



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2015

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 9th July

Thursday 13th August

Thursday 10th September

Thursday 8th October

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

Friends of Gosport Museum Sponsored Talk

Meet and greet with wine at 7pm
Duelling in the Royal Navy - 6th August, 7.30pm

Local author Mark Barton tells us about some
of the duels that occurred within the Royal
Navy and the Royal Marines, including the very
last English duel which took place in Gosport.

Tickets £3, Friends of Gosport Museum FREE
Booking Essential

Chairman's Report to AGM 7th May 2015

The past year has been an eventful one for the Museum and also personally for me. Unfortunately I was indisposed from Christmas until the beginning of April and consequently I missed some events.

The Hampshire Cultural Trust is now in operation. This is as I am sure you now know a Charitable Trust comprising of the Museums in Hampshire and is the successor to the Hampshire County Councils Museum and Archaeology Department. It appears to have been a smooth transition which bodes well for the future (I am sure that the staff have had many headaches !) Our immediate contacts with the Trust are-Wendy Redman at SEARCH, Erica Munro the SE Hampshire Area Curator and area Manager, Annabel Cook.

One aspect that the Trust is actively developing is in the area of volunteers, several are already assisting, not only as stewards in the Gallery during Exhibitions but also in SEARCH and in the Museum on the Mezzanine; the ideal number (I have heard) would be between 40 and 50, with this number the duties do not become too onerous and I assure your help is greatly appreciated. It is not necessary to be a Friend to become a volunteer and if you know anyone who would be

interested, get them to contact Erica Munro (you could persuade them to become a Friend also !) As I have noted the work is not onerous and if you can give a few hours on a weekly, or even fortnightly basis, it is very rewarding. So far the volunteers have been active at the D-Day exhibition, The Artists Rifles, the Young Artists and Terry Pratchett; they also have been active in SEARCH and in the Museum. The theme of the year is *Dinofest* and the volunteers are being briefed on this tomorrow (8th May).

The talks given in the Discovery Centre have been enjoyed by large audiences and of course, more talks will be given during the year. The Thursday morning coffee mornings remain popular, with many topics being discussed along with a cup of coffee. SEARCH seems to go from strength to strength and the children take back fond memories of their time spent there, this is shown in their classroom work.

The area meeting of the British Association of Friends of Museums is being held in June in Reading. I regret that I shall be unable to attend this year. In the past there have been very interesting lectures in the morning and after luncheon a general discussion among the groups of Friends, exchanging ideas about how the groups can support their local Museum.

Thank you to all of those attending the AGM and for all of your continued support of the Museum.
Sydney Aynesworth Chairman

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

Royal Connections to Gosport

In 2016 the Big Theme for Hampshire Cultural Trust is Royal Blood:
“Royal Blood Big Theme will provide a series of exhibitions, events, programmes and performances across the region exploring the power and status of Royalty across the county. We will look at themes from Iron Age / Roman Britain through Saxon England to Winchester’s position as medieval capital. This will be the core narrative (‘chieftan to kingship’). However, this theme could expand across the county to all time periods to give best chance for relevant material and local links – Tudors, Civil War, Empire and Sea Power, Victoria (Jubilee)”

I would like your help in identifying any royal connections to Gosport. From earliest times to the present. Any pointers you could give me to pass on to the project team would be brilliant and you will be acknowledged. I don’t need detailed research, just the bones of any possible stories.
Many thanks, Janet Wildman

Coincidence

When Bob Whiteley, our President, first became involved in FGM on his arrival in Gosport from the north, I made initial small talk, as one does, with this new chap, who looked as if he might provide us with fresh blood. !!

I asked him if he knew the Yorkshire mill town village of Hebden Bridge, which was not too far from where he had lived and in which I had a particular interest as I am lucky to have family

documents about Hebden Bridge dating back to the early 17th C.

“Oh yes,” Bob replied, ! in fact, my great grandfather had a farm on the top of those wild, Bronte-like moors.

I came home, looked up a reference book I had on the area, it fell open at his family property and traced that family line back to the mid 16th C –it even looks as if one of my own ancestors was linked into it. !

