

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2014

AGM 8th May 2014

7pm Gosport Discovery Centre

Reports for the year including accounts and elections to committee.

Look out for the talks that FGM members can attend for free in 2014 in the Discovery Centre What's On booklet during the year.

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 13th March

Thursday 10th April

Thursday 8th May

Thursday 12th June

meet at new place, Community Table in the Quiet Area after the café.

Chairman's letter

Unfortunately because of illness I was unable to attend the Christmas Party which I understand was a success. In January we sponsored a talk about Queen Victoria's Final Journey from Osborne to London via Gosport following her death. This was very well attended. There are several interesting talks –albeit not sponsored by us – during February. The Art Exhibition in the Gallery is well worth visiting.

At the recent JMC meeting the help given by the Friends behind the scenes was acknowledged with thanks. Also at this meeting there was a lengthy discussion concerning the proposed Museum Trust that is being formed by the Museum services in Hampshire and Winchester. The consequences as to how the Trust would affect Museum funding, staffing and the ownership and conservation of the Artefacts was explained. This preliminary report has gone to Gosport Borough Council for further consideration and the Trust is waiting for a reply.

Margaret Ventham and myself recently had a preliminary meeting when we discussed our Recruitment Drive to which Councillor Chris Carter has generously donated £250. We identified the need to Broadcast the “ Museum on the Mezzanine” at the branch libraries in Elson, Bridgemary and Lee; also the need of directions to the Museum at the entrance to the GDC. We also looked into the designs of posters and the information which we wish to convey to encourage more members. Further meetings will be held and hopefully, with the help of the staff in the Design Department we shall produce a meaningful Poster explaining, that not only do we have a Museum, but that by joining the Friends there are opportunities for helping the Museum, by volunteering to become Stewards or help behind the scenes.

Sydney Aynsworth Chairman, Friends of Gosport Museum

Subscription Reminder for 2014/15

The subscription for members of the Friends of Gosport Museum is due from the 1st April 2014. Please see the enclosed notice and form. If you pay by Standing Order, please check that you have updated your Standing Order to £6 individual or £9 couple.

AGM Committee Nominations

With this newsletter you should find a Nominations Form for committee members, to be elected at the AGM on the 8th May 2014. There are a number of vacancies, so if you may be interested in being on the committee or taking one of the post, please put your name on the form and pass it to a committee member with or without a proposer and seconder.

Gosport and Hampshire Historic Environment Record

These records are maintained by all county planning authorities via their borough, town and parish councils. Mainly for granting permission to develop land.

Try searching "Historic Mapping in Hampshire" on Google

A variety of methods have been used to research the pre-history of south Hampshire – e.g. boreholes and auger samples. These samples show changes in soil colour and density etc. Recently a Neolithic long barrow was discovered north of Fareham.

Map makers use many other sources of information :-

1. Documents such as 'Grey Literature Reports' e.g. student dissertations, pre-building reports, excavation reports. An excavation and report was made before building work began at Rowner.
2. Ordnance Survey Cards.
3. Obscure journals.
4. Aerial photographs - crop marks etc. show up – Google Earth is a good website to use, it includes a function button enabling you to go back in time on the map of your chosen search area.
5. Field walking, lines of people looking down at the ground or beach/shoreline, observing the terrain for anything of interest as the line slowly advances.
6. Geophysical Survey (as seen on TV in the 'Time Team ' progs)
 - a) magnetometry reading – density of ground, e.g. ditches show up
 - b) conductivity tests – 2 prongs in the earth with connecting wire, can reveal buried obstructions.
 - c) ground-penetrating radar.

Even these techniques do not reveal all! Ten thousand years ago (Mesolithic) sea levels were lower. Remember those ancient footmarks that appeared this winter, after storms and very low tides exposed the sea bed? The footmarks were quickly eroded but had been filmed.

7) Microscopic examination of plant pollens.

8) Evaluation trenches, these are the traditional method. About 5% of the site, of a proposed building development, is assessed in this way.

9) Watching Brief – recording what is being disturbed during digging on a building site. (hard hats and welly boots needed for this one!)

10) Area excavation – the 'Big Dig', looking for artefacts and seeing the changes in earth colour, post holes and other evidence of pre-occupation and use of the land.

In the past, mapping used a base drawing with overlays of transparent material. Each transparency was printed with different information relevant to the base map e.g. Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, roads etc This was an expensive and cumbersome method to use. Now there are computer programs which do this.

