



# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

[www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk)

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2017***

### Friends of Gosport Museum

#### Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30am  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

#### Dates of Next Few Meetings

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

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

### Gosport Gallery

Royal Blood: Births, Battles and Beheadings

21<sup>st</sup> January to 11<sup>th</sup> March

#### Naval and Local Studies Exhibition

Sailing Under the Red Ensign

3<sup>rd</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### Discovery Centre Talks

Go Into The Cellar Theatre Company

Tea with Oscar Wild £10

7:30pm 8<sup>th</sup> February

### Chairman's Report to the Friends of Gosport Museum 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

A very Happy New Year to all. How many New Year Resolutions have you broken? Less frivolity, I do hope that everyone has had an enjoyable Christmastide and now ready for a busy year.

Since my report of last October, the Committee has had a fruitful meeting with Dr Janet Owen and a worthwhile exchange of ideas and comments about how our Museum will go forward in the coming years ensued. The Hampshire Cultural Trust is still in its infancy but appears to be well nourished and is thriving.

SEARCH continues to go from strength to strength. There has been the interesting exhibition "Love Thy Denim" in the Gallery and starting next week it hosts "Royal Blood" subtitled "Births, Battles and Beheadings" rather enigmatic and perhaps gory. As I have commented before, the Gallery is only viable as long as the small devoted band of volunteers continue to invigilate at the exhibitions, there are insufficient HCT staff at present to do this. Cerian Trevan the newly appointed Community Manager is now in post and is assisted by Jeff Witcher from Bursledon Mill following the departure of Jenny Manwarring for warmer climes in California; we extend our greetings and wish them well.

Now to a very enjoyable matter. I extend the warm congratulations from the Friends to Jack Poole who has recently received an award in recognition of all the time and devotion he gives to SEARCH and in the Museum on the Mezz on Saturday. Well done Jack and thank you for the efforts you put into this worthwhile cause.

Unfortunately one of our “perks” has been withdrawn, since the separation of the Museum and Library services we no longer have any sponsored talks in the Discovery Centre, never-the-less the talks continue and are well supported. The GDC, outside the HCT, has had displays on WW1 and 100 Years of Cub Scouting.

This will be my penultimate report as your Chairman, I shall not seek re-election at the next AGM in May; I have occupied this Chair for 10 years, it is now time for fresh blood to take over for the forth coming and I hope exciting future development of the Museum. Thank you all for your support without which the Friends nor the Museum would exist. My Best wishes to you all.

Sydney Aynsworth Chairman

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Dr Janet Owen attended the Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January. She said that all the ideas are at very early stages, but advised of some of the current thoughts and asked for comments and ideas from from the Committee. One idea they are looking at is bringing the Museum over to the building, which over the years has been so many things, combining with the Gosport Gallery. With the Gallery comments were also made to try and make the Gallery better known as it seems with the signs and such like, many people do not know about the Gosport Gallery or where it is. Ian Jeffery

### James Herbert Fisher

Few people today have heard of James Herbert Fisher, but if you had attended Cambridge University Extension lecture courses in Portsmouth between 1886 and 1939 you would almost certainly have met him. Extension courses were a form of further education first established in 1873 by the University of Cambridge and developed over the following years by other universities in Great Britain. Lecturers, more used to teaching the male offspring of middle and upper class families on campus, left their universities and travelled to various towns and cities in the land to deliver courses in the arts and sciences to both men and women, many of them from working class backgrounds. Extension was groundbreaking in its day and one way of bringing a university standard of education to people unable for a variety of reasons to become resident undergraduates. Courses were followed by examinations for the keenest of the students.

Portsmouth took up University Extension in 1886 and the students included men and women from Gosport. J Herbert Fisher, (as he preferred to be called), was involved with Extension from the day it started in Portsmouth until the day it ended in the town in 1939. In the Lent term of 1886 he was a keen young student, passing his first Extension examination when he was only 14 years old and becoming one of the first of the Portsmouth students to pass six examinations in a three-year period and so to acquire a Vice-Chancellor's Certificate from the University of Cambridge in 1889. By 1896 Fisher had become involved in the administration of these adult education courses and was Joint Secretary of the Portsmouth Extension Centre. He was still involved with the administration of the movement in Portsmouth and beyond when the Centre closed in 1939. He was then approaching seventy years of age.

