



JONATHAN BAYLISS SOCIETY

THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2021

GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Program as of 7/3/21 For the most current information, visit jonathanbayliss.org/events

SATURDAY MORNING

Rocky Neck Cultural Center and Rocky Neck walk

Rocky Neck is a small island in Gloucester Harbor connected to East Gloucester via a causeway. Bayliss lived there from 1968 until 1991 and wrote much of his fiction during that time. In the novels, Rocky Neck is "Mother's Neck."

- **ROCKY NECK MEMORIES** Talks about Rocky Neck in the 1950s-1990s by **Liz Sibley Fletcher**, **George Sibley**, and **Mern Sibley**, who spent much of their childhood in this Gloucester presqu'isle. Their parents, Bill and Peggy Sibley, are fictionalized in *GLOUCESTERMAN* as the fisherman Wat Cibber and his wife, Teddi.
- **Guided walk**, seeing Rocky Neck sites from the novels including the house where Bayliss lived.
- **Guided tour** of the Gloucester Marine Railways (Bayliss's "Simon's Point Marine Railways").
- **Bag lunch** looking out over Gloucester Harbor from the former Tarr & Wonson Paint Manufactory, a historic building and key landmark on the Gloucester waterfront, now the headquarters of Ocean Alliance (the "Dogtown Net & Twine Manufactory" where Caleb and Lilian meet in the chapter "Stormcloud" in *Gloucestertide*).

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Cape Ann Museum, downtown Gloucester

- **ROCKY NECK IN THREE DIMENSIONS: ART COLONY, MARINE RAILWAYS, AND THE RUDDER, 1950S-1990S*** including a slideshow of vintage photos and talks by six women with rich memories and intimate knowledge of Rocky Neck's history: **Judy Walcott**, who will provide a brief introduction touching on Bayliss and his writer friend Peter Anastas, who grew up on Rocky Neck; **Sally Bradshaw** and **Suzy O'Hara Kadiff**, daughters of the painters Robert Bradshaw and Tom O'Hara, who were active in the summer art colony; **Viking Gustafson**, former general manager of

the Gloucester Marine Railways; **Susan Baker** and **Paula Parsons**, who ran the famous Rudder restaurant (Bayliss's "Starboard Gangway") on Rocky Neck for many years.

- **FATHER F. HASTINGS SMYTH AND THE SOCIETY OF THE CATHOLIC COMMONWEALTH** Talk on Father Smyth by retired Anglican **Bishop Terry Brown** (joining the conference by Zoom from England), with an introduction by writer and scholar **David Rich**. (Bayliss's character Father Duncannon is modeled on Father Smyth, leader of a high-church Episcopalian group that held socialist economic views. It was headquartered near Rocky Neck on Ledge Road during the late 1950s.) A slide show and audio recording will accompany the talk.

SATURDAY EVENING

Society Dinner at Short & Main function room, downtown Gloucester

- **"Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay"**: Diners will be introduced to this amusing renaissance play (which has a role in Bayliss's *Gloucestertide*) by retired professor of English **John Day**.
- **Silent auction** of items relating to Bayliss and Rocky Neck.
- **Buffet dinner** (cash bar).

SUNDAY MORNING

Rocky Neck Cultural Center and East Gloucester

- **The funniest scenes** in Bayliss's writing, with references to Rocky Neck and the Rudder restaurant.
- **Boat tour of the inner harbor** with views of Bayliss sites from the water (weather permitting; register for conference early to be sure of a seat).

The conference will end before lunch on Sunday.

* **"Rocky Neck in Three Dimensions" is a free program, open to the public, and presented by the Cape Ann Museum, Jonathan Bayliss Society, and Rocky Neck Art Colony**