



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

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

In this issue we cover news in brief, an article from Brenda Picket about a particularly successful building extension and we launch a fun exercise to draw up the developments you would like to see on the Peninsula site in Weymouth.

News in Brief

Planning And Environment Committee

The Committee's work up to the end of September can be seen on the Society's website in our bi-monthly reports under 'PLANNING'. Since then, Pauline Crump's, resignation and the loss of Gerald Mabb have been a huge loss.

Tudor House

Tudor House opened for 2 days a week this summer and for Dorset Architectural Heritage Week. Entry was free and we asked for a donation.

This proved popular with visitors, the latest 4 Google reviews read:

"Surprisingly lovely tour of the Tudor House today — sadly it will close for the season from today, but really great guided history tour in Weymouth!"

" Historic building. Guide was very knowledgeable"

" My mum and I both thoroughly enjoyed visiting this historic building which luckily was lovingly restored after World War 2 and had it not been was due to be demolished because of the bad state it was in."

"A delightful trip back in time. A beautifully kept window on the past. Well worth a look. Our thanks go to the knowledgeable guides who brought the place to life."

A new member of staff has been recruited on a 2-year contract to re-imagine and modernise some of the displays at Nothe Fort and, for 2 days a week, at Tudor House.

Town Walks

Two walks for Dorset Architectural Heritage week were led by Graham Perry and Pauline Crump, supported by stewards. Both groups said they were delighted to discover so many lesser known aspects of the town.

Gerald Mabb

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Gerald Mabb. Many of you will know of his enormous contribution to the Society and to the life of the town. As a colleague on the Board, and Secretary until 2019, we relied on his great experience in business, his technical knowledge of civil engineering and local authority working. He was also a stalwart of the Planning Committee. He was the kindest of men, supportive of colleagues with great good humour. He will be sorely missed.

Pauline Crump

Pauline has stood down as a Director and as Chair of the Planning and Environmental Committee. The board would like to thank her for all her hard work on behalf of the Society over the years and offer our best wishes.

NUMBER 5 GREENHILL – THE REAR EXTENSION

As you are approaching Weymouth seafront by car from Dorchester Road, you will first drive up Westerhall, the linking road connecting with Greenhill. Ahead of you on the right, near the junction, is the impressive tall rear part of a property which fronts on to Greenhill - Number 5.



There would be nothing unusual about that, except that this whole rear extension, which looks just like a Victorian building, was in fact newly constructed in 2005.

Number 5 Greenhill may be more familiar as the former Royal Naval Hotel, or the Province of Natal Hotel. It was built in 1885 as a pair of semi-detached houses, designed by well-known local architect G. Crickmay. We read that it became a hotel, then in 1949 was bought by a group of South African fundraisers as a thank-you to the Royal Navy for their support in the war, providing accommodation for service families, hence the 'Royal Naval' name. Later it was renamed the Province of Natal Hotel, reflecting the South African origins. Eventually, a few years after the 1995 closure of Portland Naval Base, the hotel also closed in 2001. It then lay empty for a while.



What we see now is the result of the building's purchase by Breathe Homes, who instigated a major restructuring and enlargement of it, completed in 2005 to provide nine apartments, re-named "Number 5 Greenhill". The project included an extraordinary alteration of the rear of the building, where there was a 3-storeys high grim and ugly extension, replacing it by the handsome 'Victorian' structure that now exists. After 120 years, it was, interestingly, John Stark & Crickmay Partnership, the inheritors of the architectural practice (now Crickmay Stark Architects) who designed it. The original 1885 architectural

drawings of Number 5 Greenhill from the Crickmay Archive still existed and were used to re-create precise

details of the extension's design. Probably the most visible difference from the main building of Number 5 as first constructed was the use of aluminium windows. Their most commendable achievement was awarded a Certificate of Merit in Weymouth Civic Society's Annual Awards 2005.

As a result of this painstaking work, the old and the new now blend seamlessly together. This transformed the important view up Westerhall on this main route into Weymouth from a depressing dark grey lump of a three storey extension to a splendid gabled stone edifice. I recommend everyone to take a good look as you go past, and consider how Weymouth has benefitted from such a major enhancement of this important part of the town.

[Detailed information from Dorset Echo 12/11/01 and courtesy of Crickmay Stark Architects].

Brenda Pickett. 2022

Nothe of the Living Dead: Into the Underworld

28 Oct 2022, 18:00 – 29 Oct 2022, 23:00

For 2022, we're promising bigger scares and trials for participants who must battle a small group of redundant and resentful world leaders who have combined forces to open a portal between earth and the underworld.



As in previous years, the event is a collaboration between local charities the Nothe Fort and Island Community Action (ICA), and CIC EPIC Games Dorset.

Minimum age is 16 (Under 18's must be accompanied by a participating / paying adult). **NB:** This experience is not suitable for anyone who is pregnant; has a heart, neck or back condition; or suffers from epilepsy or claustrophobia.

