



QUAY NEWS

Spring 2026

The Nottage is currently busy with the winter programme of teaching as well as maintaining and updating our archives and museum collection in readiness for the opening season on the first weekend in May. This coincides with the Wivenhoe Art Trail and after this weekend the Nottage will be open each Saturday and Sunday between 1-4 p.m. until September.

As in previous years we will be relying on our volunteer custodians each weekend – we couldn't function without them! If you or anyone you know might be interested in becoming a custodian please do get in touch with us to find out more.

Our Archivist, John Collins, has decided the time has come to retire from his position at the Nottage and from the Committee. John had worked with the previous archivists for some time before being invited onto the Committee in 2006. John has invaluable knowledge and will still be available to answer queries and to contribute to our online archive.

Peter Goldsmith
Chair

Summer Exhibitions

As mentioned above the exhibition season starts on the first weekend of May with Jane Watson and Maureen Hume exhibiting their art and ceramics as part of the Wivenhoe Trail. This is followed by the annual Life-Drawing exhibition over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of May. Other exhibitions, including one on Ernie Turner in June, one of the late Tim Denham's paintings and ship models in July and Colin Smith's annual exhibition at the end of August are currently in the planning stage.

The Nottage Museum

Work is progressing well on the digitisation of our museum collection and archives. The data input is currently being supervised by Chris Gelardi and carried out by Natalie Prelogov and we are very pleased with the progress so far.

Friends of the Nottage

Our thanks to everyone who has either renewed their subscription to Friends of the Nottage or who are new members. We are as always extremely grateful for your support.

We are continuing with events that are open to non-members (but free to 'Friends'), the first of which is a talk on Wednesday 11 February 'A Day in the Life of Cooks Shipyard', an illustrated account by Bernard Watson and some of his former work colleagues of what work and life was like at Cooks Shipyard before it finally closed in the mid-1980s. This will include about half-an-hour of Bernard's

original film footage, as well as a display of Cooks records and workbooks etc. from the newly revamped Nottage archive.

On Friday 27 February we plan to hold the first of two film evenings. This is 'Wivenhoe on film through the years', a selection of short documentary films about Wivenhoe, taken from the vaults of the BBC and East Anglia Film Archive, dating back to the 1960s and before. Some you may have seen already, others not, but come along and enjoy revisiting familiar places and faces...and sharing memories with fellow residents of Wivenhoe.

Secondly, on Friday 27 March and to mark its twentieth anniversary we will be screening the 2006 documentary 'Sea-Change in Wivenhoe' It was made to complement the book 'Sea-Change: Wivenhoe Remembered', in which some of Wivenhoe's oldest men and women recollect a way of life characterised by the activities of big steam yachts, fishing fleets and shipbuilding. It is the story of a community defined by water, of danger and rivalry, laughter and tears, of pride and achievement, artistry and skill. With magnificent sailing smacks, rare archive photographs and paintings by artists, past and present, the fortunes of Wivenhoe before the demise of its industry are vividly brought to the screen.

All evenings start at 7.30 p.m. with doors opening at 7.00 pm. Refreshments will be available, including free tea and coffee.

Admission price is £5, free for Friends of the Nottage.

We are also planning to end the winter season with a Wine Tasting event in April, further details of which will be circulated at the beginning of March.

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