



The Nottage

MARITIME INSTITUTE

QUAY NEWS Autumn 2023

In spite of the less than average summer for weather the Nottage has been busy. You will read here in Quay News about summer exhibitions, many visitors at our regular weekend openings, and our Pierhead painting auction.

A less than obvious improvement to the building has been the sealing up of the windows hidden behind exhibition cabinets and library books that overlook our neighbour's garden. My thanks to Richard and Rob who were instrumental in driving this through to completion. Peter Hill presented us with a book given to Admiral Lee Barber by his wartime shipmates that had been donated to Wivenhoe History Group by a Liverpool book shop. It has found its way home and will eventually be on display.

We are also very grateful to Helen Fowler who has made a long term loan to the Nottage of a lovely pierhead painting of The Glenbrook. Her ancestor was among the crew of the boat in 1918 when it was confronted by a German U-boat which opened fire but the Glenbrook retaliated and the U-boat turned tail. This generous donation will become part of the Nottage's museum display.



A very generous gift of £500 was made to the Nottage by Wivenhoe Open Gardens. We were one of a number of Wivenhoe organisations that benefited from them and sincere thanks have been passed on. This will be used to help replace the rather rickety emergency door at the rear of the library. Just in time!

There was drama at the Nottage when the chairman took a call from Sue our librarian to say she had discovered a snake lurking behind the boat building benches. Neither being experts and at some four feet long, calls to police, RSPCA and friends proved fruitless. It was “captured” by cornering it with a box and sliding cardboard underneath, at which point Glyn Evans arrived to identify it as a grass snake. It was safely returned to its natural habitat with a sigh of relief from Sue and the Chairman.

We are busy with plans for autumn and winter talks with the Friends. As always there are some fascinating topics to look forward to. There are still weekend openings in September and still time to recruit new Custodians.

Finally, my personal thanks to all our committee who work hard at, not only keeping the Nottage going but finding ways to make improvements all round

Peter Goldsmith
Chair

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS

Our art exhibitions this year started at the beginning of May with the local life-drawing class showing their work. This was followed by Jane Watson and friends at the end of May as part of the Wivenhoe Art Trail showing a varied and eclectic selection of art and craft.



Kim Wild, a local artist, exhibited his work during June and to complete the summer Colin Smith, Vicky Rosenthal, Julie Bowes and Ann Spain held their annual exhibition from 26 August to 3 September.

The Nottage exhibition this year will be from 9 to 24 September and explores the history behind the very popular Wivenhoe Ferry which operates at weekends during the summer months between Wivenhoe, Rowhedge and Fingringhoe when the tide allows!

NOTTAGE CUSTODIANS

We continue to rely on our wonderful Custodians who enable us to open up on summer weekends. They welcome visitors and ensure they get the most out of their visit to our unique museum. This is a voluntary position and we appreciate the fact that they each give up one or two afternoons (and sometimes more!) each summer. We are now, however, needing to recruit some new people to this position so if you would like to find out more about this or know someone who might be interested please do get in touch with us by phone **01026 824142** or email: **admin@nottage.org.uk** and we can arrange for you to come and have a chat about what is involved.

AUCTION OF TWO PIERHEAD PAINTINGS

Over the summer we have displayed a small exhibition which included the story of the steam yacht "Marion", which was regularly crewed by Wivenhoe sailors and spent some winters laid up along the sea wall. As a result of donations over the years, we have built up a tremendous collection of pierhead paintings of sailing and steam yachts, including several of the "Marion". It was decided that we should reduce this number and offer an opportunity to buy two of them via a 'Blind Auction' process.

The paintings are on display in the museum with full details on how to put in a sealed bid. These sealed bids will be opened by the Trustees at the end of our summer openings at the end of September. This is an opportunity to acquire a maritime painting from the Nottage collection of a yacht well-known in Wivenhoe a hundred years ago. There is no reserve on either of the paintings and the successful bids will make a very useful and welcome donation to Nottage funds.