What do we know about Fisher?

In 1881 nine-year old James was living with his family at 4 Molesworth Drive in Alverstoke. The family can't have been living there for very long. Sister Annie was only three years old and, like her parents and brother, had been born in Halifax. The Fisher family appear to have moved south when father, Alfred, became an assistant art master at the Gosport School of Science and Art. Science and Art Classes were another form of continuing education, although not of a university standard. In 1881 classes were held in the schoolroom in the Market House in Gosport High Street. Two years later they were moved to the premises vacated by the Working Men's Club in North Street in order to accommodate more students. In 1883 Alfred Fisher was teaching building construction, machine construction and drawing to both students of both sexes and all

ages. At the same time as attending Extension courses, young James was also taking lessons in art, presumably taught by his father. By 1889 the Fisher family had moved to 12 Prince of Wales Road in Gosport. At the time of the 1891 census James was an assistant to his father, although by this date the family appear to have moved to Portsmouth where Alfred taught at the Portsmouth School of Art. Like his father, James by this date was also described as an artist and, as an artist he submitted art for exhibition and for competition. In 1898, in the National Art Competition held at South Kensington, J Herbert Fisher was awarded a bronze medal for a set of studies in historic art. It was the only award of its kind gained in the Portsmouth District.

J Herbert was not the only member of his family to attend Extension lectures. Both his father and his sister Annie (usually known as Sissie) were both keen students. All three were, or later became, artists. On the 1901 census return Sissie was described as a painter and sculptor and by 1908 was working as an art mistress at the Pontypridd Pupil and Teacher Centre. James and Annie had a much younger brother. Leonardo Raphael Claude Fisher was born in Portsmouth 17 years after the birth of his elder brother, when his mother was about 40 years old. Given his name, great things may have been expected of him, but Leonardo doesn't appear to have the same aptitude for art as his father, his siblings or the famous artists he was named after. Leonardo Raphael Claude Fisher is recorded on the 1911 census as a 22 year-old bank clerk.

By 1901 J Herbert Fisher was married. Ten years later the census records him as an art master living at 66 Gladys Avenue, North End, Portsmouth and employed by the borough council. By this time he and his wife, Alice, had an eight-year old son, Ladas. J Herbert was no longer taking University Extension examinations but was still very much involved with the administration of the courses. Little is known about his personality but it is said that he was not always an easy man to work with. He was once described as 'an amusing little man but easily rubbed the wrong way', quick to take offence. However, his attachment to Extension doesn't appear to have wavered. As well as continuing to run the Portsmouth centre with Frederick Blake, until Blake resigned in 1927, he also took on the role of Secretary of the Southern Counties Association of Cambridge Extension Centres from its foundation in 1903 until about 1931. He was also a member of the Cambridge Board of Extra Mural Studies from its foundation in 1924 until 1942. During the jubilee celebrations of University Extension in 1923 Fisher received an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Cambridge, on which occasion the Deputy Public Orator declared that: 'The energy with which he conducted the Portsmouth Centre has now for some years had wider scope and equal success in the whole Southern District, and we welcome him among us today as one intimately associated with this University by long and efficient service.' He died in Portsmouth in 1955.

I have been researching students who attended University Extension for many years and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who recalls a family member or friend who attended these courses or anyone who has information about the Fisher family.

You can contact me at [dot.bedenham@gmail.com](mailto:dot.bedenham@gmail.com)

By Dot Bedenham

## The Diary of Martha Georgiana Loftus Tottenham 1883

Saturday March 31<sup>st</sup>

Morning went with Louisa into Gosport. She, Hilda and I then went down on the pier and were weighed. Hilda 9st 6lbs – I was 9st 2lbs – then we took a boat and rowed for an hour round to the seawall and back.

