

Friends of the Royal Marines Museum

Summer 2016 Newsletter



Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



The SeaMore Project

Royal Marines yomp into Portsmouth Historic Dockyard!

Grant from Heritage Lottery Fund transforms the telling of the Naval Story

- A Major Heritage Lottery Fund grant will create the country's newest national collection at The National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Access to naval heritage will be transformed as key artefacts from five museums across the National Museum will be relocated to one Centre for Discovery
- The grant allows for the much-needed move of The Royal Marines Museum, broadening the massive appeal of the Royal Marines story to visitors at the heart of naval heritage

The National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) is delighted to announce support worth £13.85million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) with an award that will transform access to naval heritage and allow for the much-needed move of the Royal Marines Museum into Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

The project, entitled SeaMore, will create the country's newest national museum collection in an innovative Centre for Discovery at the NMRN's base in Portsmouth. Over two million artefacts, currently kept in 30 separate stores within 14 buildings across nine sites, will be relocated and made accessible to visitors in a bold move to revolutionise the way the epic story of the Royal Navy is told.

Many of these items, which include everything from unique documents, photographs, medals, paintings and archaeology which are currently at risk in buildings and stores not fit for purpose. The Centre for Discovery will not only provide a safe haven for these collections but

will be available daily to view and access in a way not previously possible.

Key to opening up the Museum to a much wider audience is the move of the Royal Marines Museum and its 1,000,000 collection items from its current base at Eastney into Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, alongside internationally renowned attractions like HMS Victory and the Mary Rose.

The Royal Marines Museum will move into Boathouse 6, the Grade II Victorian boathouse that currently houses Action Stations to create dynamic galleries, activities and personal stories of the unique ethos of the Royal Marines 350-year history including the Corps' music which has



Continued on Page 2.....



The SeaMore Project *(continued from page 1)*

captivated audiences around the world. The Museum will be a living memorial to the loyalty, duty and sacrifices of the Corps and very importantly entirely accessible to those who have been injured or incapacitated in the line of duty. It is due to open in 2019.

Sir Peter Luff, Chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund said: "We loved the National Museum of the Royal Navy's plans to tell the very human story of the Royal Navy. It's a compelling one of highs and lows, triumphs and failures. The Centre for Discovery will provide a new, spacious venue to relate this narrative and the relocation of the Royal Marines Museum will give it a more prominent home and increased visitor numbers. Having already invested £55m in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, we are confident this latest tranche of money will bring further benefits to the dockyard and build on its reputation as one of the South East's most popular tourist destinations."



Training Area
This picture is an artist's impression

Professor Dominic Tweddle, Director General of The National Museum of the Royal Navy, warmly welcomed the announcement: "This is an amazing achievement by the NMRN to boost the visitor offer substantially in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard with a new museum that will not only increase numbers but give visitors a chance to find out and see so much more.

"The story of the Royal Marines, their unique ethos and remarkable history as an integral part of the Naval Service will be told to many more visitors. The Centre for Discovery will genuinely transform the way we can tell the story of the Royal Navy securing desperately lacking public access to the newest national collection. This will unite our collections which are dispersed and at risk across the country but most importantly, it will deepen and enrich our visitors' experience of our collection. The Heritage Lottery Fund has had the vision and foresight to support this internationally important project for which we are very grateful."

Major General Jeff Mason, Chairman of the Royal Marines Museum Trustees, praised the foresight of

past trustees and the work carried out by staff in achieving this very significant grant which will transform and secure the future of the Royal Marines' story.

The HLF grant also includes development funding of £548,726. The overall cost of the project is £17.5 million and The NMRN received a much-needed boost from the Treasury when the Rt Hon George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced in the 2015 Autumn Statement that the project would receive £2 million from the LIBOR support for military-related charities.

A fundraising appeal to raise an additional £2.5 million is underway and has already received generous support from the Royal Marines family and its charities. To find out more about the fundraising appeal, contact Paul Elgood at the appeals office on 023 9272 8064 or paul.elgood@nmrn.org

A report into the Economic Impact Assessment of SeaMore

by the University of Portsmouth estimates that the project will initially generate over £26 million into the regional economy and will increase visitor numbers into the Historic Dockyard by 7-8%. The site currently welcomes 750,000 every year and has published its aim to raise this to 1 million within the next ten years.



