

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

MAY/ JUNE 2014

AGM 8th May 2014

7pm Gosport Discovery Centre
Reports for the year including
accounts and elections to committee.

7:30 pm Talk

Terry Hinkley FREE to FGM
Membership

Talk 22nd May

Gosport Discovery Centre
'The Disappearance of Commander
Crabb' talk by John Bevan
Tickets £4 FREE to FGM Membership
Please all book 023 9252 3463

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 8th May

Thursday 12th June

Thursday 10th July

Thursday 14th August

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

Please bring this to the AGM

AGM 8th May 2014 7pm Discovery Centre

Agenda

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 16th May 2013
3. Matters Arising from Minutes of AGM 16th May 2013
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Secretary's Report
8. Newsletter Editor's Report
9. Project Report
10. Election of Officers & Committee Membership (As shown on Nomination Form)
11. Curators Report
12. AOB – Followed by a talk by Terry Hinkley

Minutes the AGM of 16th May 2013 in the Discovery Centre

- 1) Apologies – Sydney Aynsworth, Brenda Whiteley, 16 members attended.
- 2) Minutes from the AGM 17th May 2012, Proposed Jack Poole, Seconded Doreen Robinson.
- 3) Matters arising change Joan (Adams) to Jo.
- 4) Chairman's Report – I apologise for not giving this report in person, I shall be winging it to Australia with my eldest daughter for a holiday – a return to old haunts for myself but a fresh experience for Karin. So in absentia I welcome you all, to another Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Gosport Museum.

We've come to the end of an eventful year. The re-organisation and changes within both the Museum and the Library Services, at County and Local levels, have proceeded without too much disruption everyone appears to be settling into their new roles in the changed structure.

As you know the Discovery Centre now includes the Library with café, Studio, Conference Room, Gosport Museum-on-the-Mezzanine, the Gosport Gallery, the Local and Naval Studies Centre, the Geology Gallery and SEARCH Hands-On Museum, all are pre-fixed by the words Gosport Discovery Centre.

The recent refurbishment was achieved with minimal disruption and the Staff have to be congratulated that "front of house" everything was done to help the public. All the library shelving and new book cabinets are on wheels, making it possible to easily alter the floor lay-outs when accommodating a range of possible uses of the space on the ground floor.

Since last April I 'm sure you've been pleased with the excellent Exhibitions and Lectures Programme e.g. The Snape Paintings, The Lawrence Prints, and the "Scissor Work of Matisse" with an accompanying talk. The Gosport Gallery was lucky in being one of the few venues in the country, and the only one in Hampshire, where the Matisse exhibition was shown. There are three galleries in Hampshire where nationally important exhibitions can be held, Gosport Gallery is one of these three. There were also the talks we supported –'Identifying Historic Highways' 'Lee-on-the-Solent Front' and 'Images of Gosport'. They were very popular and we must thank Sarah Greenaway for organising them.

During the D.C. closure the museum's Research Room, on the top corridor of the old building, was emptied and the books were boxed up for storage. That room now houses the teaching resources for SEARCH. The former teaching resources room will become a quiet study room for Local and Naval Studies. The boxed up museum's books may be made available in that room. The volunteer work in the museum store has continued when the collections keeper has been available on the third Monday of each month. The book audit was finally finished, map drawers renumbered and object audit recommenced.

During the year April '12 – April '13 our five stewarding volunteers have done sterling work at SEARCH and in the Museum-on-the-Mezzanine e.g. there were rotas to cover the activities for children - in June for the Diamond Jubilee and later for the Olympic Torch and the Olympic Games. They responded to requests for help at all SEARCH Events and Open Days including Market Day openings of the Room Settings and the Christmas Special when the town's illuminations are switched on. In the 2 week Olympic period, they did a total of 84 hours working with the children helping them to make paper laurel wreaths (the ancient Greeks wore real ones not medals) and paper gold medals for themselves or maybe for a "Best Mum" and tidying up the activities tables.