BOATBUILDING AT THE NOTTAGE

After 32 years as Tutor on the very popular boatbuilding course Fabian Bush will be taking a back seat and handing over to Mick Allen, an experienced boatbuilder and teacher from Brightlingsea. Fabian will continue to assist for the next year. We are very grateful to Fabian for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

We have one new student starting this year with the possibility of another in January. The course continues to attract prospective students who seem happy to wait before they can start!

FRIENDS OF THE NOTTAGE

The Friends' Evenings are returning for their winter season, starting on 29 September. These events normally take place on the last Friday of every winter month from September to March, excluding December. Doors open at 1900 and the talk or film starts at 1930. These events are free to Friends of the Nottage, otherwise entry is £3, and we serve free tea, coffee and biscuits to all!

Subscriptions for membership of the Friends are now due. We are now asking Friends if they could pay by standing order which will simplify the procedure and help everyone to have a record of their payments each year. You can of course still continue to pay by BACS or cheque if you prefer. Two separate forms are provided at the at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Nottage by being a "Friend". As usual – if you have your own friend who you think would enjoy being a member, please pass on or forward this newsletter to them and they can use the application forms at the end.



AUTUMN PROGRAMME

29 September: Iain Ward

'When the hills are high the Emperor is far away' (Chinese proverb Shan Goh, Wong-dai Yuen)

55 years ago, Iain Ward was appointed to command an insignificant police sub-district on the China Coast a long way from the bright lights and towering skyscrapers of Hong Kong. It boasted mountains, lost valleys, temples, monasteries, remote villages, a bustling town and a rugged population of independent people, most of whom had never been to the big city and ordered their lives in accordance with the traditions and customs of the Ts'ing Dynasty. There were no roads, no cars, no telephones and no electricity outside the main town. How to maintain the Queen's Peace?' Iain will tell us how he at least tried.

27 October: Frances Beaumont -author

Frances will be talking about her book 'Johnny No Hand and Me' about John Oliver, a renowned sailor who was born without hands but refused to see himself as disabled and who was fiercely independent. He found alternative ways to do things and refused all offers of help.

24 November: Barry Crickmore

'James W Cook – shipyard history from 1976 to its closure in 1986'

NOTTAGE NEWS

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FRIENDS OF THE NOTTAGE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL 2023-24
PAY BY STANDING ORDER

Please return the form below to Libby Armstrong at the Nottage Maritime Institute. It is important that you do this so that your subscription can be recorded.

To.....Bank/Building Society

Address.....

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Sort code.....

Account number.....

Name(s) of account holder.....

Please pay The Co-operative Bank, High Street, Colchester

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account no: 67202825 (The Nottage Maritime) the sum of £ ...(the amount in words...); the first payment immediately and subsequent payment on the 1 October each year.

Please quote the initial(s) and name(s) printed below when payment.

This instruction cancels all previous instructions to pay sums to the account of the Nottage Maritime Institute.

Signature.....Date.....

Please print initial(s) and name(s) of member(s).....

.....



FRIENDS OF THE NOTTAGE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL 2023-24
PAYMENT BY BACS OR CHEQUE

I, Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....
wish to become a 'Friend of the Nottage' / renew my membership

Address.....
.....

Postcode.....Tel.....

Email.....

I enclose a donation of £15 £25 other
(Cheques payable to the Nottage Maritime Institute)

BACS payments:

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account no: 67202825

I am a UK taxpayer and I wish the Nottage Maritime Institute (Registered Charity No: 301440) to reclaim tax, at no extra cost to myself, on all Gift Aid donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all future donations I make hereafter. If my status as a taxpayer changes I will inform the Institute.

Signature..... Date.....

Tick if you wish to be removed from the mailing list

Please post this form to:
Nottage Maritime Institute
The Quay
Wivenhoe
Essex CO7 9BX

Or return by email: admin@nottage.org.uk

Or – post through the door at the Nottage