Investigation Centre
This picture is an artist's impression

The World War One Career of Sgt Austin Clifford Smith, RMLI

by Kate Braun, Collections Officer, National Museum of the Royal Navy

'I have carried them a few thousands of miles on land and sea...'



Austin Clifford Smith (pictured left) was born near Wakefield on 26 October 1891. In August 1915, at the age of 24, he left his job as a coal miner and enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was sent to Gallipoli for the August Offensive – the last major attempt made by the Allied forces to break the stalemate that had persisted since the landings began. On 16

October 1915, Austin travelled back to Britain to marry his childhood sweetheart, Hilda Annie Renshaw, at St John's Church in Forton Barracks, Gosport. They shared one night together before Austin was promptly sent back to fight on the Gallipoli Peninsula again.

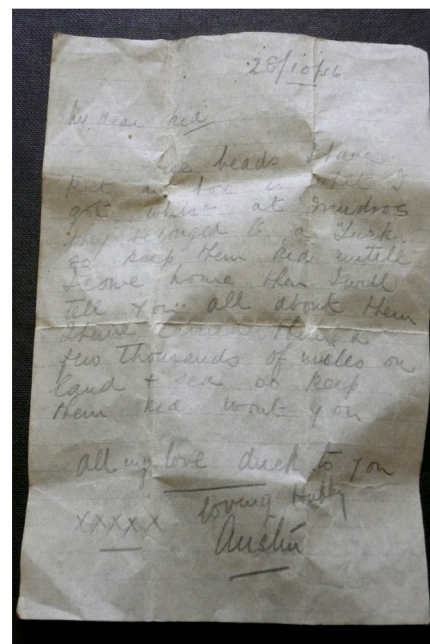
After the evacuation of Gallipoli in January 1916, Austin was transferred to Mudros and saw action during the Ottoman assault on its naval base. It was at this time he acquired some prayer beads (right) from a Turkish sailor which he later sent home to his wife Hilda with a letter (top right).



Austin also fought in France at the Battle of Ancre in November 1916; the Battle of Miraumont in February 1917; the Battle of Gavrelle Windmill in April 1917 and the Second battle of Passchendaele in October 1917. He was promoted to Sergeant in February 1918.

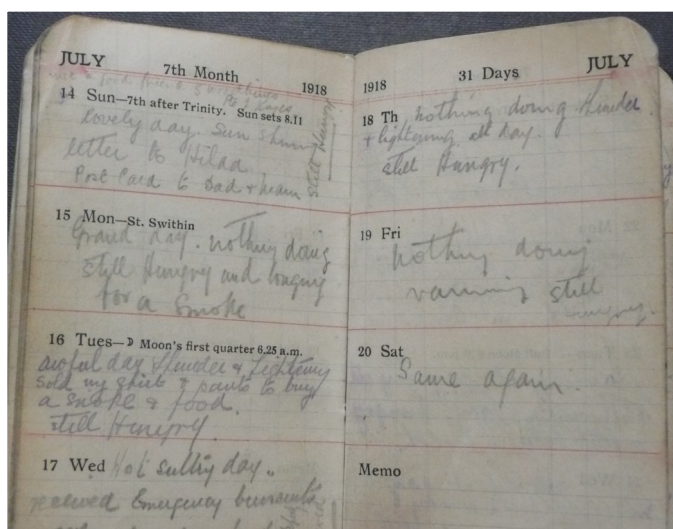
In March 1918, Austin and his fellow Royal Marines were forced to retreat ever further towards the coast of France due to the German Spring Offensive – their trenches were shelled for four days with gas and heavy explosives and then attacked by German soldiers. Austin was eventually taken as a German

prisoner of war at Bertincourt, France, where he was forced to sleep in the open for five days before boarding a train to a camp at Dulmen, Germany. His diary (bottom right) aptly records his spell as a prisoner and although fairly well treated in comparison with others interned at the time, from his daily entries one can get a sense of the way in which the hunger, boredom and weather all effected his spirits.



