

Friends of the Pepperpot

www.pepperpot.info

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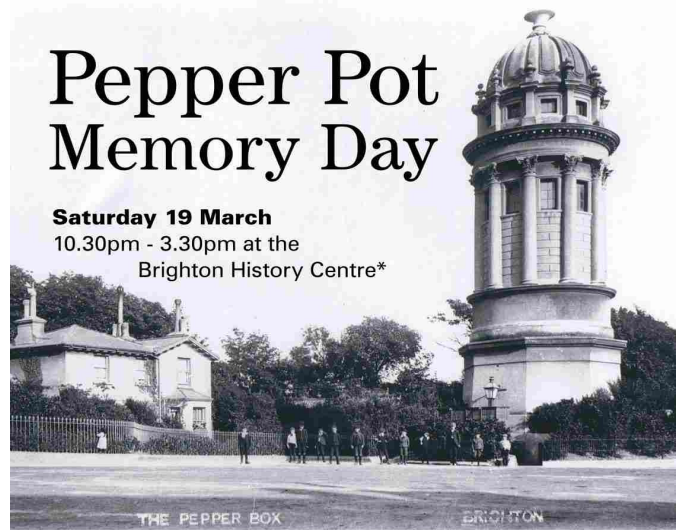
AGM Special Edition!

Welcome to the Friends of the Pepperpot first Annual General meeting.

The Friends of the Pepperpot are a group of volunteers interested in the Pepperpot Tower, 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 would like to identify new uses for the site which are supported by the local community and help ensure that the Pepperpot is well maintained and has a positive impact on its surroundings.



Pepper Pot Memory Day

Saturday 19 March
10.30pm - 3.30pm at the
Brighton History Centre*

Do you remember..

The Trams?

The 13th Brighton
Scout Troop?

The Xaverian College?

The artist Ken Gray?

If you do, we'd love you to come and share your stories and memories of this unique tower with us.

The **Friends of the Pepper Pot** will have a visual display and be on hand to answer questions and also record your memories, so please bring any photos that you may have.

For more information contact:
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*Brighton History Centre is located in Brighton Museum on the first floor, entrance in Royal Pavilion Gardens. Access by stairs or lift. A cafe is situated next to the Brighton History Centre.

Thank you for your support, enthusiasm, goodwill (and pounds!)

Little over a year back, a group of people concerned with the Pepperpot met and outlined fairly modest ambitions; lobby for the restoration of the Pepperpot Tower and the Tram Shelter and try to get community activity in the Pepperpot. A first target was to arrange an event for Heritage Open Doors in September.

As detailed by Rachel in the 'chairs report' (overleaf) the group has achieved and surpassed all of its early targets; we have held a series of public events, the Shelter has been restored and the council has found £60,000 to start restoration of the Tower.

All this is only possible because of the commitment and contributions of a huge number of people - a huge thanks to all of you.

Specifically we would like to thank our committee of the past year: Rachel Fryer (Chair), Simon Giddens (Treasurer) Robin Blackledge (Secretary) and other committee members: Amanda Brace, Linda Ginart, Chris Lowe, Hamish McGillverey, Nigel Spall, Guy Smythe, Alex Sutton-Vane, Mag Morris, Cicely Knowles, Jackie Lovesey

Also thanks to: Workshops for the Imagination, The Dover Castle, Friends of Queens Park, Brighton Design Associates, University of Brighton, Regency Townhouse, St Lukes Church, Brighton & Hove City Council and the Hedgecock Bequest.

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Friends of the Pepperpot: A review of our first 12 months

Little did we know when we first met on January 7th 2010 on a snowy evening in a cold church hall that so much could be achieved in just one year. The Friends of the Pepperpot became a constituted organisation on 4 February 2010 and has since held monthly meetings.

Following coverage about the group in the Argus, we received emails, phone calls and letters from people interested in being involved, with ideas for what they would like to see happen to the Tower and from people with memories to share.

In March 2010 we were approached by some art students from Brighton University wanting to put on an exhibition at the Pepperpot in May. Naturally we were delighted but didn't think it could possibly be organised in such a short space of time but somehow it was. So this was the first time the building was officially open to the public! Since then we have received many requests from artists wanting to use the space, one of which led to a sculpture exhibition the following month in June. Sadly a really exciting proposal for White Nights was refused due to there not being safe access anywhere other than the ground floor.



June also saw the launch of our greeting cards at the 'Picnic in the Park' event. They are on sale at various outlets in town including the Dover Castle.

In September we opened the folly up for *Heritage Open Doors*. Hamish and Alex created a fantastic 'virtual tour' of the upper floors and Chris & Nigel produced some amazing 'heritage' displays which helped us to tell the history of the building. The event, combined with our magnificent tea, coffee, cakes and gazebo, attracted over 800 people and helped us to raise £500. In December we held a 'Winter Warmer' event funded by the council's *Hedgecock Bequest Fund*. This was the first funding we have received from the council and we hope we can develop this further in the future.

During the year we have also been talking with the council about the future of the Pepperpot and how the community can be involved in it. We are exploring the option of *Community Asset Transfer* albeit extremely cautiously. In the meantime though we are delighted that the long overdue external works have begun, for which I think the group and wider community should take credit – the attention that has been lavished on the building has certainly encouraged the council to take action.

Future plans include a 'Memory Day', a video installation to be projected on the outside of the building (subject to funding) from *Shared Space and Light*, and a possible water 'overground sewer' tour – we have made contact with Southern Water and hope to meet with them soon.

Our immediate challenges are to bring an electricity supply to the building and to allow some kind of access to the upper floors. We are still exploring possible future uses and the three most popular options so far seem to be a café, a Bed and Breakfast and some kind of community venue.

It really feels like this folly has both no purpose and many purposes at the same time. As far as we know, when it was finally built it was not to serve its original purpose but purely for its own sake. As such it seems to attract so much spontaneity and creativity the project to restore and bring the building into use has really taken on a life of its own and inspired so many ideas. And so far it's been relatively simple! **Rachel Fryer - Chair of friends of the Pepperpot**