

Cowes Heritage NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2019.



**Cowes Heritage is pleased to present a talk
by local historian Mark Earp.**



**The illustrated talk will be at Birmingham
Road Methodist Church on Tuesday 12th March 7.30pm.
Entry is free, Refreshments will be available.**

COWES THE IW MARITIME CENTRE

C O W E S

ROYALS, RACERS and REPROBATES.

The central graphic is a rectangular box with a black border. At the top, the text 'COWES THE IW MARITIME CENTRE' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this text is a collage of four photographs: the top-left shows a busy harbor with many sailboats and people on the shore; the top-right shows a harbor scene with a large ship and a flag; the bottom-left shows a ferry boat on the water; and the bottom-right shows a speedboat. In the center of the collage, the word 'COWES' is written in large, bold letters, with each letter accompanied by a small flag icon. At the bottom of the box, the text 'ROYALS, RACERS and REPROBATES.' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

This will be a chance to learn something new about Cowes. Royals and Racers have a long history in Cowes going back to George 4th and the founding of the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1815, while Reprobates have always been with us! Mark's talks are always interesting and there will be time for questions.

Our second event to which we hope you will join us, whether a member or not, is Cowes Heritage's Annual General Meeting. This will be on Tuesday 14th May, 7.00pm at Birmingham Road Methodist Church. After the brief business there will be a talk by Sarah Burdett "History of the Floating Bridge." Sarah is very knowledgeable and has written a book about this vital crossing of the Medina. She is concentrating on the first 8 craft, however I'm sure mention of the, constantly in the news, present vessel will crop up!



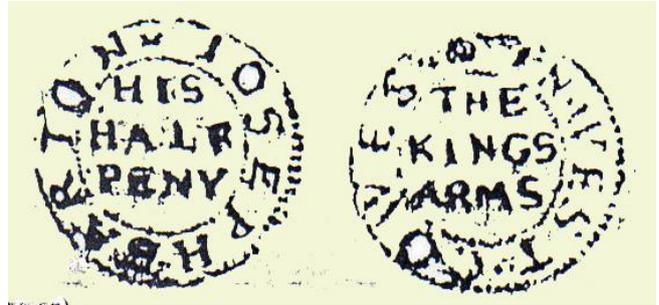
Pictured here is Floating Bridge Number 3 which transported millions between East & West Cowes between 1896 and 1925.

At our Annual exhibition "Made in Cowes" next October we will be exploring Cowes's rich manufacturing history as well as hobbies that have left a physical legacy. While we have featured many industries in earlier exhibitions I'm confident our diligent researchers will come up with something new and absorbing. We have some interesting artefacts relating to traditional crafts, many of which are lost.

If you had an interesting or unusual trade we would love to hear from you.

A look at Cowes High Street of earlier days cannot be complete without a look at Butchers. The building at the bottom of Terminus Road, 27 High Street, opposite the Pier View, has a long history going back to when it was the King's Arms in the 17th Century.

Opposite is a facsimile of a token produced by Joseph Barton, landlord of the King's Arms in about 1669 at a period of British History when Trade Tokens formed a convenient substitute for a coin of the realm, in short supply during periods of rapid growth when the national mint struggled to produce sufficient coinage. A fire in 1764 destroyed the pub plus nearby houses. The present structure replaced the old houses and a butchers shop opened. Becoming by the time it closed the longest continually open butchers in the country.



Three pictures of 27 High Street originally Caws, later Smith's the butchers. First 1936 note the amazing display of carcasses. Next 1950 Tom Smith (far left) was now the owner; a shrewd businessman he took over several other butchers across the Island. The coloured picture shows Tom's son Rodney (right) with able and friendly assistant, Tony.



In 1950 there were 8 Butchers in Cowes today there is one. Other shops lost are Fishmongers, there were 3 in 1950, Chemists have gone from 5 to 1. Looking back even further there were 10 Bakers & Confectioners in 1888 and 19 Public Houses, there were no Estate Agents or Charity shops. How things have changed.

A very brief history of Cowes Heritage.

Cowes Heritage was formed in 2003 as a consequence of a Government scheme aimed at promoting community involvement; this resulted in the formation of Cowes Community Partnership; a legacy of this is Cowes Heritage. Our first exhibition in June 2004, at what was then Bonham's in the High St, coincided with the 60th Anniversary of D Day 6th of June. Entitled "Cowes at War" its success set a precedent for later exhibitions. Pictured at the exhibition are Keith Beken, Surgeon Captain MacDonald, who both saw active service in the Second world War, and our then Chairman, now President John Groves.



A DVD was produced which is still available to purchase.

Further exhibitions

covered topics ranging from "Maritime Cowes" (left) "JS Whites" in 2006 then "Cowes at Play",

"Transport through

the Ages", "School Days", "A History of Cowes Churches", & "Northwood House". These were followed by "Turn Back Time", "Cowes in the Fifties", "Who do you think lived here?" & "1910-1920 A Decade of Change"

Cross St School (right) was just one of the many schools featured in our School Days exhibition.

More recently Somerton Airport was featured then we asked the question "How well do you know Cowes" material left to Cowes Heritage by the late Charlie Taylor the main feature last year.

Something we are proud of are the range of books and DVDs we have produced for sale. These are still available to purchase in Cowes Library, local newsagents as well the IW County Press and Waterstones, they can also be viewed & purchased on our website www.cowesheritage.co.uk

In conclusion we are always looking for new members, this simply means providing contact details plus permission to contact you via newsletters plus any news. We will not share your data with any others.

Please contact me if you can help or are seeking information.



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