



St Mary's Island History Group Newsletter

July
2019

From the Chairman

So we have most of our team in place after the Annual General Meeting in May – but could still do with some more Committee members and researchers. A goof turn out for the AGM, thank you. Our meetings appear to be well appreciated and memberships have been renewing well. We need now to consider our next research and exhibition plus finding out if we have any significant dates coming up. I look forward to meeting you at our meeting this coming Monday with Christoph Bull, Barry Woolford Chairman



Annual General Meeting

Christoph Bull is a researching local historian who has done much to both archive and promote the history and heritage of North Kent. He is also an avid leader of history walks and combiner of talks with fish and chip suppers.

He comes to St Mary's Island History Group this Monday, 8 July, 2019, when he will be telling us about the **History and Mysteries of the Hoo Peninsular**. An intriguing place with old next to new and just built next to abandoned. Plus a busy route in its own right across the centuries.



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

Although our annual subscription 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 current date(s) for your diary and we are still arranging speakers and events for the rest of 2019 so do watch out for our newsletters.

2019

8 July Speaker: Christoph Bull
 History and Mysteries of the Hoo Peninsular

A 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.

Chatham Society

As members of the Friends of Medway Archives we also get details of meetings of other groups. So if you would care for two historical meetings in a week Chatham Society on Wednesday, 10 July, have a talk on Kent Windmills by Andy Wood. Doors open at 7:15 pm for a 7.30 pm start at St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME4 6JE. No need to book; Visitors £3; annual membership is £10 and can be paid on the night. Further information at www.chathamhistoricalsoc.btck.co.uk



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 would still like to find more about the fire-fighting and damage control training schools that were on St Mary's Island when it was part of the Chatham naval base. The island was the location for some dramatic fire-fighting displays during Navy Days. Plus we have seen some accounts of sailors being put through damage control exercises in ship sections with freezing water descending upon them. Any help appreciated. We also want to build our reminiscences archive and so would like to interview previous dockyard people who can tell us more about the Island.



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 seems to have converted quite well to html and now should be better for viewing on telephones and tablets. 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



Images

WE do endeavour to find the sources for images we use in our exhibitions and newsletters etc so that credit or appropriate ownership details can be shown. If you can help with this please make contact. Or if you know of any further image sources too.



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.

