



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2016

Friends of Gosport Museum

Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30am
every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Dates of Next Few Meetings

Thursday 14th January

Thursday 11th February

Thursday 10th March

Thursday 14th April

meet at; Community Table in the
Quiet Area past the café.

Friends of Gosport Museum

Talk - Kill or Cure

Just how bad was Tudor Medicine

Tuesday 22nd March 7:30pm

Gosport Discovery Centre

Tickets £3 FoGM Members FREE

Booking essential.

Christmas Party

The 2015 Friends of Gosport Museum Christmas Party took place in the Museum on the Mezzanine, a suitable place I think, on Monday 7th December from 2pm to 4pm. I was not able to stay the whole time so my comments are only from the first part.

I understand a total of 12 members attended, plenty of discussion about museum, history and other subjects, with tea and cakes. A number of committee members had other engagements etc.

It was suggested at the meeting if more members would be able and want to attend the Christmas or annual event, if there was a change of name, a change of activity, change of day, change of time and or change of venue. I have not given any suggestions so as not to move ideas in to your thoughts. If you have any ideas or suggestions that would be great, it may be just what the membership has been waiting for. You could also bring in ideas for the Annual General Meeting which is normally in May.

All the best for 2016. Ian Jeffery FoGM Secretary

Next FoGM Discovery Centre Talk (The Free one included in your membership)

Kill or Cure – Just how bad was Tudor Medicine? (A case study from the Mary Rose)

Tuesday 22nd March, 7.30pm in the Gosport Discovery Centre Booking Essential.

Trevor Sapey from the Mary Rose Trust talks about the gory and downright outlandish practices of Tudor medicine, with reference to the bones of the men found on the Mary Rose itself.

A light dinner beforehand is recommended!!

Tickets £3

Friends of Gosport Museum FREE! Sarah Greenaway Events and Development Officer

Gosport Discovery Centre What's On Guide January to April 2016

The Gosport Discovery Centre What's On Guide January to April 2016 is now available. You will find it in printed for at the Discovery Centre or you may have received a copy with this newsletter, if you receive a printed copy. It is also available from the Friends of Gosport Museum web site at www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk in .pdf format also from the Gosport Discovery Centre web site at www.hants.gov.uk/gdc .

Easter Island – Rapa Nui

Recently I went on holiday to Chile and Easter Island, somewhere I have wanted to visit for many years. I am sure most of us have either read or heard of Thor Heyerdahl and The Kon-Tiki Exhibition and his theory that the people of Easter Island came from South America. Well I am sorry to disappoint you but it has since been proved (mainly by DNA testing) that the people actually came from eastern Polynesia.

For most of us the image of Easter Island is the tall statues (known as moai) many with their red hats. At least 800 of these were carved or were in the process of being carved while 230 were transported to platforms round the edge of the island and erected, with their backs to the sea. There is no firm evidence as to how these were transported but lots of theories and it is known that in the process all of the existing trees on the island were cut down.

I think this latter piece of information had slightly influenced my vision of what the island might look like. Knowing that all the trees were gone, that the population have suffered a fairly major collapse, that fish and bird stocks had been exhausted I think I was coming to a fairly barren island. I could not have been more wrong – the island is lush and many trees have been replanted. They are still dependent on many of the essentials of life being imported from Chile but there are small farms and lots of chickens – the main protein.

The statues that have not been put into their final position do not have their eyes carved, it seems that this was one of the final things to be done. It has also recently been discovered (1980's) that during special occasions the eye sockets have white coral inserted into the eye gaps which completely transforms their appearance. It has also been shown that the statues did not stare at the villages but that their gaze was slightly upward, which could explain the old name of the island, Mata-ki-te-Rangi (eyes towards the heavens). If you want to see a prime example of a moai the British Museum has one of the best preserved and carved ones that still exists. Many of those on the island itself are showing the effects of erosion and also the fact many of these statues were deliberately pulled down and destroyed.

At this point the "birdman" religion or practise took over and this has led to the second reason many people visit Easter Island. The wonderful rock art at Orongo which is festooned with

carvings of the birdmen. Easter Island also have some unique rock art – chickens – this is the only place where something so common place has been found depicted and probably shows how important chickens were to the population.

Looking at some of the ruins of villages that are near the statues the houses were boat shaped but there are also round enclosed buildings that were used to house the chickens. Not to protect them from predators but to protect them from being stolen.