Fowls came after dinner – said my voice was coming on very well and seemed to think I had

improved. Emily is going to have a song. Philip Perceval and Freddy came to stop till Monday, played tennis after Fowls went till nearly tea-time. Mama and Frank and Anne returned. Played Vingt-un and nap in the evening.

Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>

Church. Mr Durst preached, Charlie Perceval came. Walk in the afternoon.

"4" "Foul Play" by Charles Reade, a most fascinating book – no-one called – Mama stayed in bed all day.

Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Baed half an hour. E and H went into Southsea. L., Louisa and I went in after dinner bought a pair of tennis shoes, had a regular fight with the woman at Baker's who wanted me to have a pair about four sizes too large. Met Emily at {}, tried several shops for stays, no nice ones, went to tea at Miss Cornish's, where we saw Mrs Bushbridger, Mr Snape's pupil – returned home laden with parcels so that our lovers and acquaintances stood afar off and cut us with a few bright exceptions. Met Dr Grey at Symonds, he belongs to the Seaflower now. "4" Nathalie. Finished antimacassar for Mama's birthday to-morrow. I made a solemn vow and declaration to-day before three witnesses Emily, Lily and Hilda, to marry the first man who asks me; this is for the good of the family. I am going to write my will under Hilda's directions.

Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mama's birthday; a scrumptious day – E. gave Mama her copy of the G.M's Rembrandt; it looks awfully fine, framed and Mama was delighted – Anne and Caroline both made offerings, which I am happy to say, were accepted; but poor Anne's was so nicely done that she caught a fearful blowing up for not darning her stockings as neatly – after dinner, Capt. Hassard and Miss Colly came to tennis; I played one game and then left them to their own devices, and retired to the schoolroom. Mrs Webber came and invited Hilda there to dinner so I was left alone in the evening after they had gone to the ball at Cawtes' – Papa and Frank had a regular good quack, which was very edifying, so that they were about two hours over their tea, and I took to working. Hilda washed my head after she came back – noble girl! I was very late into bed as I read "Nathalie" "4". Heard Lily come in but was too sleepy to make any remarks.

Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>

Did not awake till Hilda came in and shook me, about 8.30, so she got breakfast, as Mama, E, and Lily, stayed in bed. Louisa got up – I examined Lily's card when I arose from my couch and observing Wills put down for 12 dances, I silently but devoutly thanked Providence for having preserved me from being present. E. only danced about eight times and Louisa only two or three – what should I have done? I shudder at the thought! It must have been bitterness to Mama and joy to Mrs Marlow to see Katie and Poppy twizzling round the whole evening, while E sat out – I expect it will be just as bad at Fareham, if not worse. D'Aubrey and Mrs James came to tennis; had one rather good game. Mrs J and I against E and D'A. They won but we were 'five all' and then we played for the best out of three and then we were 'game and', and 'advantage all' and then they won; it was my fault, too much muscle, or rather I never know what my racquet is going to do. Mama asked them to stay to tea, but very fortunately they did not. Tried on our dresses after tea; I think they will look nice, but why have I such a beastly figure?!!! Mr James is ugly but has a nice face; I don't go many cents on him. D'Aubrey really ought not to wear light clothes when he is in mourning, and they do suit him so badly, too!

Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>

Walked with Louisa and the kids into Gosport; and then down on the pier, found a sweet cat there – Snape after dinner; stopped about half an hour after his usual time – tennis with Hilda and Louisa.

Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>

Stays came – two inches smaller than I ordered - β. Wore Lily's. Hilda and Louisa walked into Southsea, were not back till very late. Jumped out of the dining-room window and climbed in again. Dressed. Katie Marlow and Mrs Webber came to see us which I thought great cheek. Lily looked nicer than anybody, I thought, and Emily was stunning too. We went in a bus and cab with Major Stewart and Co., the Salmons, Dr Vasey & c. Dr Vasey went as a French officer of the last century. There were some very pretty dresses. Wills and Dr Vasey were the only men I knew, Dr Donovan was there and asked to be introduced to me over again though he knows be already I think, but I did not see him. I made the acquaintance of Major Stewart, Colonel Warren, Mr Mills, an engineer (or artillery-man?) at Blockhouse, and Mr Seymour, doctor at Haslar, none of them danced very beautifully – I enjoyed it, so to speak.

