

RAPS Chair's Report 2024

Once again, it's been a quiet year for Port Solent. The Committee therefore took the opportunity to do a bit of housekeeping: adding a strap-line¹ to the RAPS website in order to make it more obvious to newcomers what RAPS is about; reviewing policies and reports on the website, with particular regard to GDPR legislation and control of personal data within the Association. While the Committee continues to number just four individuals, the important role of Data Controller will be carried out by the Chair. I won't enumerate all the changes here: if you are interested, please read the Terms of Use on the website: you'll find the link at the foot of every page.

We had been expecting renewed engagement during 2023 with the City Council about the Tipner West Regeneration Project. There was a wholesale turnover of staff involved in that project last summer and at the time of writing nothing further has been published so I was delighted that the Project Leader, Mary Delaney and the City Council's Engagement Manager, Tim Raw, agreed to attend our AGM in April to provide an update². Meanwhile, there are signs of renewed activity at the site of the Horsea Island Country Park where Veolia has been carrying out some work at the entrance to the site in order to assess the prospect of a public facility being made available at some future date.

The big success story of this year for RAPS has been the second season of monthly quiz nights held at The Botanical, hosted by the manager, Carl. RAPS was dubious about Carl's suggestion to hold these events, every month, including the summer months, but attendance remained high throughout and enough money was raised for RAPS to make a donation of the summer takings to the Trussell Trust. The only month not available to RAPS is December but in January this year Carl introduced a cash prize for the winners of £100. This proved very popular, fourteen teams competing. The owners of Botanical were also impressed and the cash prize is now a fixture for the rest of the year. RAPS will again look at making a summer donation to charity.

Just as we did last year, RAPS joined in with organising Carols at Port Solent. The event on 21st December drew hundreds of people and raised over £1100 for the Salvation Army winter appeal. The Salvation Army band played, the Portsmouth Baroque Choir (and friends) led the singing, our local Tesco store contributed 120 mince pies and our MP Penny Mordaunt said a few words of seasonal import. A similar event can be expected in December this year.

The outlook for the coming year looks favourable: membership has held steady and we look forward to monthly gatherings at The Botanical for quiz nights, more carolling at Christmas and a better understanding of what will be in store for us a decade hence with Tipner West and the Country Park.

I will end by thanking my Committee for their dedication and for agreeing, myself included, to keep going for another year, at least.

Chris Clark (RAPS Chair). March 2024

¹ Ensuring your voice is heard - RAPS is an independent, non-political association representing the interests of the whole Port Solent community, helping to sustain Port Solent as a pleasant, safe and unique place to live, work and enjoy.

² Subsequently, however, due to purdah rules ahead of the local elections on May 2nd 2024, Portsmouth City Council instructed the Project team NOT to deliver the presentation. The RAPS Committee was asked instead to gather questions from the members at the AGM.