

Friends of the Pepperpot

www.pepperpot.info

email ~ info@pepperpot.info

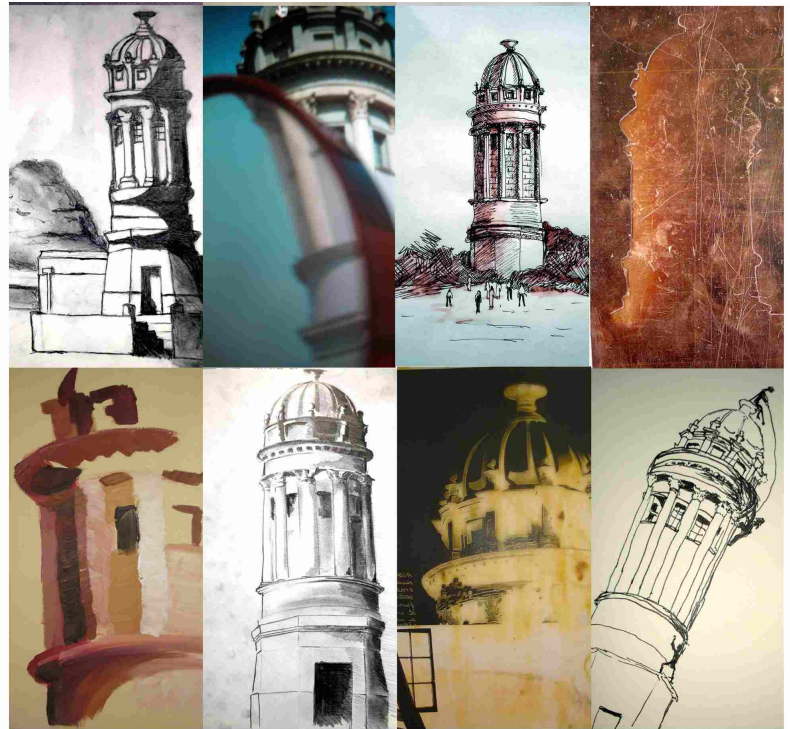


The Friends of the Pepperpot are a group of volunteers concerned for the Pepperpot building, which stands to the north of Queens Park in Brighton.

We feel that the Pepperpot has great value as a heritage asset and as a local landmark. We aim to work with Brighton council and others to try to reverse the decline of this building and to support investment for its restoration.

We are also trying to find ways that the building could be used to benefit the local community.

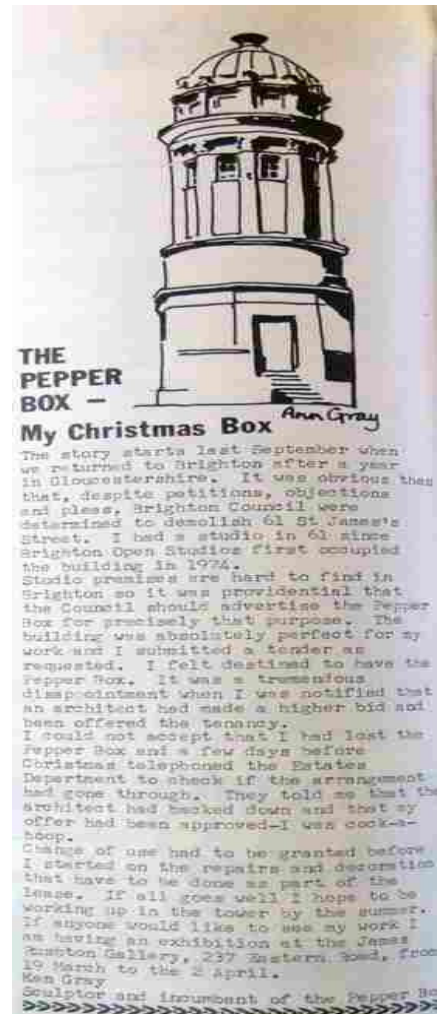
(see over for latest restoration news)



Thank you for the memories...

Back in March we held a 'memory day' at the Brighton History Centre. The day was a great success, with over 50 people attending to share their thoughts and memories. During the 1970's and 80's the Pepperpot was rented to sculptor Ken Gray who used the space as a studio, and we were particularly happy to meet his widow Anne Gray, who was visiting from Alaska and was able to add significantly to our archives.

The event was also covered on Radio Reverb 'Grey Matters'. Many thanks to the Brighton History Centre archivist and to all of the volunteers who made the morning happen.



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The Pepperpot Restoration - what's going on?

"It's like Willy Wonkas factory; no-one goes in or comes out, but you sometimes hear noises and see smoke coming from the top!"

Parent and child overheard recently discussing the Pepperpot while waiting for a bus

Shrouded in scaffolding and tarpaulin, the Tower is becoming a thing of mystery. What are they doing in there? Back in March the council set about a couple of tasks: repair, weatherproof and re-paint the Pepperpot, restore the ornamental masonry, reopen the bricked up windows on the top floor. It was also hoped that they would put in supports to the floor and stairs so that visitors can get to the top.

The plan was to have the work finished by mid-May but the building was in a worse state than thought. Parts of it had been covered with bitumen waterproofing but this also stopped water getting out and damaged the render, mouldings and structure. Also, the paint used in the past was not breathable and has compounded damp problems. Removing the bitumen and paint without causing more damage has been a long task and harder than expected.

In the process we have found that the Tower is made from **Ranger's Artificial Stone**. Those who know about the history of building methods are very excited by this, as it places the Pepperpot as one of the first buildings in the country to be made from this material; basically an early form of concrete invented by Ranger - a Brighton builder who worked with architect Charles Barry.

All good, but this still leaves us with a shrouded Tower. The sorry news is that the additional work has used up all of the money. Current funds will be enough to stop the deterioration and weatherproof the building for now, but the full restoration of the Ranger Stone and mouldings will cost another £100,000. Coming on top of the £70,000 spent so far, the council are unable to meet this cost. It's over to us then.

We need your help and enthusiasm to give the Pepperpot a future. Rather than leave it patched up and empty, Friends of the Pepperpot want to find a long term use for the building that will allow us to apply for funds to fully restore it and will bring in the money needed to maintain it. We have some ideas but need your help to decide which ones are right for the Pepperpot's future.

Join us and get involved, whether you want to help with some gardening around the base of the tower, can help with events, have business planning skills, building, surveying or architects skills, are interested in the history of the Pepperpot or can help with publicity and fundraising....we need you!

Get involved: meetings and events

Next general meeting: July 13th
Workshops for the imagination 7.30pm

Volunteer at our events - or just pop
by and say hello:

Picnic in the Park - Queens Park June
16th

Heritage Open Doors - 8th /11th Sept



News from the Pepperpot ~ Issue 5 ~ June 2011