April 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday 5.30 A.M.

Came home this morning from Fareham. At 6.30 went with Hilda for a walk by the sea-wall. After breakfast, E, H, Louisa, F and I went to see review by Duke of Cambridge on the Southsea Recreation Ground. Met Col. Stewart who walked around with us. Drove back. Fowls after dinner; I fell asleep while waiting for her. She was anything but pleased with me but excused me in consideration of my having been up all night.

April 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Stayed in bed till after they had gone to church. Nobody came. Mama stayed in bed all day, Emily likewise; quacked with E. all the evening.

By Yvonne Riddle

## Do You Know – Items about Gosport Facts

1) John Hatch, a notorious smuggler lived in Bury House, Bury Rd in the early 18<sup>th</sup> C. and conducted a lively business in this criminal way. For his sins, he spent some years in the notorious Fleet Prison in London.

2) Captain Peter Solgard, a naval captain, who followed John Hatch at Bury House, won gained fame by capturing a pirate ship off the American coast, a deed which was recognised by awarding him the Freedom of New York, the 15<sup>th</sup> recipient of this prestigious honour. (Acknowledge Malcolm Stevens who has done the research?)

The idea for the above item and the information was sent in by Mary Duly – Thank you Mary. Perhaps you have some information about Gosport even if loosely. Don't worry if is say, disputed, sometimes these items create a discussion and even more information is found piecing together parts from a number of people.

To start, I was watching a programme presented by Tony Robinson about the history of Australia. He mentioned the name James Hargreaves who Tony Robinson said that, 'he went to California to find gold but did not find any so went on to Australia and found it'. I remembered the name from a few years ago when someone who I believe lives in Australia but as he said formally of Hardway and Alverstoke. He advised that James Hargreaves was born in Gosport and was looking for gold on behalf of his brother Edward's business. It was suggested on the TV programme that the gold was known before, but was kept quiet due to employers in Australia not wanting all their workers disappearing to find gold rather than working for them. If he did not discover the gold he made the World aware of it. Not bad for someone from Gosport.

Ian Jeffery

## AGM Preparation – Nomination Forms

The Friends of Gosport Museum AGM will be on hopefully 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7pm in the Gosport Discovery Centre. Booking of community table has not yet been confirmed.

Part of this meeting, which is open to all the membership, is to elect the committee and officers of the Friends of Gosport Museum for the year May 2017 to May 2018. There should be a nomination form included with the March (next) newsletter, whether in print or by email.

Except Dr Aynsworth the current committee has agreed to stand for another year in their current posts . If there is anyone who may wish to join the committee or you feel would be good for the committee, please complete a form with their name and a proposer and seconder. If you wish to stand but do not know of members who will propose you, contact a committee member who will arrange for this to be done. If you wish to nominate someone, please make sure that they are happy to stand, this gives an extra month to think about joining the committee or taking on a post.

President

*Bob Whiteley*

Committee Chairman

*Sidney Aynsworth*

*023 9258 0544*

Vice Chairman

*Margaret Venham*

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*

### Subscription Reminder 2016/17

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum 2017/18 due from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 £6 single £9 joint please send the Payments (cheques made to: Friends of Gosport Museum) to Linda Hedley, 7 Fairhome Close, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HZ. Forms to be included in the March newsletter.

Joined since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 your subscription lasts to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at [wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jacqui.ready@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) . If you would like to volunteer for the remainder of the Discovery Centre it would be Mark Collyer [mark.collyer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mark.collyer@hants.gov.uk) . Gosport Gallery volunteering contact Jef Whitcher [enquiries@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@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 19<sup>th</sup> February or as soon as you can to : Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR – [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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  
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11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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  
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