

## GROUP VISIT TO COWES 2021

On Friday and Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we organised a very successful joint visit with the Friends of the Maritime Heritage Trust to enjoy the extensive maritime heritage of Cowes and the Isle of Wight.

The flexible programme included guided tours of the award winning Cowes Classic Boat Museum Boat Shed and Gallery, the Cowes Maritime Museum, and the Isle of Wight Shipwreck and Maritime Heritage centre at Arreton Barns. Convivial dinners were enjoyed on both evenings, on Friday at the Royal London Yacht Club and on Saturday at the Island Sailing Club's pizza franchise.

### FRIDAY PROGRAMME

After morning coffee and a light lunch at the Pontoon View at Cowes Yacht Haven, the group walked to the nearby **Cowes Classic Boat Museum Boat Shed** in West Cowes, where wandered at will examining the many fascinating boats and other maritime memorabilia on display.



We then crossed the Medina by the chain ferry for East Cowes where it was just a short walk to Columbine Road and **Cowes Classic Boat Museum Gallery**. Here Rosemary Joy kindly put on a small presentation of some of her amazing film collections of the J Class and *Britannia* during the 1930s. We were given a guided tour of the recently enlarged and refurbished Gallery by the Museum's Director, Mark McNeill, who explained what they hoped to achieve once all restrictions from the pandemic had been lifted.



An enjoyable dinner followed at the Royal London Yacht Club in West Cowes.

### SATURDAY PROGRAMME

In the morning on Saturday, a number of members spent a happy morning in Cowes Library in Beckford Road, which houses the **Cowes Maritime Museum** and the Cowes Yachting record. On special display were the photographs of William Robert Hogg (1844-1928).



William Robert Hogg worked as a photographer for Jabez Hughes of Ryde. He was frequently sent to photograph Queen Victoria at Osborne House. Later in life he ran a tobacconist shop and sub post office in the town but still recorded the area on his plate camera. The Isle of Wight Heritage service holds a collection of over 200 glass negatives of Hogg's work of which 81 can be seen in the Maritime Museum. The photographs date from 1910 to the 1920s.



The group then took a bus from Cowes to the **Shipwreck Centre & Maritime Museum at Arreton Barns**. Largely formed of the personal collections accrued by its founder, Martin Woodward, who gave us a personal introduction to the site, the Centre's mission is to explore, share and display our submerged and maritime cultural heritage and strengthen understanding of how people's connection to the seas around us have shaped our culture.



Afterwards we returned to Cowes to enjoy a lively evening at the Island Sailing Club's new pizza franchise, now a permanent and popular feature of the Club's lower deck area.