



St Mary's Island History Group Newsletter

September
2018

From the Chairman

It has been a remarkable Summer and did you notice the level of the watersports basin dropping. Then almost magically the mussels were underwater again. I wonder if those giant sluices hidden out of sight might still be coming in useful. I do need to remind you about using the membership form here not only to renew but also to give your consent to us continuing to send you information about the History Group. Our main aim of course is to keep you informed and involved – any ideas or suggestions for doing this are always welcome I look forward to meeting you on Monday evening. Barry Woolford Chairman



Policing stories of the Island

We look forward to some stories of St Mary's Island when we gather for our meeting this coming Monday, 17 September. Peter Haddock will be coming to us and he has a wealth of Chatham Dockyard stories. Especially as he was a dockyard police officer – and dog handler – during the 1960s. (That is not Peter but just the right picture). We can also predict a somewhat surprising set of Island stories from those days. Plus we have an interesting new tale to tell of a local ship



All at St Mary's Island Community Centre off Island Way West. 7.30pm
Visitors welcome £2 .

Although our annual subscriptions is the same, we are now asking all for £1 per person for refreshments to help balance the books as such.

Dates for your diary

These are dates for your diary and we are still arranging speakers and events for into 2018 so do watch out for our newsletters.

2018 17 September 'A copper in Chatham Dockyard of the 1960s'
Peter Haddock

12 November TBA

3 December Christmas Gathering

All 7.30pm start at St Mary's Island Community Centre, Island Way West, ME3 3EP Parking is off the roundabout by the school.

And speakers please

Remember that we are always looking out for speakers and those who can enlighten us more about the Island and the Medway Towns. We have been amazed and delighted by speakers from amongst our own membership.

Thank you for data changes

We are very pleased that over our four plus years we have retained a membership of around 30 and been able to keep you in touch by newsletter and the Web site. The Facebook page is now a work in progress.



With these new provisions of GDPR your committee has -- although you all have a legitimate interest in us through your support -- decided to seek your consent to store and use your data. There is a section of the membership form about to be sent out which allows for this.

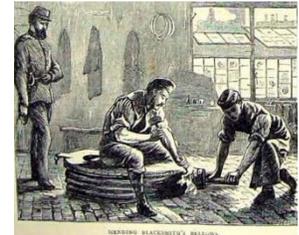
We do need an original form to be returned and the easiest way to do this is by post or through the nominated front door letterbox!

You can join our Newsletter group by making contact through the Contact page.

If you have any questions or queries about the GDPR please use the Contact page or telephone number shown.

What can we research

Suggestions are always welcomed for research or exhibition themes and links to former dockyard workers or naval personnel who can help further expand our knowledge on the history and heritage of St Mary's Island. One subject that is on the horizon are the fire fighting and damage control schools that were situated on the Island for many years and had displays that featured at Navy Days. Do contact the Honorary Secretary or Chairman.



Finding the mystery ship

We are still on the hunt for two ships noted as burnt in the eastern end of St Mary's Creek during the Dutch raid those 350 years ago. HMS Charles V and HMS Mathias are both 4th rate with about 50 guns. So the search is now with Royal Navy records and we have a hint that at least one if not both may have been captured from the Dutch and renamed. Can you suggest any other sources we can use.



Booklets on reprint

We have booklets on the Dutch Raid, The Medway Hulks, our 20 Years of St Mary's Island exhibition and our 1914 to 2014 exhibition. We also produced a limited number of booklets featuring the illustrations from our St Mary's Island 1914 to 2014 exhibition. Make contact via the contact panel on our web site if you would like to buy plus they are available at the meetings.



On Our web site

Our web site continues to grow and we are making the pages bigger to accommodate more information. So do scroll down. We continue to archive as part of our overall role of putting together a history of St Mary's Island complete with timeline. So if you have photographs or papers that we can copy about the Island's history both during and post Dockyard please do make contact.

www.stmarysislandhistorygroup.co.uk



About the History Group

You can renew membership (or join) by post to Brian Portway at 5 Haven Way, St. Mary's Island, Chatham, Kent, ME4 3LB with a form downloaded from our web site accompanied by a cheque payable to "St. Mary's Island History Group" for £10. Make sure you include name, address and email address. Thank you for your support.

