

# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

## *NEWSLETTER*

*MARCH/ APRIL 2010*

### The Geology of the Solent Area

adult education workshop

8<sup>th</sup> March 2010

6pm – 8:30pm

Talk by Dr Chris Palmer

'Rock Star' Dave Kemp

25<sup>th</sup> March 2010 7:30pm

The Studio, Discovery Centre

Details Below:

### Friends of Gosport Museum

#### Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30pm

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Meetings before next Newsletter

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

For around 1 hour meet at  
Readers' Rest Café March 948AD  
Royal Saxon Charter of Stoke

### Chairman' Letter February 2010

Dear Friends,

A somewhat belated Happy New Year to you and I trust we have all recovered from our short "white winter".

I am pleased to report that Margaret Ventham has joined the Committee and I am sure that her expertise will be welcomed by the Committee and the Friends as a whole.

The Christmas Party, which we held on the mezzanine, was well appreciated by those who came, the excellent refreshments on this occasion being provided by the Discovery Centre Café; the patients at the War Memorial Hospital were grateful once again for our Christmas gifts.

During the last few months, the Museum, SEARCH and the Gallery have all seen more visitors. The exhibitions of the works of Martin Snape and later Colin Baxter were both well received and very successful. On this theme, the Gosport Open Art Exhibition now showing in the Gallery is of a very high standard and is a "must see" event. SEARCH has held several successful events for Schools and "Parent & Children groups" the one on the History of Gosport saw some of our members helping and telling the children how life was in the 30's, 40's, & 50's, they were nearly

exhausted by the questions from the children who were amazed that we “Old Folk” managed to live without TV, mobile phones or the Internet! Thanks to these there has been a rise in visitor numbers and thankfully the Museum is slowly becoming a part of Gosport again.

May I remind you that “The Friends” are sponsoring a Study Day in the Geology section in March; on 25<sup>th</sup> March, in the Discovery Centre, Chris Palmer is going to give us a talk entitled “Hard Rock” and finally the AGM this year is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Let us now look forward to helping our Museum have another good year.

My good wishes to you all, Sydney Aynsworth.

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### Enclosed Forms

I hope I have included 2 forms with this newsletter. If I have not and you need them, please let me know. The first is a reminder for the 2010/11 subscription due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. It is the same as last year, £5 for a single and £7.50 for a join membership. Please send your payment to Linda Hedley, or if you wish to pay by standing order contact David Moore, full details on the enclosed forms.

As in the Chairman's letter the AGM is on the 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Discovery Centre 7:30pm. I have enclosed the nomination form for Friends of Gosport Museum officers and membership of the committee. The current officers and committee members have agreed to continue in their posts if that is the wish of the Friends of Gosport Museum membership. There is a vacancy for a Vice-Chairman, so please think about joining the committee, if you unable to obtain a proposer and seconder, approach a member of the committee to do this for you . You must obtain the agreement of the person that you wish to nominate and return the form by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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### Rock Star - Geology Talk

25th March 7.30pm-9pm - Mezzanine Studio, Gosport Discovery Centre.

An illustrated talk about the late great Dave Kemp, local palaeontologist, keeper of geology for the museums service and long time assistant curator of Gosport Museum, and the development of the Geology Gallery in Gosport. Speakers will include Dr Chris Palmer, Head of Collections for Hampshire Museums Service. Organised by the Friends of Gosport Museum and free to their members. Tickets £2 Concessions £1 FGM members free. Booking essential Tel: 023 9252 3463 or at the Discovery Centre.

See past Newsletters with articles about Dave Kemp now on the web site.

## Discovery Centre Pride of Place Case

Have you seen the "Pride of Place Case" on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Discovery Centre. It contains collections, hobbies and artwork in displays by local groups and individuals. I understand that there are vacancies in the case in 2010, so if you would be interested in having your collection, hobbies or artwork displayed, collect a form from the reception on the ground floor of the Discovery Centre.

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## Museum Manager's Report Oct-Dec 2009

(The report was on 2 pages of A4 I have taken items from it. I hope I have not missed anything)

Community Museum Visitor Figures: 2009 were 18% up on 2008.

Exhibitions: Dressed 2 Express and 1970's both produced or sourced by HCCMAS Exhibitions Team. February & March 2010 Open Art locally organised.

