

# The Lymington Society

## Press Release

### Lymington Society and Town Council Announce Appointment of Project Managers for The Completion of The Burrard Neale Monument Restoration Project and Learning and Engagement Programme.

The Lymington Society is pleased to announce that Lymington and Pennington Town Council, working jointly with the Society, has now appointed the main Project Managers who will take the Burrard Neale Monument Restoration Project forward.

These are Christchurch based architects Columba Cook, who as the Conservation Project Managers, will be supervising the restoration of the monument itself and local charity SPUD, based in Sway, who will be responsible for the extensive learning and engagement programme based on the life and times of Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale.

#### Conservation of the Monument

Columba Cook are appointed as Conservation Project Managers for the restoration of the monument. As Conservation Accredited Architects they have the necessary heritage conservation skills, experience and accreditation to undertake this highly specialised work. Columba Cook were the practice that, on behalf of the Lymington Society, undertook the detailed survey and specialised cleaning trials in 2015, which has been the basis of the planning for the work that is needed on the monument.

Columba Cook have wide experience in restoring historic buildings generally and as ecclesiastical architects undertake both new church building and restoration. They are supervising ongoing conservation and repair work at Christchurch Priory and have built several new churches in the Dorset and Hampshire region as well as undertaking work at Palace House Beaulieu.

Jennie Schillig who works for Columba Cook and who will be overseeing the Burrard Neale conservation work said after the contract was awarded:

*"We are very pleased to have been awarded the contract as Conservation Project Managers for the Burrard Neale Monument restoration project. We have been involved since 2015 working for the Lymington Society. We organised the survey of the monument as well as the cleaning trials to come up with the best way of cleaning and restoring this important Grade II\* Monument. We look forward to working with the Lymington Society and the Town Council in taking this project to completion with work on the monument hopefully taking place in late Spring 2018"*

#### Learning and Engagement Programme

The Learning and Engagement Programme, which is an important part of the Burrard Neale Project, is being led by SPUD, the well know charity based in Sway, who will be coordinating a wide range of educational and engagement projects designed to increase awareness of the historical relevance of the life and times of Sir Harry Burrard Neale.

These will include theatre projects involving young people at Forest Forge Theatre, an educational research project at Saint Barbe Museum looking at the role of women at the time when Sir Harry was local MP, creation of a "Friends of Sir Harry" to help maintain the monument in the future, as well as public events to celebrate his life and times.

Mark Drury from SPUD, who are coordinating the Community Programme, said after being appointed to lead the programme:

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*"We at SPUD are really excited to be part of this important project. We look forward to building on the extensive work already carried out by the Lymington Society to raise the profile of this forgotten naval hero who was also most certainly Lymington's most celebrated resident. Later in the year we will be launching a series of public engagement events exploring the life and times of Sir Harry as well helping different groups of people examine important events that took place during his life and its relevance today."*

Commenting on the appointment of Columba Cook and SPUD to deliver the two main elements of the Burrard Neale project, Don Mackenzie coordinator of the Burrard Neale project for the Lymington Society said:

*On behalf of the Lymington society, we warmly welcome the appointment of Columba Cook and SPUD to help us deliver the main elements of the Burrard Neale project. We have already worked extensively with both Columba Cook on the survey work and cleaning trials and SPUD on the preparation and completion of the HLF bid documents on which they did such a good job. We look forward to continuing this relationship going forward. One of the main aims of the project is the formation of a "Friends of Sir Harry" and we will be looking for volunteers to become involved in ensuring that this important Grade II\* monument continues to be looked after in the future.*

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