



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

MARCH/ APRIL 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 12th March

Thursday 9th April

Thursday 14th May

Thursday 11th June

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

Friends of Gosport Museum Sponsored Talk

Thursday 16th April 7:30pm

Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War
Tickets £3,
Friends of Gosport Museum Free.
Booking Essential

Along the south coast of England lie
approximately 700 wrecks from the First
World War.

Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund,
the Maritime Archaeology Trust

AGM 7th May

This year's AGM will be at 7pm in the Gosport Discovery Centre on the 7th May 2015. There should be a nomination form for the committee enclosed, if not and you wish to nominate someone (with their agreement) please let me know and I will send one.

Subscription Due

Friends of Gosport Museum subscription due from 1st April –For details see top of the back page.

'Reminiscence Session' at Search

Mary, Jack and I have just taken part in a 'Reminiscence Session' at Search, which will result in a few moments on film. The film is being made for the HCT to promote what is on offer in museums - the staff also take this activity to residential homes using suitable museum artefacts. Four other 'older' people took part on this occasion. The room-set for 1930's, 40's and 50's was used. The tea table was arranged for us to pour the tea using tea leaves and tea strainer, the wardrobe was opened and hats etc tried on. The laundry area and kitchen with all the metal and wooden tools and appliances brought many memories of our early days. Even if the film gets edited to a few shots! we enjoyed meeting each other and discussing the past. Maggie Ventham

Youth Open Art Exhibition (Gosport Gallery 17 January - 21 February)

The competition for the new exhibition in the Gosport Gallery, was set up by the newly inaugurated Hampshire Cultural Trust for 14-18 year old Hampshire students. It included a wide range of artistic skills in different mediums, and was well worth a visit.

I was one of the members of your committee who were asked to attend the opening night. Here I must confess that I have absolutely no artistic or creative talent myself, though a genuine, academic interest in the subject. So I am not going to pass judgement from that point of view, just to comment that the level of talent, which I could recognise, was an eye-opener. To think that someone in the 14-18 age range could be responsible for the talent displayed in the varied exhibits was amazing. I exclaimed 'WOW' when I saw what was on show. Anyway as a member of FGM I wanted to support the event.

At the end of the evening, Newman Cozens of Fareham, the sponsors presented the Sponsors Prize for its favourite entry to a student from Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh, a sensitive portrait of her Nigerian father when a young lad. It was a worthy winner.

Since that evening, and as a result of doing some stewarding, I have modified my initial reaction of 'WOW' with a degree of sadness at the level of teenage angst displayed by a number of exhibits.

I hope members will be able to visit the next exhibition which is: Haslar Hospital – The Splendour and Decline from 28th February to 21st March in the Gosport Gallery. Mary Duly

Monthly Meeting of the Friends of Gosport Museum

On the 2nd Thursday of every month the FOGM have a chance to meet and have a chat on the ground floor of the Discovery Centre. Though the meeting time is 10.00 till 12.00 there is no need to stay for the whole of the two hours – just come, have a cup of coffee or tea (and maybe a sticky bun) and have the chance to meet some of the members of the committee and also other friends. It is a chance to exchange news, find out what is happening and do a bit of “gossiping”. It is surprising also what you can find out. The other month one of the members of staff of the Discovery Centre stopped to have a chat about the work involved in getting the gallery ready for new exhibitions. It have never occurred to me just what was involved. Though the staff might not hang/arrange the exhibitions or take them down it is their responsibility to make sure the gallery is then prepared for the next exhibition. This involves filling in any holes that might have been made in the walls, giving it a really good clean and repainting. It is not too bad if there are a few days between exhibits but sometimes it is only a few day. A lot of work to be done in a short space of time. It is always nice to see new faces so next time you are in the town centre and if it is the right Thursday and between the relevant times come and say hello. You will be made more than welcome. Yvonne Riddell

Christmas Puddings!

There was a public event at SEARCH, in the old part of the Discovery Centre, on the day when our town Christmas lights were switched on. As you all know, SEARCH is the educational handson museum which has a wonderful Victorian room-set as well as a mid-20th century room furnished with objects most of us remember. The Victorian Christmas event featured activities and objects from the past, both to see and to examine. The ‘Friends’ volunteers were among the helpers on duty to steward the activities.

