

PORPSMOUTH
MUSEUMS



Autumn/Winter programme



CHARLES DICKENS
BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM



THE D-DAY
STORY



PORPSMOUTH
MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY



PORPSMOUTH
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM



EASTNEY ENGINE
HOUSES



SOUTHSEA
CASTLE

HALLOWEEN HALF-TERM



FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER - SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

HAUNTED GALLERIES | CREEPY CRAFTS | SPOOKY TRAIL

DRESS TO DISTRESS AND PREPARE TO BE SCARED!

portsmouthmuseum.co.uk

AT PORTSMOUTH MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Hello,

**I am delighted to share with you the
programme of exhibitions and events for
this season at Portsmouth Museums.**

The museum service includes The D-Day Story, Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, Portsmouth Natural History Museum – Cumberland House, Southsea Castle, Eastney Engine Houses and Charles Dickens Birthplace.

Each one is unique, captivating and fascinating and offers visitors something different. Be it standing in the place where King Henry VIII saw the Mary Rose sink, to exploring artwork that takes you to a place of serenity, or maybe marvelling over Eastney's engineering, there is something for everyone.

This season we have some exciting exhibitions taking place, starting with The Quietness of Feeling at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery's newly refurbished art galleries. It will feature works by artist Benjamin Haughton and The Arborealists.

At Cumberland House in December we are showcasing the collection of Henry Leopold Foster Guermonprez, who amassed around 119,000 specimens of plants, animals, fossils and minerals.

To end the season, Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery will be hosting a British Museum spotlight loan exhibition, entitled: Ancient Sudan: enduring heritage.

Plus, there are several events taking place across all the museums.

Cllr Steve Pitt

Leader

Cabinet Member for Culture, Regeneration & Economic Development
Portsmouth City Council

Front cover:

Benjamin Haughton 1865–1924, *Woodland study, East Downe*, Oil on board

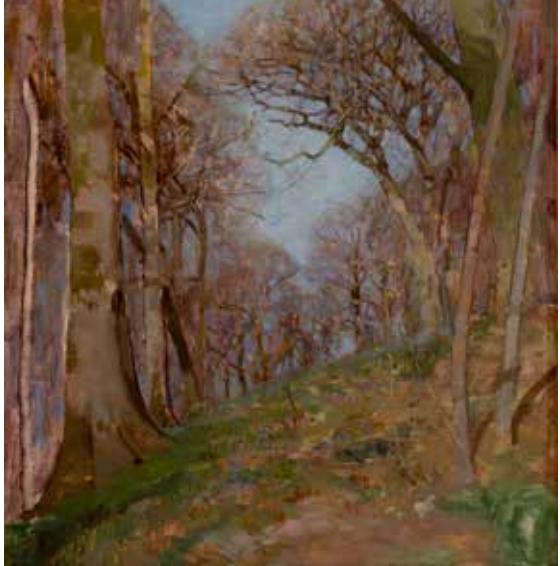
Welcome





The Quietness of Feeling

October 2024–August 2025



An Exploration of Trees through the Art of Benjamin Haughton and The Arborealists

FREE

Benjamin Haughton was a British landscape painter who studied under Sir Hubert von Herkomer.

The son of a farmer, he was born in Cheshire in 1865. He had no art training until he attended Bushey Art School in Hertfordshire at the age of 23.

Over his career he lived in Tuscany, Kent and the West Country and was exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy and Royal Society of British Artists, becoming a member of the latter.

Haughton found inspiration from the beauty of trees and in the solitude of the countryside and woodlands. His preoccupation with the alchemy of light influenced his rich use of colour, tone and scope of subject matter.

from the interior twilight of the pine woods to views into valleys.

In 1973 Haughton's family donated more than 300 paintings to the museum. 2024 marks the centenary of his death and to commemorate, Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery present an exhibition exploring his love of trees.

The free exhibition will showcase over 80 of Haughton's paintings and include a peek into some of his sketchbooks.

The exhibition will also feature work by over 30 members of The Arborealists. The group was formed in 2013 by curator and artist Tim Craven, after the success of Under the Green Wood: Picturing the British tree, an exhibition he co-curated.

The group is comprised of artists that give trees, forests and woods a special value in their work.