GIS - Geographical Information System is an on-line, digitised version of the old 'layers' of material which, at a touch of a mouse or finger, can be manipulated to show a range of information.

On the HCC webpage you can search for the homepage of the AHBR i.e. Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record. Hants was the first into this field and the fields of enquiry are rather restrictive on this early program. There will eventually be "The Atlas" as the dept is calling their ambitious work-in-progress.

Meanwhile FoGMs have been given printed copies of the records for Gosport Town Centre, Stokes Bay and Royal Clarence Yard.

For each of these areas there are 2 sets of records with a map

1) Archaeology and 2) Historic Buildings

If you're interested in seeing these, contact Secretary Ian Jeffery

Notes A Talk given by the County Senior Archaeologist Hannah Fluck, Discovery Centre 20th Feb
M Ventham

Report of the last JMC and the next will be in the newsletter, when some very important decisions about the future of the Gosport Museum Services and Hampshire's Museum Trust.

HMS M33 Heritage project

I'm now working on a new heritage project which involves a second round Heritage Lottery Fund application to enable the conservation and interpretation of HMS M.33 – one of only two remaining WW1 vessels which saw significant action at the Gallipoli campaign from 1915 – 16 and which continued to play an active role throughout the war and beyond. The ship is currently in dry-dock at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the plan is to make the necessary restorations to safely open up access to the public and create a new exhibition which will tell the stories of this important vessel.

M33 is scheduled to be opened in 2015 (in time for the centenary commemoration of the Gallipoli campaign) and we are developing a community engagement programme of learning activities that will hopefully encourage and inspire local residents to engage with the vessel and its history. We are seeking feedback on the types of events and activities we plan to offer.

Charlie Fletcher

Learning and Engagement Officer
Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums Service
Culture, Communities and Business Services

Sally Beattie of HCC came to the committee meeting on the 27th February, where she explained more about the plans for M33 and its past. All the committee members at the meeting completed the questionnaire. Ian Jeffery

BAFM Conferences 2014 (Reminder)

AGM and National Conference 26th to 28th September at the Marriott Hotel, Swansea. Conference Facilitator, Jean Knight telephone 020 8669 1546, email irvineknight@btinternet.com.

Annual SE Western Counties Area Conference 3rd June at Southampton Solent University Conference Centre held courtesy of Friends of Southampton's Museums. Details in March 2014.
WFFM Council and General Assembly and World Congress 14th to 18th May in Berlin.

Museum and Heritage Show 14th and 15th May 2014 Olympia free entry. www.bafm.org.uk

Recruitment Campaign

A grant has been received for a membership campaign for the Friends of Gosport Museum. This will include posters, leaflets. If you know of someone with an interest in Gosport's past, or Museum, perhaps you could pass on a membership form, they are available at the Gosport Discovery Centre. If you have any ideas that would help with increasing membership, or if you feel that something is reducing membership, please let a committee member have your ideas.

Could you be a Volunteer?

There are a number of things that can be done by members to help the Museum Service in Gosport. I understand that there are about half a dozen members who volunteer for things such as stewarding exhibitions, parts in events for children, passing on memories, helping with items in the store and other things. I am sure Margaret Ventham will give answers to any questions about volunteering for the Museum Service. Ian

Friends of Gosport
Museum

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Committee Members
Mary Duly
Jack Poole
Joan Russell
David Taylor

Do You Have Email?

Do you have an email account that you check at least once a week? If yes, have you considered having the newsletter sent by email? It is sent in the Adobe Reader PDF format. If you are not sure, you could try it and if you find it doesn't suit you, then go back to receiving a printed one. In addition to receiving the newsletters, at times notices are sent for sending to the membership for example, by the Discovery Centre. If you provide your email address, please advise whether you are happy to receive one or both notices and newsletters.

As well as receiving the notices, you will also receive the newsletter as soon as it ready, and if needed corrections, rather than waiting for post or hand-delivery. ian@gosport.info Ian

A big thank you to those who provided items for this newsletter.

If you have any information, articles, events 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 18th April for the May/ June Newsletter, which will include the AGM Agenda and Minutes. if you have something please let me have your item as soon as you can, thank you. Ian

Friends of Gosport Museum web site at
www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
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If you would be happy to receive this Newsletter
by email please let me know.
The views expressed are not necessarily those
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