not a member, please invite them to visit the website at www.lymsoc.co.uk and download a membership form, or ask for one at Clive Sutton's office at 3 The Old Printworks, 85b High St Lymington, SO41 9AN

Bus Station Development—Lymington Society to appear at Planning Appeal



*Artist's
impression
of the street
view of the
rejected
application*

Following the decision of the Go-Ahead Bus Company, together with developers Renaissance Retirement Ltd, to appeal against the refusal by the NFDC to grant permission for two virtually identical schemes to build 17 retirement flats on the site of the current Wilts and Dorset Bus Station, Chairman Clive Sutton will be representing the Lymington Society at the Planning Appeal being held on Tuesday, 31st of October at the Town Hall in Lymington.

The Society supports the Town Council and the District Council, both of whom have decisively rejected this development as overwhelmingly out of keeping in appearance, scale, and mass and totally unsuitable for this important and historic site in the centre of town.

The Society believes that this important and large space, off the High Street and in the centre of Lymington, should be developed with a mixed scheme of retail, office, and residential units in a courtyard setting, similar to the very attractive scheme in Angel Courtyard on the other side of the High Street.

This could be the last chance to help maintain and bolster the vitality of Lymington's important High Street shopping area, which brings so many people to the town, and we are determined to stop this unsuitable and damaging development which could set a very dangerous precedent for the conversion of other sites to yet more retirement flats.

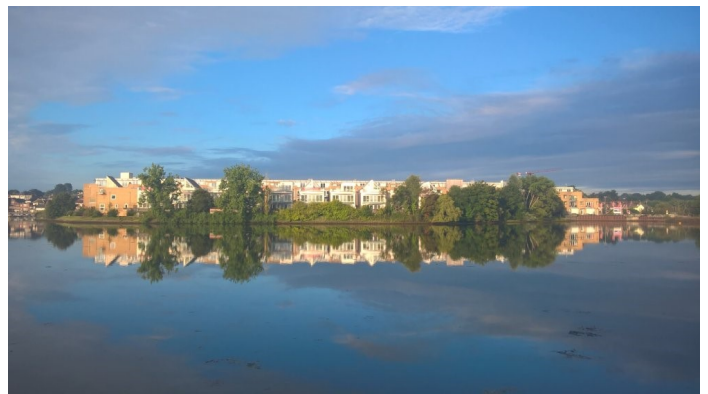
Speaking before the Appeal Hearing Society Chairman Mr Sutton said.

“A new scheme for a different more commercial or mixed use, retaining a substantial retail element which is the current permitted use of this site, should be explored, which will enable a greater involvement in it by the ordinary users of High Street premises and visitors to our High Street premises, to maintain the vibrancy of the town centre, which as with so many other town centres is challenged by out-of-town retail use and now Internet shopping.

The site needs to allow for a mixture of retail, office and social uses which will contribute to the vibrancy of the town. It

also needs to pay particular attention to the frontage from the point of view of creating a built link between the two existing sides of the frontage, and an opportunity for views into the rear plot as described by the conservation officer as a feature of the other similar sites in the High Street”

The Redrow Site



By Heather Burrell

When I attended the public meeting in 2011 at the Community Centre about the proposed development of the Redrow site, little did I think that I would be writing about it 6 years later. In that time the building work has proceeded apace and appears almost to be complete. The sign at the entrance to the site now proclaims that 70% of the dwellings have been sold and it is surely only a matter of time before work starts on the planned pedestrian footbridge linking the site to the town.

Some of the homes are now occupied, the site is no longer locked so visitors can walk through it and enjoy the open spaces between the buildings. Some key features we now see as an integral part of the site are among the issues which the Society fought for. These include:-

The preservation of the trees along the shoreline which soften the view of the development from the east of the river

The riverside walk which is largely finished and will be of real benefit to local residents as will the rowing club pontoon

The retail, restaurant and gallery areas are not yet open but occupy a prominent position looking down the river. I can't wait to sit with a glass of wine in hand enjoying that particular view.

As you can see the innovative design is most striking and the blue lights of the pontoon which stretches far out into the river are particularly eye catching at night. So go along and have a look – see what you think of what became of the land where the chicken factory used to be.