



>> Chair's Intro:



Ros Cassy

This month's issue of Newslink features some of the wonderful liners which have been visiting the port over the last few weeks. The expansion of the business of the port both for passengers and containers is good news for the city. The official opening of the newly refurbished City Cruise Terminal by Royal Caribbean International and ABP highlights the investment being made in the city as a key cruise centre.

Work is under way on a new Visitor Economy strategy to help increase the number of people who visit the city and to encourage those who set sail or arrive here by sea to stay for a while and enjoy our facilities.

The Port-City Futures group is also working on building links between the port and a wide range of organisations in the city to promote Southampton as an international port city.

Raising competitiveness & increasing prosperity

>> Port enjoys a new golden age

Business at the ABP Port of Southampton is booming and has never been busier. Last year saw over 40 million tonnes of cargo handled, an all time record, as were the number of cruise passengers passing through the port at 738,000 and the number of containers at 1.5 million.

The last 10 days of April alone saw 20 cruise ships call at the Port, the naming of the 'Ocean Village Two' by super model Jodie Kidd and inaugural calls by 'Navigator of the Seas' and the worlds newest and largest cruise ship 'Liberty of the Seas'.



Steven Young, Deputy Port Manager, ABP Southampton said, "Our plans to accommodate substantial growth in the container business are possibly the most sustainable being considered in the UK at present. They focus on the redevelopment of existing dock infrastructure coupled with improvements to efficiency and the use of the latest cargo handling technology" The plans include returning 201 and 202 berths in the western docks to container handling and an increased use of both rail and coastal shipping for the onward shipment of containers.

Please see the final page of Newslink for more fantastic pictures of the harbour and its visitors!

southampton!nnovates

>> Gordon Brown visits new innovative flagship homes in Southampton

On Monday 14 May, Swaythling Housing Society welcomed Gordon Brown to its newest mixed tenure development, Chapel.

Situated between Southampton waterfront and the city centre, Chapel is a flagship scheme of 174 apartments, duplexes and townhouses. With 37% of the Chapel site comprising affordable housing, it has made an important contribution to the supply of low cost homes in the City.

The homes contain innovative and environmentally friendly features such as giant photovoltaic solar roof panels that save some 26.5 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide each year.

Director of Swaythling Housing is Ralph Facey who is also Chair of the Southampton Partnership's Housing Partnership said: "We are thrilled that Gordon Brown took time from his busy schedule to visit Chapel. We are proud to have played a lead role in this major development and regeneration project and we are looking forward to sharing best practice with our partners and the housing sector in general."



Raising competitiveness & increasing prosperity
>> **Maritime Jobs Fair Comes to Southampton**

As part of Sea City 2007, Southampton's annual festival, the city will once again be hosting one of the UK's most popular marine-industry jobs fair at the international marine exhibition, Seawork 2007.

The Maritime Jobs Fair will be taking place on stand 131, in the Port of Southampton, Dock Gate 10 (opposite Novotel Hotel) on 12th to the 14th June. The Fair will give anyone who is interested in ships, boats and the maritime industry an excellent opportunity to meet marine training organisations, employers and local universities who specialise in the sector.

Entry into Seawork 2007 and the jobs fair is free and opening times are from 10:00am to 5:30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and 10:00am to 5:00pm on the Thursday. To register visit www.seawork.com.

To find out more about Sea City and some of the exciting events, attractions and activities that will be taking place during the festival season visit: www.seacity.co.uk

Improving and enhancing the city's cultural experience

>> **Isaac Watts tourist trail fundraising concert**

The city of Southampton society and heritage division at the City Council are pleased to announce the launch of a fundraising concert for the Isaac Watts memorial trail on Sunday July 15th at 3.30 pm at Court 1, Southampton Magistrates Courts, Havelock Road. The Mayor of Southampton will be present at the inaugural performance of Isaac Watts' hymns by the band 'The Madding Crowd'.

This event is part of long term plans to create an Isaac Watts memorial trail in summer 2007 as a 300th anniversary of Watts' work. Plans were stalled due to insufficient funds available for the creation of plaques and publicity for the event. It is hoped that funds raised from this concert will ensure the Isaac Watts trail goes ahead.

>>More information from Arthur Jeffery: 02380 292163

Improving and enhancing the city's cultural experience

>>**Basque War Children Re-United in Southampton**

Spanish children who 70 years ago fled the Spanish Civil War to find sanctuary in Britain are to be reunited in Southampton on Saturday, 26 May.

The re-union will take place at Southampton Solent University's Conference Centre, Above Bar Street from 11am. A plaque recording the anniversary will be unveiled by the Spanish ambassador, Carlos Miranda. This will be followed by lunch and a screening of the award-winning documentary *The Guernica Children*.

Nearly 4,000 refugee children arrived in Southampton in May 1937 aboard the steamship Habana. The arrival of the Habana on 23 May 1937 remains to this day the largest ever single influx of refugees into Britain.

Attending will be Cora Blythe, who married one of the children; Luis Portillo and is mother of politician Michael Portillo, will be a special guest as she was involved with the children who were sent to a colony at Aston in Oxfordshire in June 1937.

For more details, including historical background, information about the commemoration and advance interviews with surviving refugee children, contact Jim Jump of the Basque Children of '37 Association UK by email jimjump@mac.com or call 020 7228 6504.

Improving and enhancing the city's cultural experience

>> **Re-Opened after 450 years**

The gate to Southampton's medieval friary, located near back of the walls just off lower canal walk, has been re-opened after being blocked for 450 years.

The gateway was built in 1373 and is thought to have been blocked up in about 1550. The work will allow pedestrians to access the eastern walls of the medieval town.

Dr Andy Russel, Ancient Monuments Officer said 'Our stonemasons team will need to do extensive repairs to the gate tower to fix any loose stones before pedestrians can use the gate again, but its wonderful to see the medieval stonework again after all these years.'

>> **Calendar
Of Activity**



May 2007

**19th -25th - Adult Learners
Week**

Week long series of events bringing together and celebrating adult learning

>More info from John Bridge, SCC:
John.bridge@southampton.gov.uk

June 2007

**1st-createsouthampton.co.uk
Launch**

New web resource for creative industries in the City

>> More info from Dan:
dan@spacearts.org

**15th-Southampton Recital
Series- Tudor Merchants Hall**

Offering a variety of classical recitals at the City's historic venue.

>> More info:
srs.info@btinternet.com

**July 2007
24th – SP Executive**

>>Southampton Solent University
Contact Henry Pavey
henry.pavey@southampton.gov.uk

All Aboard Southampton!



Pictures clockwise from top left:

- Liberty of the Seas passing the Navigator heading for the water
- The container ship CMA Fidelio
- Colombo Express arrives in Port
- Liberty of the Seas head-on

