

New Exhibition: “Shipbuilders of Shoreham”

The first exhibition produced at the Marlipins Museum by the Friends of Marlipins Museum. It is dedicated not only to those men who risked their own money to build the shipyards but above all to the men whose skills built ships from sail to steam in Shoreham for over 700 years.

Hundreds were employed in occupations such as shipwrights, ship chandlers, sail makers, sawyers, anchor smiths, blacksmiths and rope makers as well as labourers. These craftsmen created vessels which gained national and international recognition for their strong construction and excellent sailing qualities well into the 19th Century. It was a community activity - few men and women were not involved in the building of ships or in occupations related to the sea".

Men such as James Britton Balley, John Stow, R.H Penney, Dyer and Shuttleworth owned yards which occupied sites along both banks of the River Adur from the Norfolk Bridge to where today you will find the Bridge Pub, B & Q, Emerald Quay and the Lady Bee Marina. For instance Harry Stow's Yard extended from the Dolphin Hard, where the Ferry Footbridge is now, to the Surrey Hard close by to the present Sussex Yacht Club. Sadly, over a century of highly skilled local shipbuilding ended when the last yard closed in 1983.

Thanks go to the local community for their wonderful and vital support in contributing their memories and historical photographs and to sponsor, the Sussex Yacht Club, for their support and generous donation towards the exhibition's costs.

The exhibition will run from Tuesday, September 4th until Tuesday October 31st. Opening times Tuesday through to Saturday 10.30 am until 4.30 pm. The Museum is situated in the middle of Shoreham High Street. Normal admission prices apply - adults £3.00 children £1.50 and Friends of Marlipins Museum members admission is free. Groups are most welcome.



Workers amongst the wood shavings inside the building shed of Courtney & Birkett



Entitled "Shoreham Sunset seen from Soldiers Point", painted by the artist, Isaac Walter Jenner. *Courtesy of John Sheppard.*