PORTSMOUTH
MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY



Previous page:
Untitled
Benjamin Haughton (1865-1924)
Oil on Board
Above:
Sketch, East Downe
Benjamin Haughton (1865-1924)
Oil on Board
Left:
At the Water's Edge
Fiona McIntyre
Oil on Linen



Other events at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery



Halloween

Saturday 26 October–
Sunday 3 November

Craft activities

Cost: £3 (or £1 with Leisure Card)

Morning session: 10:30am–12pm

Afternoon session: 1:30pm–3pm

Halloween Trail

Running all day during the above
dates. Cost: £2 (or 50p with Leisure
Card)



Christmas Grotto

On selected dates:

Saturday 7–Sunday 8 December

Saturday 14–Sunday 15 December

Saturday 21–Sunday 22 December

Make this Christmas one to remember and bring the little ones to visit Father Christmas in his magical grotto in the magnificent surroundings of Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery.

Each child will receive a gift and a candy cane from Santa himself.

Places are limited. Book early to avoid disappointment by calling 023 9283 4779.

£10 per child and £5 per additional child booked onto the same slot. Up to a total of 4 children and 2 adults per slot.

Christmas Trail

For dates call the museum on 023 9283 4779. Cost: £2 (or 50p with Leisure Card)



PORTSMOUTH
MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY

Unfurling Portsmouth's Suffrage Banners

Opens January 2025

A new exhibition created by PhD student Sarah Houghton – Portsmouth University, showing original and replica banners, photographs of the Portsmouth suffragettes and suffragists, and a

FREE

motion graphic telling the story of the Pilgrim's march from Portsmouth to London from 17 July 1913. There will also be a newspaper detailing the story you can take away to keep, and dressing up.



portsmouthmuseum.co.uk



Guermonprez's Legacy

December 2024–December 2025

FREE

Guermonprez's Legacy will look at how relevant HLF Guermonprez's collection is 100 years after his death and how the collection is being used by researchers and biologists today. Henry Leopold Foster Guermonprez was a West Sussex Naturalist born in 1858. He had a passion for natural history and collected thousands of specimens from his hometown of Bognor Regis over a period of 40 years.

The collection is now held in trust by Portsmouth Museums and features around 100,000 specimens mainly from West Sussex. His collections include insects, plants, molluscs, marine invertebrates, taxidermy, birds' nests and fossils.

Guermonprez was interested in all aspects of natural history and this is reflected in the collections held at Portsmouth.



Other events at Portsmouth Natural History Museum

Fossil Day

Saturday 12 October, 10am–4pm

Cost: Free

Meet local fossil experts and find out what they are working on. Handle real fossils. Bring along your own fossils to be identified.





Skulls and Skeletons

Tuesday 29 October,
10.30am–3.30pm

Cost: Free

Get up close to some of the animal skulls and skeletons from our natural history collections. Crafts and activities.

Nocturnal Animals

Wednesday 30 October,
10am–12noon

Cost: Free



Discover some of the animals which are active during the hours of darkness. Use your senses to work out the sounds, smells and what's in the feely box. Crafts and activities.

Creepy Crawly trail

October half term

Cost: £1 (includes prize)

Pick up a trail and discover some creepy fun facts about insects and other minibeasts.

Winter Animal Footprints

Saturday 21 December–
Sunday 5 January

Cost: Trail £1 (includes prize)

Pick up a trail and work out which animal made which footprint.

Guermonprez's Legacy talk

Thursday 30 January, 7pm–8pm

Cost: £2.50

A talk about the work of HLF Guermonprez and how his legacy lives on by curator of Natural History, Christine Taylor.

Mineral Day

Wednesday 19 February

Cost: Free

Meet mineralogists from Southampton Mineral and Fossil Society. There will be minerals to look at and minerals to get hands on with. Bring along your own minerals to be identified.





The D-Day Story is the only UK museum dedicated to the momentous events of 6 June 1944.

It tells the story in three distinct parts. First you get to go onboard LCT 7074, the last surviving Landing Craft Tank that took part in the D-Day landings, then explore the personal stories behind the objects in the museum's collection and finally marvel at the impressive Overlord Embroidery.

2024 marks 50 years since the final panel of the Overlord Embroidery was completed. The 83-metre embroidery tells the story of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in 34 hand-stitched panels. In 1968 Frederick Anthony Hamilton Wills, the 2nd Lord Dulverton commissioned artist Sandra Lawrence to design the embroidery and 20 skilled embroiderers from the prestigious Royal School of Needlework were called upon to stitch it. Check the website to see the events to commemorate the 50th anniversary. Did you know that most of our events are free to annual pass holders?

