

Following our successful visits to Glasgow, Dundee and Liverpool, a long weekend of activities is currently being planned around a visit to the waterfront city of Portsmouth. The weekend will be Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 and will include:

- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**

### **Visit to RNLi College & All-Weather Lifeboat Centre, Poole**

Our weekend will begin with a visit to the RNLi College and All-Weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, Dorset. We will meet around noon and enjoy a light buffet lunch followed by a tour of the RNLi College and its training facilities, including the world-class Sea Survival centre which hosts a wave tank and Lifeboat simulator. If time allows, we will move on to the ALC workshop facilities to see how the RNLi build new all-weather boats, refit, repair and maintain the all-weather fleet and other local inshore relief lifeboats (please note the accessibility arrangements). We will then catch the train back to Portsmouth (change at Southampton Central).

Please note that Poole is around 1hr 10mins by train from Southampton Central and just under two hours from Portsmouth. There is an hourly train service, requiring connections at Southampton Central.

The visit to Poole has been planned around catching the 0923hrs from Portsmouth arriving Poole at 1136hrs, with the return journey catching the 1607hrs from Poole getting back to Portsmouth by 1752hrs.

- **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020**

### **Emirates Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth**

We will begin our day by meeting at the Emirates Spinnaker Tower at 1000hrs where your tickets for the weekend will be issued. We will then be spirited to the top of the tower (in 28 seconds), some 100 metres above where we will enjoy a dedicated tour from one of the guides. Take in the view, tremble at the knees or enjoy High Tea, the choice is yours. [Note, we may be split into two groups depending on numbers].

### **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**

We will then descend from the tower, passing the gift shop on the way out, and move on to spend the day exploring Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Our Portsmouth Pass tickets will allow us access to all the attractions, including:

- **Harbour Tours:** Enjoy a 45min Harbour Tour and see many of the fortifications that were built to protect Portsmouth over the centuries, in particular the Round Tower at the harbour entrance and the Solent forts which formed the centre of a string of fortifications along the coast during the Napoleonic Wars. Note: subject to weather!

- **HMS Warrior:** HMS Warrior 1860, Britain's first iron-hulled, armoured battleship and the newest member of The National Museum of the Royal Navy's fleet. Launched in 1860, at a time of empire and Britain's dominance in trade and industry, HMS Warrior 1860 was the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet.

- **HMS Victory:** There have been many celebrated warships in Britain's naval history but HMS Victory can justifiably claim to be the most famous of them all. Having served as Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, she has become one of the UK's most-loved visitor attraction.

- **Mary Rose Museum:** The Mary Rose retells the Tudor story through ship's artefacts and interactive displays inside a purpose-built museum located within Portsmouth Dockyard.
- **HMS M.33:** HMS M.33 is not only the sole remaining British veteran of the bloody Dardanelles Campaign of 1915-1916, but also of the Russian Civil War which followed. The ship is one of just three British warships from World War I still in existence.
- **D-Day Story:** The focus of The D-Day Story is the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany occupation using the personal possessions and words of the people who took part. Stunning imagery, audio-visual presentations and hands-on interactives help to bring the story to life.
- **Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower:** The story of naval warfare is told in dramatic style at Explosion!, an interactive museum housed in the Royal Navy's former Ordnance Depot at Priddy's Hard, centred around the powder magazine designed in 1771.
- **National Museum of Royal Navy:** The National Museum of the Royal Navy brings history to life. It showcases treasures from the past 350 years and examines the common threads which link the sailor of England's 'Wooden Walls' to the professional crews of today.
- **Royal Navy Submarine Museum:** Assault all your senses by walking onboard HMS Alliance, the only remaining WW2 era submarine, and take a journey through every decade of her service. Take a peek through the working periscopes, and see, hear and even smell how life was lived under the sea.

### **Dinner at Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club**

After our (very) busy day on Saturday, we will enjoy dinner in the Trafalgar Room of the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club. The RNC&RAYC can trace its roots back to the 1860s when it became a sanctuary and watering hole for naval officers who were a long way from home. In 1971 it merged with the Royal Albert Yacht Club.

We hope to invite Adrian Saunders, Commodore of the RNC&RAYC, to give a short talk on the club, its history and activities.

1830 for 1900hrs. Attendance will be limited to 70 persons, due to room size.

Dress code: blazer and (RHYC) club tie.

### • **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

Sunday will begin where Saturday left off...

As you will quickly conclude, there is too much to compress into one day. Our Portsmouth Pass tickets however will allow us to visit the attractions we didn't see on Saturday. The passes will be valid for one year, so members could consider staying longer and/or returning later in the year.

#### • **Costs**

In terms of costs, these will depend in some way on the numbers attending. At this point, the anticipated costs will be around £140-£150 per person, comprising:

- Lunch & RNLI Tour, Poole £30
- Portsmouth Passes £65 adult / £57 concessions
- Dinner RNC&RAYC £55

#### • **Travel**

Members are invited to organise their own accommodation and travel arrangements. When planning travel, it might be useful to know;

- We will be based around the Gunwharf Quays area of Portsmouth Harbour.
  - The RNC&RAYC is located on Pembroke Road, around a 15 minute walk from Gunwharf Quay.
  - The railway station is Portsmouth Harbour (end of the line), just over a 5 minute walk from Gunwharf Quay.
  - There are a number of standard hotels in the waterfront area, with other major brands toward the city centre (Portsmouth & Southsea) a little further away. A new Premier Inn hotel is currently being built near the Historic Dockyard but it is not clear if it will be open in time. There are a number of small apartments available in Gunwharf Quay for the same prices as a hotel room.
  - Southampton is the nearest airport with four flights a day from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Southampton Airport Parkway station is immediately outside the airport (2 minute walk) from where you can catch connections to Southampton Central (two stops) and then an onward connection to Portsmouth/Poole. Alternatively you can catch the U1C bus from the terminal building which weaves its way through to Southampton, calling at Southampton Central railway station.
  - Poole railway station is around a 10 minute walk from the RNLI College.
- Please contact the Secretary to register your interest. We will keep you posted as to developments. We will be seeking payments (in full) early in the New Year, to allow us to purchase the tickets.









