

## Andrew Negus walk round old Portsmouth

We met at the dockyard gate at 10.30 and started the walk from there. Andrew pointed out that this was a later addition to Portsmouth. He told us about the mud larks and the coming of the railway. We moved further along the hard front to where St. Johns Church is. On the green in front of the church there are two plaques, one for the church and one for Isambard Kingdom Brunell who had lived in that area with his father. I knew he was a Portsmouth man but had not known where he had lived. We then moved on to the cross-roads that are just outside Gunwarf and told us that many centuries before there had been a huge mill pond. This was operated by the tide so that twice a day they could grind corn for the navy and workmen in the area. He showed us a plan of the moated fortified area that had once been Portsmouth. It covered an area from Museum Road right down into old Portsmouth and along to Clarence Pier. This had been the original port and town. The Dockyard as we know it today did not exist.

We walked round the corner of St. George's Road. Andrew showed us the only remaining gate of the original fortification. This had been the northern gate where everyone coming to Portsmouth would enter.

We then walked down the High street and he pointed out the Grammar School that replaced the original, and the School today, which is housed in one of the many Barracks that still stand in Old Portsmouth. The City Museum is in another.

We learnt about the Duke Of Buckingham, also about John POUND. Below is a replica of his shop.



We moved on from there and saw the Hotel that Nelson had stayed in before he sailed his ship the Victory to the battle of Trafalgar. He escaped the hordes of people who wanted to see him by going out at the back of the hotel.

We then came to the Cathedral and learnt about its history. There had once been shops in front of it, and during the war the bombs had destroyed these buildings and saved the cathedral. A little known fact – the metal square holes along the edge of the pavement were for the awning supports to fit in.



We then moved on to the Garrison Church which originally was a hospital for wounded service men. It became a church some time later.

We followed in Nelson's footsteps and went through the tunnel that took us out on to the remains of a ravelin by the crossing the moat. Here Nelson would have been rowed to his ship anchored out in the Solent.

Then it was on to the Hot Wall's first passing the Square Tower which had had a bust of Charles the First in gold set in the wall. Now there is only a replica.

We discussed the Hot Walls and he gave us three possible reasons for their being called this.

1. Because of the heavy gun emplacements it would become very hot with a salvo of shots
2. That it is a great sun trap in the summer and the walls and the beach get very hot.
3. There is an out pipe for the old Power Station that used to pump out hot water into the sea making the water warmer there.

Then heading for the Round Tower Andrew pointed out some more interesting features. By this time we had grown very weary and our number had diminished, so we headed to the nearest watering hole for lunch. Andrew joined us and the interesting conversation continued while we ate and it was after 2.30pm. before we parted company and made our way home.