Having helped in previous years, I offered to be in the kitchen to show the visitors the ingredients for Mrs Beeton's Xmas Pudding recipe. In 1899 it cost 3 shillings and 3 pence for 8 servings. (I'm sure you're all familiar with Eliza's famous book of Household Management). Having sourced the quart size basin (2 pint), pudding cloth (old linen tea towel), 2 yards of string and various glass storage jars from my own kitchen, the ingredients were not as easy to buy as expected. Pre-washed raisins today are miserable specimens compared to the fat, juicy raisins of my childhood. Those had to be picked over to remove seeds and stems, rinsed, dried for a couple of days on an old cloth stretched over a cake cooling rack above the cooker. Some raisins were missing by the time the pudding was mixed! Years ago, candied peel was bought whole and had to be sliced - even Waitrose let me down on this one, but another supermarket had separate tubs of sliced orange and lemon peel. My quest for a pound of real beef suet ended at a farm shop.

With 8 eggs, Spanish brandy (150ml wine glass to explain the quantity to use) 12 ounces of breadcrumbs, 24oz raisins, 8oz currants, 12oz suet, 8oz glace peel and a photo of what such a pudding may have looked like, I worked out what it would cost to make today. The answer was £15 which seemed rather expensive!

A post-WW2 recipe made in Domestic Science lessons all over the country was much more economical. It used grated carrot and apple plus brown sugar to replace half the dried fruit, the peel becoming just 1 lemon or a tablespoon of marmalade, ale, spice, a few nuts, 3 eggs and S.R. flour to bulk out the breadcrumbs and only 3oz suet. This pudding also made 8 servings. Today it would cost £5.87p to make. (Can Aldi and Lidl do better?)

With all these ingredients displayed on the Victorian kitchen table, I prepared samples of suet, showing the long-winded process of separating skin membranes from pockets of fat - chopping the suet with flour to stop it sticking to the cook's knife. There was a small piece of kidney left in the suet. This became a very good learning point about the anatomy of mammals! The word 'duvet' conjures up a picture of cosy padding, like the function of fat protecting our kidneys. The quilting representing the membranes which keep the fatty padding evenly wrapped around those vital organs.

I had a very interesting chat with a boy who was asking about the vegetable suet we could see in a jar of mincemeat. This is the remnant of real meat in the medieval preserve made with dried fruits, spices, alcohol and sugar. Mincemeat featured in pies at Christmas time. Only the well-off would have afforded such luxuries. Vegetable suet made from palm oil, sunflower oil and a lot of flour depends on supplies from across the world.

It was a very busy 3 hours meeting lovely people who really appreciate the museum. If I'm asked to do it next year, I can simplify the ingredients but perhaps I may not be allowed to show the knife skills and raw beef product, it didn't occur to me to ask first! M.Ventham

Gosport Heritage Open Days 10th to 13th September

Last year we held 50 free events at heritage locations within Gosport in September, which attracted in over 7,500 visitors. Full details of events by the end of June. On our website, people can view past events along with features about particular sites or stories, and news of local heritage style events in the near future.

Our GHODs events occur in September, volunteers spend all year working towards that point. We're always open to new volunteers and have an active recruitment at present for people to fill a number of roles, also for 'heritage guides' who we will train for guided walks or talks during HODs in September. Ms Terry Rhodes, Gosport Heritage Open Days Management Team
www.gosportheritage.co.uk/

Subscription Reminder 2015

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum 2015/16 are due from 1st April 2015. Please see the enclosed subscription form. Payments to Linda Hedley, address on the form.

If you joined since the 1st November 2014 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2016.

The talk for the Friends in the next guide is:-

Duelling in the Royal Navy - Thursday 6 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 here in Gosport.

Tickets £3, Friends of Gosport Museum FREE

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Linda Hedley

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Mary Duly

Jack Poole

Yvonne Riddell

David Taylor

New Look Newsletter

Yvonne Riddell and myself have taken a look at the Newsletter at the request of the committee. I thought I would give you a couple of issues for you to get used to the changes before asking what you thought.

Please let me know what you do or do not like and any suggestions for other changes you would like to see. Ian Jeffery

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be me at wendy.redman@hants.gov.uk you need to contact. If it is for the Gosport Museum Collection then it would be Jacqui Ready Jacqui.ready@hants.gov.uk. If you would like to volunteer for the remainder of the Discovery Centre it would be Rose Redman rosemary.redman@hants.gov.uk. Wendy

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 May Newsletter by 17th June 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
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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
Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff.

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