

Old Portsmouth Walk

I would be happy to conduct a walk round Old Portsmouth, perhaps on 17 April which was the original date for the Chatham visit. This would be different from any visit to the Dockyard, *Victory*, *Mary Rose* etc

The main points of interest would be:

Nelson's last walk, from the hotel to the beach where he boarded a boat to be taken to HMS *Victory*

The Garrison Church, site of the first summit conference between the Prince Regent, Tsar of Russia and King of Prussia in 1814

The house where the Duke of Buckingham was assassinated in 1628

The Round Tower, where families wave off sailors going on deployment

Scenes from Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*

Views over the Solent

The remains of the fortifications of the town

Participants could meet at Shoreham Station (lifts to Shoreham available for those who want them) or travel all the way by car. The full party would assemble on Portsmouth Harbour Station concourse and walk towards the High Street and along the ramparts. The first part of the walk ends after two miles at the Still and West pub where lunch is available, or there are seats outside for those who bring sandwiches, all with a fabulous view of the harbour entrance.

For the second part, there is the option of walking round the fish market and Gunwharf Quays, the former naval torpedo depot with historic buildings and relics on display, back to the station (under two miles); or getting a service bus directly back to the station.

The walk is all on flat and firm ground except when going up stairs to the ramparts. I will check disabled access. There are seats, toilets and refreshments along the route.

The return fare to Portsmouth is £19.30 with senior railcard. A donation of £10/15 to the Society would be asked for.

A party of more than about 12 would be awkward. If there are more than that we might consider a second trip.

Brian Lavery