Including the majority of the talks by curator Andrew Whitmarsh. If you are a family with a pass you can take part in the craft activities that take place during the school holidays, be it a stitch session with the prestigious Royal School of Needlework or making your own LCT landing craft tank to take home.

The annual pass also means you can visit the museum as often as you like. An adult annual pass is £22.90, so if you visited six times in the year it works out at £3.81 a visit.

The family ticket (up to two adults and three children) is £51.50, if you visited just once every school break it works out at £7.35 a visit. Just ask to upgrade your ticket when you next visit the museum.

To be kept up to date on news and events sign up to our newsletter by scanning the QR code.





Events at The D-Day Story

Family craft activities

Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October

Cost: Included in museum admission ticket

Craft activities inspired by the Overlord Embroidery.

Airfix extravaganza

Friday 1 November, 11am–3pm

Cost: Included in museum admission ticket. £2 per model.

Make your own genuine Airfix model to take home in this family-friendly event that's great for adults and children aged over 8.

No need to book. Arrive early to guarantee your spot.



South Coast Modellers: Festive Theme Marvellous Models

Saturday 30 November 2024,
10am–3pm

Cost: Included in museum admission ticket

Come and discover the impressive display of hand-made military warships, aircraft and vehicles brought to life and intricately crafted by the South Coast Modellers.

This event includes a festive quiz and competition, suitable for all the family.

“The lucky ones grow old” – photography exhibition

December–January

Cost: Free admission

An exhibition of stunning portraits of the D-Day Veterans by photographer Matt Sills. Taken during the D-Day 80 anniversary week at the museum as part of an event co-ordinated by The Spirit of Normandy Trust.



On 7 February 1812 Charles Dickens was born in a house in Old Commercial Road, Portsmouth.



The eldest son of John and Elizabeth Dickens, he was christened Charles John Huffam Dickens in the nearby St Mary's Church.

You can walk around the first home of Charles Dickens, which contains some of his prized personal possessions, and discover the room in which he was born in. Entry is free for Portsmouth residents.

The Dickens family lived in the home from 1809 for three years, before moving to 16 Hawke Street, which was destroyed by bombing in 1941.

Though he moved to London at a young age, and later spent his years in Kent, Dickens returned to his place of

birth on several occasions. Among the most notable was in 1838, when he was writing and researching the semi-autobiographical novel, *Nicholas Nickleby*. In the story, Vincent Crummies' run-down theatre company visits the old Theatre Royal, which stood on High Street from around 1750 to 1856.

In 1858, Dickens (by now a huge celebrity whose public appearances drew huge crowds) gave one of his famous readings. He returned once more to give another reading in 1866 – and during his visit he looked for, and indeed found, Mile End Terrace – the road name of his family home back then.



Events at Charles Dickens' Birthplace

Writing workshop with author Ali Sparkes

Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October, 6pm–8pm

Cost: £25



Author Ali Sparkes will host three Halloween week workshops inspired by Charles Dickens' horror mystery story *The Signalman*. Conjuring up the spirit of spooky writing in Dickens' own Portsmouth birthplace, Ali will share the tricks and techniques that the UK's most revered author employed in this short and chilling Dickens novella - and the real-life disaster which may have prompted it.

The Signalman, first published in 1866, follows the tale of a traveller in conversation with a signalman on a bleak, dark stretch of railway, against the backdrop of terrifying portents of doom.

Ali Sparkes is the author of more than 66 books for children, young adults and adults, and the winner of two Blue Peter Children's Book awards.

This writers' workshop is for any adult writer (and accompanied teens over

14) who would enjoy the frisson of writing something short, sweet and ghostly for Halloween. Places are limited, so please book quickly.

To book phone 023 9283 4779.

Christmas at Charles Dickens' Birthplace

Thursday 5, Saturday 14, Sunday 15, Thursday 19, Saturday 21, Sunday 22 and Sunday 29 December.

Immerse yourself in a Dickensian Christmas at the birthplace of one of the England's literary greats.

On select dates visitors will be able to enjoy readings of the classic Christmas tale: *A Christmas Carol*.

Entry to the museum is free for Portsmouth residents.