Austin returned home to Wakefield in 1919 but he was not well. He spent a period of time at a Miners Welfare Home in Rustington, West Sussex before returning to Frickley Colliery where he eventually became manager. Austin died of flu on 3 March 1929, leaving behind his wife and son, and is buried in South Elmsall, Yorkshire.

Austin's collection can now be viewed by appointment at the Museum.



Upcoming Events by Sharon Spencer



The Guildhall Concert & Beating Retreat

featuring the Royal Marines School of Music

Saturday, 6 August 2016 at 2.00pm

The Royal Marines School of Music will raise the roof when they return for their biggest and most exciting concert of the year at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, PO1 2AB on Saturday 6 August 2016 commencing 2pm. The concert ends at approximately 4pm. Beating Retreat begins in Guildhall Square at 5pm.

In the finest tradition of the Royal Marines Band Service, it's entertainment from beginning to end, with music from the Concert Band, the Orchestra, the celebrated Big Band and the unforgettable Corps of Drums. The concert will culminate in spectacular fashion, when history and pageantry come together for the world famous Ceremony of Beating Retreat.



All proceeds from ticket sales and event programmes will be donated to The RN and RM Charity.

Tickets are only **£10 per person** and are available by contacting James Pinney, Marketing Manager for the RM School of Music on **023 9272 6181** or emailing him at **james.pinney508@mod.uk**. Please mention that you are a member of the Friends of the Royal Marines Museum to receive this special ticket price.

Visit to the Newly Reopened Mary Rose

Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at 2.15pm



**Immerse yourself
in Henry VIII's
flagship...**



**The full
story revealed**

Join the Friends for an unforgettable visit to the superb newly reopened Mary Rose in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on Tuesday, 8 November 2016. This visit will include privileged arrangements with refreshments, a specialist talk on "Lost and Found: The Archaeology of the Mary Rose" and an independent Museum visit.

This visit is restricted to a maximum of 40 people and an application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Cost per person is only £28.00

Annual Dinner 2016



This year's Annual Dinner will take place on **Friday 7 October**. There will be a Drinks Reception in the Beverley Gallery at 7pm followed by a three-course Formal Dinner with unlimited wine, Port and tea/coffee in the Mountbatten Room from 7.30pm. Dress is Dinner Jacket or Mess Kit for serving members.

The Dinner will be followed by a 20-30 minute talk on Jutland 1916 by **Nick Hewitt**, Head of Heritage Development at The National Museum of the Royal Navy. Nick is a Naval Historian and was co-presenter, with Dan Snow and Dr Shini Somara, on the BBC's "The Navy's Bloodiest Day" an hour-long documentary that went to the heart of the battle.

This year's caterers are Bezani Catering, the caterers used for the first time for last year's very successful dinner. As you can see by the menu on the right, they have given a lot of choice for each course to accommodate everyone's tastes.

The cost for the evening is only **£40.00** per person which is the same as last year because of the good deal the caterers are able to give us.

Members are welcome to bring along friends and family to this very popular event.

Applications should be made using the enclosed form, stating any dietary requirements and menu choices of all guests, as no changes will be possible on the evening.



Dan Snow, Nick Hewitt, Dr Shini Somara

Closing date for applications is: **Tuesday, 20 September 2016**

Menu

Starter

Vegetable Anti Pasti

Cooked marinated vegetables with humus & flat bread (v)

Chilled Tuna

With toasted sesame seeds, crunchy Asian slaw & a Wasabi dressing

Frizzi Pancetta & Blue Cheese Salad

With croutons & a classic Caesar Salad

Main Course

Italian Chicken

Poached in garlic butter with field mushrooms and tomato. Served with herbed new potatoes, charentais carrots & steamed broccoli

Twice Cooked Belly Pork

Rolled with Bezani's own Cumberland Sausage Meat. Slowly braised, then pan fried until crispy. Garnished with fondant potato, roasted farm carrots & a mustard jus