My visit did not disappoint and I realised that the history is far more complex than I have initially realised. The quarry with over 400 partially cared moai is in a spectacular setting overlooking the sea but, for me, had a sense of sadness. So much time and energy had gone into creating these statues but no one really knows why, but the consequences appear to have been divesting with the island completely denuded of trees and it becoming more and more difficult for the people to feed themselves. With no trees they could not build boats so could not fish. The lack of trees probably led to the soil being eroded so it was more difficult to grow things. Who knows for sure? There are lots of theories and a lot of research is still being done. Our guide on the trip was Paul Bahn, an expert on the island, and listening to him you realise how much there is still to be learnt about Easter Island or Rapa Nui. By Yvonne Riddell

BAFM online - Thank you for your encouragement

Dear Friends, A heartfelt 'thank you' for your interest, encouragement and positive responses to our first e-newsletter sent out in September. Judging from your comments, it was well received and should be continued because it has the potential to be an important link between BAFM and the wider membership.

To achieve that ambition we depend on you to encourage others to sign up to receiving the e-newsletter by using the form on the website at bafm.co.uk/newsletter. You can be assured that your emails are protected and will not be disclosed to any other voluntary or commercial organisation. And if for any reason you want to stop receiving the e-newsletter at any time, simply click on the 'unsubscribe' link at the bottom of the newsletter and you will be immediately removed from the mailing list.

Please send us your news items to tell us what information and help that you need in the running of your group. We are pleased to report that we now have almost 600 subscribers and the number is growing steadily.

The other thing I have been asked to mention is that until we have someone to sift the incoming member newsletters and other news for the BAFM Journal, these should be sent to your Region's Co-ordinator rather than the editor. They will help select the best bits and suitable news for wider distribution, before forwarding them to the Journal Editor.

BAFM on Social Media – Follow Us, Like Us, Join Us

As mentioned in the last Regional e.Newsletter, we now have a presence on social media thanks to our Technology Advisor, Paul Leverett. Our aim is to promote and share the latest news and information through these mediums: We are gaining more Followers and Likers every day, please continue to encourage your members to connect with us:

Twitter: **@BAFM_UK**

Like us: **facebook.com/bafmuk** From the BAFM SE(W) Regional e-Newsletter

Gosport Gallery

Gosport Gallery is looking for volunteers to help steward exhibitions and welcome visitors. If you are interested, you can get more information and an application form by emailing the Curator Erica Munro at erica.munro@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or by leaving your contact details at Gosport Gallery. Erica Munro Curator

All Friends of Gosport Museum Committee Members who were at a meeting a couple of meetings ago, were given a couple of the Volunteer Packs and application forms, so you may be able to obtain them from the committee, Names in the panel below Ian Jeffery

President

Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman

Sidney Aynsworth

023 9258 0544

Vice Chairman

Margaret Ventham

Hon. Treasurer

David Moore

023 9258 6575

Hon. Secretary

Ian Jeffery

023 9252 3358

Committee Secretary

Dot Bedenham

Membership Secretary

Linda Hedley

Committee Members

Mary Duly

Jack Poole

Yvonne Riddell

This Autumn the Hampshire Field Club has published three new titles - two being the first two in the second series of the Hampshire Papers and the other being a fantastic book about the place names in both Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

All have excellent illustrations and are worthy additions to book-shelves.

www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk you need to contact. If it is for the Gosport Museum Collection then it would be Jacqui Ready jacqui.ready@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk . If you would like to volunteer for the remainder of the Discovery Centre it would be Rose Redman rosemary.redman@hants.gov.uk . The Gallery volunteering to now contact Erica Munro erica.munro@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk .

If you have information, articles, events or photos that may be of interest to Friends of Gosport Museum, please let me have them by post or email. A big thank you to those who have contributed to this newsletter. If for the March Newsletter by 13th February or as soon as you can to : Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR – ian@gosport.info

The Newsletter can be received by email (Adobe Reader .pdf) let me know if you would be happy to receive it this way. Ian

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
Ian Jeffery, FoGM Newsletter Editor
11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR ian@gosport.info
If you would be happy to receive this Newsletter
by email in .PDF, please let me know.
The views expressed are not necessarily those of
Hampshire Cultural Trust, GDC or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is
open to all - Please contact any Committee
member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6
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