Community Events, Talks and Workshops: Dressed 2 Express Fashion Show (EDGE Youth Group) in Gallery and Mezzanine Studio. Big Draw event in Gallery (family workshop and exhibition). Bones and Beasties family workshop, Museum on the Mezzanine. Family Photo Detectives event, Local Studies Centre. 1970S Opening Fun Day in and around Gallery and SEARCH. 1970S Christmas cards and decorations workshop in Gallery and SEARCH. 2 Story Time Specials for under 5s and carers based on exhibitions. 2 Outreach sessions by museum officer in Lee and Stubbington libraries.

Schools' Service: Emma Hart developed new 'Old and New' session for KS1 in Museum on Mezzanine, trialled by Bedenham Primary School. Emma developed new self-led KS1 resources for Museum on Mezzanine, trialled by Wicor Primary School. 5 classes attended self-led visits to the 1970s exhibition, with more (and some led sessions) in January 2010. Emma ran outreach sessions – assemblies and Mini Museum Curator Training in Alverstoke Junior School.

Developments in Displays and Stores: Increase in staff briefings and tours in the storage corridor. 5 Members of the public arranged to visit the stores. 3 members of the public used stored objects accessed via Local Studies. Museum Officer made 40 stored objects and 15 photos accessible through outreach sessions. 3 changes of display in Pride of Place case. 1 display in Hampshire Hidden Treasures Case (low due to emptying and movement for Registration Service). 2 changes of display in Story Boat. Storage of framed artwork improved.

Volunteer Involvement: Pool of 12 volunteers involved in range of activities – admin, research, stewarding, auditing etc. October 5 volunteers did 42.5 hours, November 4 volunteers did 37 hours, December 4 volunteers did 34.5 hours.

Enquiries and Donations: 13 deposits of 69 objects. 6 identifications completed. 53 other requests or research enquiries.

Staff Training: 7 hours of training for 12 Discovery Centre Assistants provided by Museum Officer as well as ongoing training for exhibition changes, deposits procedures, dealing with requests etc.

Service Development: Museum Officer and Manager developing programme for Gallery 2010/11

and sourcing funding (eg Arts Council Grant for Outside in Project summer 2010). Postcode surveys being analysed through Mosaic for more targeted marketing work. Lawrence collection donation under negotiation. Local Studies visitor survey conducted. New signage for Gallery achieved for spring 2010. Ongoing improvements to admin systems, marketing activity, interpretation and evaluation.

Friends of Gosport  
Museum  
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*Sidney Aynsworth*  
023 9258 0544

Hon. Treasurer  
*David Moore*  
023 9258 6575

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*Ian Jeffery*  
023 9252 3358

Committee Secretary  
*Joan Symonds*  
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Project Director  
*Joan Russell*  
023 9258 0072

Committee Members  
*Joan Adams*  
*Michael Adams*  
*Giselle Aynsworth*  
*Mary Colyer*  
*Mary Duly*  
*Michael Leopold*  
*Margaret Ventham*

## SEARCH

### Visitor Figures:

2009 visitor figure was 3% up on 2008 at 15,460.

School Service: SEARCH ran 104 school sessions and 2 outreach visits to schools.

### Other Services:

4 drop-in open days/ workshops, including evenings openings of Victorian Christmas.

3 pre-booked family workshops:

2 reminiscence workshops.

4 pre-booked community group talks or workshops.

### New Audiences:

5 new schools used SEARCH last quarter.

1 new community group (visually impaired club)

Volunteers and placement students: SEARCH had 1 year 10 placement student for 2 weeks.

2 volunteers (both from FGM ) helped in school sessions and open days.

From Janet Wildman(Museum Services Manager) Report January 2010

### Notes:

Museum Officer: Erica Munro

HCCMAS: Hampshire County Council Museums & Archives Service

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If you have any information or photos that you think may be of interest to members of the Friends of Gosport Museum or others, please let me have them by post or email, details below, by 16<sup>th</sup> April for the May/ June Newsletter, please include details for events in early July 2010.

The Newsletters are also being put on the Friends of Gosport Museum web site after they have been delivered, so you will be able to look back at them. Past Newsletters are being added.

Friends of Gosport Museum web site at  
[www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk)

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to  
Ian Jeffery, FGM Newsletter Editor  
11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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 Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is  
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member. Annual Subscription  
Individuals £5 Families £7.50.  
Due 1st April Each Year.  
This Newsletter was printed and produced  
with the help of the Discovery Centre.