

COWES HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2018



Annual General Meeting

followed by an

ILLUSTRATED TALK

“THE CLASSIC BOAT MUSEUM”

Tuesday 10th April 7.00pm

**At Birmingham Rd,
Methodist Church.**

All welcome, free entry.

Refreshments & a chance to chat
about Cowes & district.

Coves Heritage, like many other groups, is in need of new people especially those with an interest in the history of where they live. An opportunity to find out more about this group is at our AGM where there will be a chance to chat to members. Please come along, it is free, open to all and the AGM business will be very short.

There will also be a talk about the Classic Boat Museum which is vital on an island with such a rich maritime history.

John Groves has stepped down as the Chairman of Cowes Heritage and has agreed to become the first President of the group. It is difficult to know where to start when writing about John's contribution. Aply assisted by Maureen, John has been the driving force since Cowes Heritage formed in 2003. With his vast knowledge of local history, John has guided the group. As individuals researched topics for annual exhibitions, John and Maureen ensured that it all came together.

It was a great decision when I decided to become involved in what has been a great success; I personally wish to thank John and Maureen for the guidance and friendship.

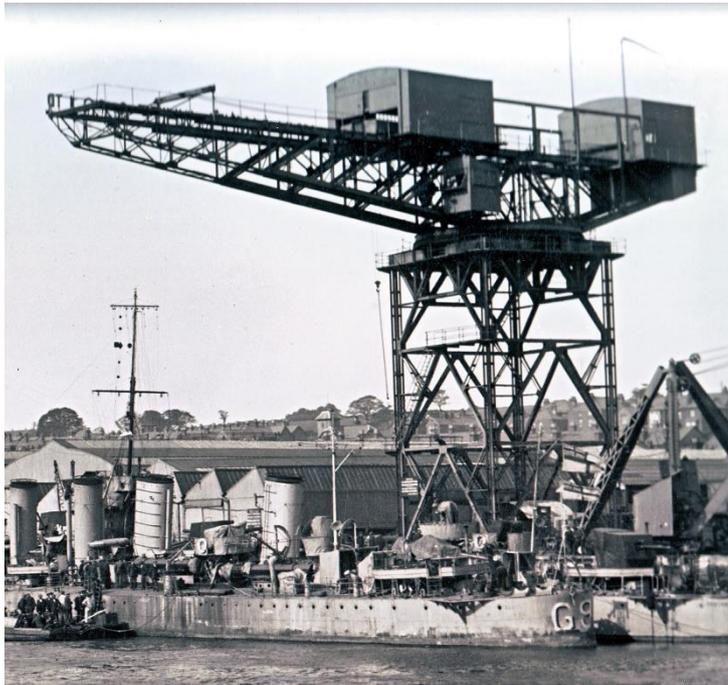
In December John and I gave a talk to the Probus club which concentrated on the 1950s and 1960s in Cowes. The more mature local residents might remember this view of Medina Rd, some may have been lucky enough to have seen the Saunders Roe SR 45 Princess Flying Boat's maiden flight on 22nd August 1952. Just 3 were built but only this one flew, the others were mothballed at Calshot where this craft was towed by Harry Spencer on 15th April 1967; the Princess flying boat's last journey.



While in a nostalgic mood, here are a few of the many images in our archive from an age when few homes had TVs and today's incredible technology would have been impossible to predict.

Stepping off the Floating Bridge; still risky today!

The adjacent Bell Inn has anti-flood boards in place.



Once a busy shipyard producing world class ships; today only the Hammerhead Crane remains to remind us of J S Whites.

The Royalty Cinema in Birmingham Rd, up for sale in this 1960s picture; death by TV! Snellgrove's next door and Watt's opposite was where DIY products could be bought.



On the Parade the Pavilion Hotel provided wonderful views of the Solent while having afternoon tea in the upstairs restaurant. It was demolished in 1958 or 1959 to make way for the rather uninspiring bandstand & toilets.



Being sensible and not venturing out during the recent snow reminded me of the winter of 1962/63. It started snowing on Boxing Day and the big freeze lasted for over six weeks; like the rest of the UK, the Island ground to a standstill. This picture was taken in Cockleton Lane.

Not yet finalised but we intend to open our meeting room for people to browse our archives, ask questions and perhaps research specific subjects. Likely to start in May, it is hoped that these will be monthly events. Volunteers are still working through the wealth of material donated by Charlie and Bernard Taylor; once catalogued these will be available to view. Subject to possible change but at present our October exhibition will feature material collected by Charlie & Bernard; it will also commemorate the end of the First World War. Opening at Regatta House on Saturday 20th October, it will close on Remembrance Sunday 11th November. Our exhibition will form part of what will be an important day both nationally and locally, as the centenary of Armistice Day is celebrated.