Charles Dickens' birthday

Friday 7 February

Come to Charles Dickens' birthplace to celebrate his birthday.

For more details on events, visit charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk





King Henry VIII ordered that Southsea Castle be built in 1544 and for over 400 years, it was an active military base, holding a key position defending the approaches to Portsmouth Harbour. Through wars, fires, and ruin, it still stands to this day.

The castle receives thousands of visitors every year who come to explore it and to enjoy the panoramic views to the Isle of Wight and of the Solent from its ramparts.

The keep now contains displays about the castle's history, as well as some key artefacts that have played a role, including some items found in the Tudor well. Part of the exterior wall of the keep is the original Tudor stonework but there have been many

repairs and alterations made over the centuries.

Southsea Castle can also be used for hire as a wedding venue as well as for private and public functions.

It is open as a historical attraction, free of charge, Tuesdays to Sundays between April and October each year. Visitors can also enjoy a bite to eat in The Courtyard (open all year).

For more information, visit
southseycastle.co.uk



Visit the impressive engine houses at Eastney which showcase engineering through the ages.

Get up close to some impressive machines – some of which date back to 1887.

The group of engine houses include the 1865 pump house and boiler house, the 1887 boiler house, pump house and chimney, and the 1904 gas engine house.

The engine houses were built because Portsmouth desperately needed a proper sewage disposal system due to population expansion.

As the city is built on a low-lying island it has poor natural drainage. This resulted in waste and sewage frequently polluting the water supply – which resulted in many deaths from cholera and other diseases.

When they were retired from normal use, the beam engines were kept in operating condition as a backup until 1954. Maintenance of the engines and pumps was discontinued after 1954.

Following extensive restoration, the Beam Engine House was opened as



an industrial museum in 1972.

The Beam Engine House is an impressive Victorian building designed by Sir Frederick Bramwell and finished in 1887. It houses a pair of classic Boulton and Watt beam engines and pumps which have been restored to their original 1887 condition.

To the west of the Beam Engine House is the Gas Engine House. The gas engines were installed in 1904 in response to residential and industrial expansion across Portsea Island.

Until 1954 the Gas Engine House operated alongside the Beam Engine House, and was converted to run on North Sea gas in 1971. Today the building is a part of the Eastney Engine Houses experience.

Both Engine Houses are open on the last Sunday of every month (except August and December), with the Beam Engine House open from 10am to 3pm and the Gas Engine House from 10am to 12.30pm.

FREE

Friends of Portsmouth Museums

Our members are our biggest supporters. Make the most of Portsmouth's award-winning museums, art gallery and archives, and enjoy an exciting package of member benefits.

Membership deals

Individual membership,
£30 per annum

Family membership,
£60 per annum

Covers 2 adults and up to 4 children under 16.



Member benefits

10% discount in our shop at all our six museum sites

10% discount at the Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery café

Unlimited free entry to other heritage sites:
The D-Day Story and Charles Dickens' Birthplace

Invitations to exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' events, exclusive curator's talks, and special previews of new exhibitions

Free entry to our museum trails

Invitations to Friends Private Views

Free entry to our programme of 'Friends talks'

An exclusive e-newsletter, The PMAG, including articles and the latest news and information on upcoming events published every four months (This is available as a printed version for a small donation of £6)

If you are aged 25 or under, you can enjoy these benefits for only £12. Come into the Portsmouth Museum to complete a membership form or visit our online shop





Our museum shops

The shops at our museums stock an array of unique products for each individual site.

From bee houses to wildlife books and knitted dinosaurs at Portsmouth Natural History Museum, to nautical delights at Southsea Castle.

Many of the items we stock have been designed exclusively for our museums and are not stocked anywhere else.

We have a range of exclusive Portsmouth & Southsea gifts including tea towels, tote bags and tasty treats, you will also find items supporting exhibitions and the city's collections at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery.

We also stock prints by local artists and have a fantastic selection of art cards.

For Sherlock fans Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery has an extensive collection of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle books, prints and even stylish earrings.

The D-Day Story has LCT 7074 inspired socks, Gustav the pigeon – plush toy, socks and lollipops, iconic LCT 7074 water bottle, beers, hoodies, T-shirts and notebooks.