Trio of Roasted Peppers

Stuffed with braised chick peas, roasted ratatouille and Moroccan cous cous. Finished with sweet potato mash and a sweet cherry tomato sauce (v)

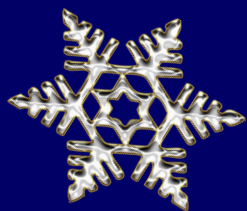
Dessert

Baked New York Cheesecake

Lemon Meringue Tartlette

Tiramisu Torte

Tea/Coffee accompanied by chocolate mints



Winter Reception

featuring the Royal Marines Association Concert Band

Thursday, 24 November at 6.30pm

Join the Friends for a Winter Reception in the Mountbatten Room of the RM Museum. Sit and relax over a glass of wine/mulled wine/soft drink and mince pies whilst listening to the world famous music of the Royal Marines Association Concert Band. This event will be the perfect start to the Festive Season and members are welcome to bring along friends and family. More details to follow shortly.



Diary Dates: July-December 2016

Please check the National Museum of the Royal Navy's website for up to date information on events across the whole organisation, including the RM Museum; RN Submarine Museum; Fleet Air Arm Museum; Explosion; NMRN HQ; HMS Victory; HMS M.33; HMS Caroline, Belfast; HMS Trincomalee, Hartlepool at: www.nmrn.org.uk/news-events/events



Wednesday 13 July & 10 August 10am to 5pm ~ Ask The Archives ~ Have some questions, want to find out more? The Archives are open to all, with collections officers ready to answer your questions. They can help you with your research, from academic publications to simply discovering more about naval history. They are also happy to answer questions on the Navy, Marines, ships, people, events and more. Free entry with your membership card.

Saturday 6 August ~ RM School of Music Concert & Beat Retreat ~ 2pm, Guildhall, Portsmouth. See page 4 for further information.

Wednesday 21 September ~ Friends visit to the RN Submarine Museum, Gosport. Information leaflet enclosed with this newsletter.

24-25 September ~ Sci-Fi & Fantasy Weekend - 10.30am to 5.30pm at Action Stations, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. A weekend dedicated to expanding your imagination with worlds old and new, they are bringing Magic, Thrill and the odd Alien. Call 023 9289 3388 for further information and to book tickets or email: laserquest@actionstations.org

Friday 7 October ~ Friends Annual Dinner in the Mountbatten Room. Details on page 5.

Tuesday 8 November ~ Friends Visit to the New Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. £28.00 per person, only 40 tickets available. First come, first served. More information on page 4 and application form enclosed with this newsletter.

Sunday 13 November ~ RM Museum Remembrance Service in the grounds of the RM Museum - from 10.45am. Further information to follow shortly.

Thursday 24 November ~ Winter Reception with the Royal Marines Association Concert Band in the Mountbatten Room, RM Museum. Join the Friends and the RMACB for a get together and enjoy the music with a glass of wine/mulled wine/soft drinks and mince pies. More information to follow shortly.

Date for your Diary for 2017:

Friday, 24 March ~ Mountbatten Festival of Music ~ Royal Albert Hall, London with seats in the **Stalls** and **Front Row of the Circle**. Coach pick up at Havant and RM Museum car park. Further information to be sent out before Christmas.

All members who have supplied email addresses to the Membership Secretary are regularly kept up to date with NMRN/RMM events.

To receive regular updates just email your details to:
sharon.spencer@royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk



If you are attending any of the events at the Museum, remember to display your Friends exclusive car park permit to allow you to park for free!

Please note that all events at the RM Museum/NMRN can be subject to change

Please check the Events Page on the NMRN's website to receive the most up-to-date calendar & online ticket sales: www.nmrn.org.uk. All RM Museum event's ticket sales telephone: **023 9281 9385 ext 221**

For further information, just contact Sharon Spencer (Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor) on: 023 9288 2412 or e-mail: sharon.spencer@royalmarinesmuseum.co.uk (normal working day: Tuesday)
The Royal Marines Museum, Eastney Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire, PO4 9PX