

RAPS Bell 2209, emailed 15th September 2022

Dear RAPS member

- Remembrance service, Guildhall Square Sunday 18th September
- RAPS Quiz Nights at The Botanical
- Charity Carol Singing at the Boardwalk 21st December 2022
- Note on a meeting with Cllr. Vernon-Jackson

Remembrance Service for HM Queen Elizabeth II

A multi-faith service of remembrance will be held in Guildhall Square on Sunday 18 September to give people in Portsmouth the opportunity to come together to remember Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The service will begin at 12 noon with people of all faiths to come together to reflect on the life and reign of The Queen ahead of her state funeral on Monday 19th September. The service will be led by the Dean of Portsmouth, The Very Reverend Dr Anthony Cane.

The Queen's state funeral will be shown on the big screen in Guildhall Square on Monday 19 September, although no formal event will take place in Portsmouth on that day.

RAPS Quiz Nights at The Botanical

I am pleased to announce that Steve Paull has agreed to take over as quiz master for the 2022/23 season. The Port House will be closed throughout January and February next year so the Committee decided to find a new venue. I am therefore delighted to announce that this season's quizzes will be held on the first Thursday of the month at The Botanical on The Boardwalk starting at 7:30 pm on **November 3rd** for a three-month trial. Following quiz nights will therefore be on **December 1st and January 5th**.

Same prizes as before, wine generously supplied by The Botanical. We will be able to buy food as well as drinks before, during and after the quiz and the manager at The Botanical is considering

providing a curry for £3 per head on top of the usual £2. Part of the proceeds of at least one of the three quizzes will be donated to charity.

Charity Carol Singing at the Boardwalk, 21st December 2022

RAPS is grateful to Oyster Quay resident Brian Wilkie for coming up with the idea to hold a charity carol singing event at The Boardwalk. Lisa Fowler, who manages The Boardwalk, will be taking the lead on organising this event, which will take place at **6:30 pm for one hour at The Boardwalk on Wednesday 21st December**. Subject to confirmation, a selection of well-known carols will be led by the Choir of Portsmouth Grammar School and the local Salvation Army Band. A collection will be made in support of the Salvation Army's work this winter. Lisa will be assisted in preparing for this event by the RAPS Committee and Chris Queen, Chair of the Oyster Quay Board.

Note on a meeting with Cllr. Vernon-Jackson

On a get-to-know and occasional update basis, I met online on September 14th with the Head of Portsmouth City Council, Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

I asked him if the establishment of the Solent Freeport this year (<https://solentfreeport.com>) would have any implications for the Association's dealings with City Council. He replied, as a board member of the Solent Freeport, that relations between RAPS and City Council remain unaltered.

He drew attention to the latest on Tipner West, which was the main business of the City Council at their meeting on September 8th: a less ambitious development is envisaged and RAPS will seek another meeting with Megan Carter, who leads the Tipner West project, to summarise: <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=126&MId=5121>

He asked for a steer on our Amenity Tip booking requirement. The Covid-related measure had been retained at Port Solent out of consideration for complaints in the past about traffic queues along Port Way. I said that there were now more complaints about the booking requirement than about occasional queues and recommended that it should be lifted. The Tip will be closed all day on Monday 19th September.

Chris Clark (RAPS Chair)