The best place to buy our items is at our museums but a select number of products can be found online at <https://museumshops.uk/shop/d-daystory> or <https://museumshops.uk/shop/portsmouthmuseums>



A British Museum Spotlight Loan

Ancient Sudan: enduring heritage

Saturday 1 February 2025–Saturday 19 April 2025

FREE

Supported by the Dorset Foundation

Explore the Kushite Kingdom, a fascinating civilisation that flourished in Sudan nearly 3,000 years ago.

Positioned at a crossroads between Central Africa and the Mediterranean, Ancient Sudan was a nexus for people, cultures and ideas.

The Kingdom of Kush (8th century BC – 4th century AD) was at its height one of the largest empires in the ancient world, ruling from the Blue Nile to the Levant, with its kings ruling Egypt as pharaohs.

This touring exhibition will examine this ancient culture's skilled craftsmanship, distinct religious beliefs, and the important role of women, as well as exploring the rich culture of modern Sudan. Highlights include beautiful examples of ceramics, a carved stone offering table and a striking bronze depiction of a goddess that will inspire wonder.

Sadly, this cultural legacy now faces significant threats due to an ongoing civil war that has displaced millions of people.

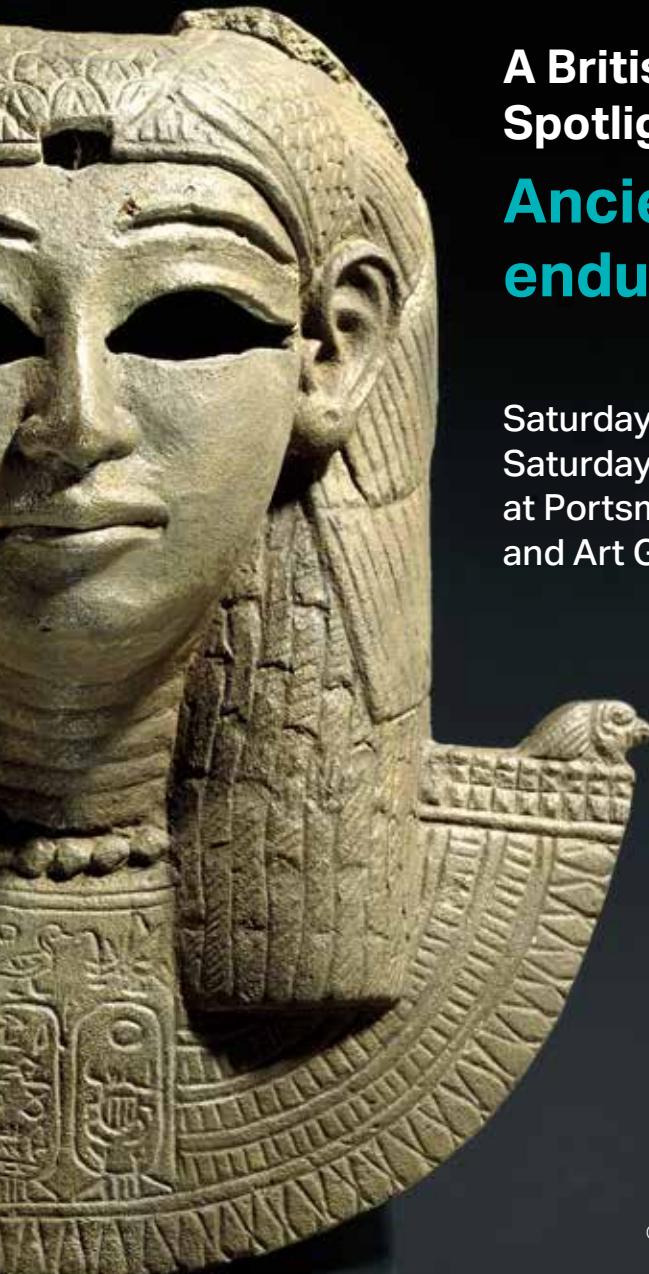
While highlighting the efforts of Sudanese people to protect their heritage, the exhibition will introduce audiences to a deep, rich culture that is not defined solely by present conflict.





**PORTSMOUTH
MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY**

**The British
Museum**



A British Museum Spotlight Loan

Ancient Sudan: enduring heritage

**Saturday 1 February –
Saturday 19 April
at Portsmouth Museum
and Art Gallery**

**Free
admission**

**Supported by the
Dorset Foundation**
portsmouthmuseum.co.uk

