



## NEWSLETTER NO 81 AUTUMN 2017

Weymouth Civic Society works to conserve the historic towns and harbours of Weymouth and Portland and to enhance their built environment.

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*Dear Members and Friends*

Welcome to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! I do hope you enjoyed a good summer and are looking forward to events which occur at this time of year.

As I think back to activities we have shared as an organisation during recent months, I think about one that I had to miss but thought about on a number of occasions, namely Civic Day in June when we celebrated the open spaces and gardens we enjoy in our borough. By all accounts, it was a success with the 'Friends' of various gardens putting on different activities, particularly welcoming people who were following our trail leaflet or just aimed for one particular place. Our grateful thanks goes to David Carter for his time and effort in co-ordinating the day.

Another event of note was our visit to Sutton Poyntz pumping station and museum. Even though it was a boiling hot day, we appreciated so much being shown how our water comes to us, a real feat of imagination and engineering – we are so lucky to get our water straight out of the ground and not recycled as happens in other parts of the country. We went inside the buildings as well to see the historic equipment used and progressively replaced from Victorian times. It was a fascinating two hours, as I am sure all those who attended will agree.

A few of us from the planning and environment committee were invited by the new owners to view the Victorian bank building at the end of Bond

Street, recently used as public toilets. They have a massive task ahead to turn it into a family home but it has great potential and we wish them well. It is just sad that we have lost a much needed facility in the middle of town. We await future developments in that regard. Talking of the Esplanade, I hope you have taken part in the public consultations about future lighting along the seafront.



Dorothy Hyman is to be congratulated on the publicity surrounding the Tudor House. It has been featured in several publications recently and her recruiting drive has brought a number of new volunteers to help. I know they join a band of dedicated and enthusiastic receptionists and guides. Someone else we will be welcoming into our midst is Louise Baker, the new general manager for the Nothe Fort, starting in October. She comes from several interesting posts in London so we wish her a long and successful time with us.

Talking of vacancies filled, we still have a considerable number which need people to cover them. We need a treasurer and a volunteer liaison officer at the Fort. In addition, the society is looking for a new treasurer, not an onerous, but very necessary job. Please speak to one of the directors if you could help in any capacity.

I look forward to seeing you at our meetings this Autumn, details of which are on the back of this publication.

My best wishes,

***Mary Bennett - Chairman***

## **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Progress on the great Masterplan for our town:**

Four of our borough councillors recently formed a scrutiny working group focussing on ‘two distinct areas – the impact of conservation area policies on the town centre regeneration programme and the powers there were to enforce appropriate maintenance of town centre listed buildings as well as to enable developments within and around them.’ In June the result was presented to the Scrutiny and Performance Committee for approval to be forwarded to the Management Committee.

We await the outcome. But the initial report bears some interesting findings, the prime one being that the Planning Department is under-resourced. ‘There is recognition that the council needs help in this area.’ ‘There is a lack of awareness of Weymouth’s historic features and events and more should be made of what the town already has.’ Heading the list of ideas and suggestions is the appointment of a Town Manager and this has already been done. Following in the list are several items which include mention of our Society and the possibility of our being able to help. There are opportunities on several fronts which could involve members with particular interests or skills. Please let me know if you are interested. You may find the report on our website or by contacting me direct. This is surely a challenge we must not allow to escape us.

As we go to press the Council have announced that the future of the former offices on North Quay is now in the melting pot. Let us hope that any future negotiations are carried out with forethought and a clear mission to give our harbourside the future that it deserves.

***Pru Bollam- Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee***

## **TUDOR HOUSE**

Tudor House has been on something of a roller coaster ride. Following our success with our Summer Opening Day, which was very well supported, we immediately lost three excellent volunteers, through no fault of their own.

We were facing a crisis which meant we would have to cut our opening hours drastically and possibly even close for the rest of the season.

After contacting Dorset Echo, and following it with a Radio Solent appeal, we had 32 enquiries, and have gained 12 very promising new volunteers, who are very keen to learn and support us, so not only has the problem been avoided, but we have been able to extend our Sunday opening hours to 11-4pm.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who applied, some of whom have gone onto our very useful reserve list.