I was right about Bob, he has been our Chairman, Newsletter Editor and now of course, our President. By Mary Duly

My Time at Our Museum – Conversations with Jack!

Time on my hands – what to do on Saturday mornings? Too old or too lazy for many things but I’ve always been a bit of a nosey parker and enjoy listening to other people’s experiences and comparing them with my own. At a museum or art gallery I don’t mind striking up conversations with strangers. Why not make use of my local knowledge to help the public using our town museum in the Discovery Centre?

Wearing a volunteer badge I help to guide visitors around the ‘Story of Gosport’. The two most commonly asked questions are ‘How long has the museum been here?’ and ‘When does the display finish?’ I explain the origin of the static display and ask why they are visiting. If ‘browsing’ is the answer I explain about using the Photo Files and the headsets at many of the cabinets. ‘If there are questions you would like to ask, I’ll do my best to help if you want more information.’

Having been born in Gosport in 1926, I have a fairly good memory of the area in the 20’s and 30’s. Most people are surprised how small Gosport was then, even the locals! Rowner and Bridgemary were farm land. The only houses between Gosport and Fareham were built on what had been the tram railway track. We enjoyed walking along the lanes with banks covered in primroses and bluebells in spring and picking hazel nuts in autumn from the hedgerow trees.

Most of the children who visit are interested in the photos of the old schools and the roads where they now live. They are surprised by the important part Gosport played in the armed services. Grange Airfield was the main training school for the Royal Flying Corp in the ’14 –’18 war and many trials etc happened there in ’39 – ’45. The Gosport Tube was invented here. It allowed the instructor in the rear seat of an aircraft to speak to the trainee pilot in the front seat. They are amazed at the numbers of Service personnel in the barracks and forts, that submarines have been based at HMS Dolphin H.Q. since the beginning of that Service. I show children the fascinating holograms fronting the display boards at the top of the stairs.

People are really surprised to learn that virtually all the requirements for ships, aircraft and their crews were supplied from Gosport’s yards and depots – water, food and fuel. Torpedoes, mines and depth charges came from Bedenham and Frater, also ammunition of all sizes from pistol bullets to 16” shells and all the cordite. At one time there were three railway stations in use. One is now private housing, another is under the telephone exchange, the third is derelict. Haslar Hospital is surprisingly well known. Many visitors are here because a member of their family served here at some time others are just casual passers-by. I’ve spoken to visitors from South Africa, Peru and other places. I was puzzled by one man’s accent, he was from St Helena. When my ship visited the island in 1947, he was a schoolboy. I find much to interest me and would miss the couple of hours spent there on Saturday mornings being part of our team of volunteers and, I hope, making the visitors feel welcome and pleased that they came to our museum.

By Jack Poole

AGM 7th May

This year's AGM was at 7pm in the Gosport Discovery Centre on the 7th May 2015. The numbers attending were 11 similar to the last couple of years, mainly committee members, but thank you to the few non-committee members who attended and saw the talk by Maggie Venham about the Grove Estate.

If you would like to have been at the Friends of Gosport Museum AGM but the day or time is not suitable, I cannot promise a change, but the suggestion will be put to the committee for next years AGM and if something can be done, I will let you know in future newsletters.

If you have any ideas or suggestions about the Christmas Party/ Meeting, they would also be very welcome. Ian Jeffery (Secretary)

President

Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman

Sidney Aynsworth

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Vice Chairman

Margaret Venham

Hon. Treasurer

David Moore

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Hon. Secretary

Ian Jeffery

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Committee Secretary

Dot Bedenham

Membership Secretary

Linda Hedley

Committee Members

Mary Duly

Jack Poole

Yvonne Riddell

Subscription Reminder 2015

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum 2015/16 are due from 1st April 2015. Payments to Linda Hedley, 7 Fairhome Close, Gosport, Hants PO12 3PU. Single £6 Joint £9. (Sorry about the wrong address in the last Newsletter)

If you joined since the 1st November 2014 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2016. Thank you to those of you who have paid this years subscription.

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 July Newsletter by 14th August 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, FGM Newsletter Editor

11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR ian@gosport.info
If you would be happy to receive this Newsletter
by email please let me know.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of
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