Book your tickets [HERE](#)

Remembrance Installation

8 Nov 2022, 10:30 – 22 Nov 2022, 16:00

We are working in collaboration with We Are Weymouth Business, Houseworks Dorset CIC as well as local community groups and members, to create a cascade of poppies on the Nothe fort.



Made out of recycled materials, the poppies will be hung across the entrance of the Fort for 3 weeks, where you can visit and pay your respects.

Take Part

If you have any 2ltr or 500ml plastic bottles please drop them into the *William Henry Wetherspoons (1 Frederick Place)* and *The Veterans Hub (12 Portland Rd)*.

You can also join the last of the free poppy-making workshops

Saturday 29th Oct, 10-2pm - SALVATION ARMY at Westham road

For those with family or friends that have served, you can name your poppies in their honour

Design the Peninsula



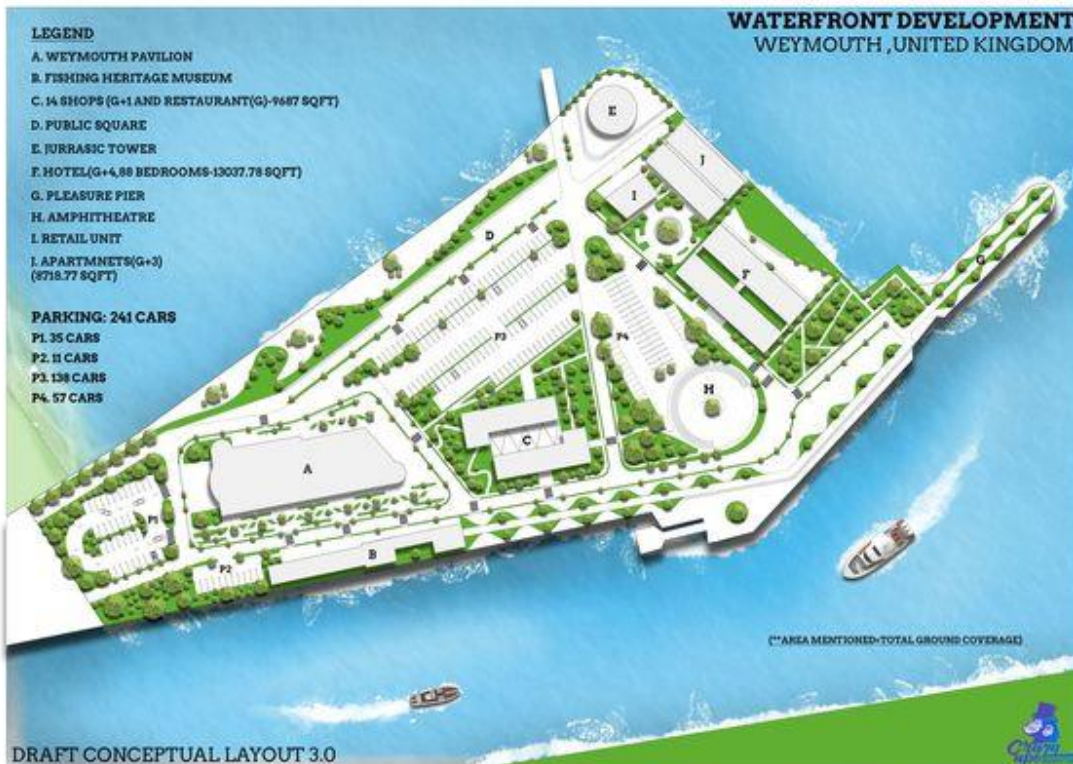
Since the closure of the ferry service, the peninsula site has stood largely idle. It has been the subject of design suggestions by W&P and Dorset Councils. Most recently on Social media, local firm Crazy Ape Marketing have shared proposals “for fun” and to start a conversation.

They say “We have got things started with a site plan to include a real tourist attraction in the Jurassic Tower, adding in lots of space and landscaping with a mix of retail, hotel and

apartments as it needs to be a commercially viable project after all!

The [Weymouth Pavilion](#) is of course still front of house! With the addition of a maritime heritage museum and stunning outdoor amphitheater for events”

Here’s their suggested plan. Let us know what you think of it by emailing info@weymouthcivicsociety.org



It’s not at all clear that the Peninsula site is either physically strong enough or sufficiently resistant to flooding, to support any major development, but in the spirit of a fun exercise we have included a blank outline map on the next page for you to have a go at your own design. The best ones will be published on our Facebook site.

To enter a drawing, take a photograph of it with your phone and email to us info@weymouthcivicsociety.org or post it to 8 Portland Road Weymouth DT4 9ES

And Finally

We are assembling our new programme of meetings and evening talks. Please get in touch at the same email with suggestions for the kinds of meetings (talks from Speakers or consultations) you would like to see organised. Let us know the best and worst days of the week and times of day to hold meetings.