We opened for Dorset Architectural week for Saturday, Sunday and Monday and had 322 visitors and a very full Donation Box.  
Next stop Christmas!!!!!! "

*Dorothy Hyman – Custodian*



## **NOTHE FORT**

The Board of Weymouth Civic Society is pleased to announce that following David Joy's departure, a new General Manager has been appointed for the Nothe Fort. Louise Baker, who joins us from Madame Tussauds in London, is currently a cultural archivist, looking after a large team of volunteers.

Louise has previously worked as a manager at the Museum of London, and as a supervisor at the Cutty Sark Clipper Ship, and is well qualified in both museums and health and safety management. She is very much looking forward to meeting staff and volunteers when she starts on 2 October with a week of introduction.

Louise has been selected following a thorough recruitment and selection campaign, which was supported by our HR consultancy provider, Quay HR. The vacancy was advertised both locally and nationally, and we were fortunate to receive applications from a good number of well qualified and experienced individuals. All applications were carefully assessed against a person specification for suitability, and those shortlisted undertook a scored, competency based interview.

Nothe Fort Committee, Civic Society Board and staff members were also given the opportunity to provide feedback, and this was carefully considered before a final appointment was made. Thank you to everybody who has given their time to support this process by giving feedback and meeting the interviewees.

In her interview, Louise expressed a desire to hear the views of all staff and volunteers as part of her induction to the role. We are currently working towards Louise joining our team on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, and we thank you in advance for making her feel very welcome, as we are sure you will.

# **CIVIC DAY IN WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND**

**17 June 2017**

**The tributes below sum up the success of our first Civic Day**

**From David Carter - WCS member and Organiser**

It would be unfair to name any individuals but a special thanks to all those who have spent many days helping to get this project off the ground. We have had highs and lows and learnt many lessons, if we were ever tempted to try something similar. But the overwhelming feeling is that the profile of gardens, parks and open spaces, friends groups and the Civic Society has been raised. Our best moment was when a visitor from Northumbria asked in the Haven Owners Lounge (on the Esplanade where an exhibiton was held) 'How had the Council managed to have maintained such wonderful and varied well kept gardens in the borough in a period of austerity?' So I told him, good management, dedicated gardeners, good friends groups and a sense of pride in our community.

**From Tara Williams -Greenspaces and Bereavement Services Manager**

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, contributions, activities, help, advice, criticism etc. We are now poised and ready for Civic Day and I hope all your events and activities exceed your expectations.

**From Pru Bollam - Vice-chairman of Weymouth (and Portland)Civic Society** On behalf of the whole of Weymouth Civic Society, I am passing on our thanks for the wonderful response there has been to the suggestion of celebrating our Civic Pride in the Parks and Gardens of our borough.

Under the leadership of our member David Carter, many volunteers from groups of Friends, assisted by the involvement of Tara Williams, the Borough's Parks and Gardens officer, have worked together to produce a superbly organised event. We very much appreciate the support and involvement given by the Mayor of the Borough and of the Mayor of Portland during the event. We can all be proud of our Parks and Gardens and for having made them better known to our residents and our visitors.

**WEYMOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY**  
**Programme of Meetings and Visits 2017 -18**

**October 16**            **VISIT to Cumber Veterinary Practice**  
Chikerell            A tour and Talk by Dave Cumber  
Link Park            at Cumber Veterinary Practice, Unit D1 Link Park,  
                                 Chickerell Link Road, Weymouth DT3 4FL

**November 20**            **ANNUAL AWARDS**  
Nothe Fort            followed by cheese and wine.

**December**                            **NO MEETING**

**January 15**            **The Thomas Fowell Buxton Society**  
St Nicholas            Speaker – Ms Joyce Fannon  
Buxton Rd

**February 19**            **Fifty Years of Conservation Areas**  
Colin Ellis – former Conservation Officer, W&PBC

*Unless otherwise stated all meetings start at 7.30 at St Nicholas Church, Buxton Road and are open to the public as well as members' guests.  
A contribution of £2 per person is invited towards the expenses of the meeting.*

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**Committee Meetings**

**Board Meetings**

Mondays at the Fort 10.30am

October 9  
November 6  
December 4  
January 8  
February 5

**Planning and Environment**

Fridays at 71 Roman Road 4.00pm

October 13  
November 10  
December 8  
January 12  
February 9