The upgrading of the Woolly Mammoth model in the Geology Gallery is now complete. You will hear in the Treasurer's Report and the Project Report that we have **donated** to this project. A couple of years ago, we had a successful result, from the Green Token scheme at Waitrose, in raising money for the initial stage of the project, unfortunately my appeal to ASDA to help with the upgrade has fallen on 'deaf ears'

Thank you for coming this evening and I hope that, like me, you are looking forward to another happy and interesting year and are proud to support your Local Museum.

Sydney Aynsworth (Chairman) and Margaret Ventham (Vice Chairman)

5) Secretary's Report - As Friends of Gosport Museum is a member of the BAFM (British Association of Friends of Museums) I receive 4 copies of their Journal produced 3 times a year, if you would like to be added to the list of those who wish to see one, please let me know. They are also available on their web site to read or download back to 2006 at www.bafm.org. BAFM SE Western Counties Area Conference will be on 10th September at The Abingdon County Hall Museum, I have the booking forms. I have the full reports if you wish to see more than the summary in the minutes.

6) Treasurer's Report - Income for year £860.37 Expenditure £293.78 leaving a balance of £951.93. Shortly after the end of the year £940 was paid for the Mammoth, with other income and expenditure to 16th May leaving a balance of £134.93. David Moore

7) Membership Secretary's Report - Currently have 40 paid up member, some still to pay, if you know anyone who has not renewed and wishes to continue to be a member, please give them a reminder. Thank you for joining, to our regular members for their continuing support. Linda Hedley

8) Newsletter Editors Report – Apologized for missing a couple of newsletters last year. If you would like to see other items in the newsletter, please let me know. Ian Jeffery

9) Project Report – The final sum raised from donations for Joan Symond's books was £250. The Mammoth Project Fund reached a little over £600, including the contents of the Gallery donations boxes. We began the project in 2011 and it was completed a few weeks ago when the model's sound system was installed. Noises are activated by turning the handle in the front of the interactive model. There are some words to accompany the noises of mammoth activity. Go into the Geology Gallery yourself and have a go. There's a box nearby for your spare cash!
The cost is at the top end of the original estimate because the mechanism for triggering the noises by handle, rather than by walking through a light beam, had to be specially commissioned for our mammoth. Though this added to the cost, the staff felt it would be less disturbing for users of the Study Centre. We guaranteed the funding to get the project finished. However, we will continue to receive future Gallery donations to replace the £400 given from our account.
The Librarians in the Study Centre have told me that more people are now using the Geology Gallery, which was the purpose of the project. Margaret Ventham.

10) Election of Committee - Mr R Whiteley took over the meeting read nominations and asked to have the list proposed on block. M Bumdford proposed D Robinson seconded, all agreed as follows:
Chairman Sydney Aynsworth
Vice Chairman Margaret Ventham
Treasurer David Moore
Secretary Ian Jeffery
Membership Secretary Linda Hedley
Newsletter Editor Ian Jeffery
Other committee members: Mary Duly, Joan Russell, David Taylor, Jack Poole,

11) Museum Curator's Report- Prompted by the intergration of libraries, galleries and museums into THE ARTS SERVICE for Hampshire, staff from GBC and the County's Arts Museums team are now working together. They are sharing the creation of the of the Service Plan for Gosport's gallery and museums, and will be meeting 4 weeks ahead of each JMC meeting to review progress, generate ideas, and share information. This will ensure greater joint working and use of shared resources. The Service Plan will evolve and become more flexible as new opportunities and challenges arise. The stored collections will continue to be opened 12 days in the year and the enquiry and identification service will be available. There will be specialist cleaning and remedial conservation of objects on display in the Museum-on-the-Mezzanine and the Geology Gallery. An audit of social history objects will take place. Monitoring of storage conditions and security continues, as does the documentation, digitisation and conservation of pre-1991 GBC collections, HCC collections associated with Gosport Borough and all relevant info at HQ for which 2,000 visits are being planned. Training in the handling of objects will be provided for DC staff.
To promote museum based activities, 10 fee-paying events (exhibition related) and one exhibition with sales by commission are being planned. A programme of holiday activities for family groups, young people and adults will be arranged with potential targets to be met-numbers and ages etc. with analysis of audience profile for future planning.
Funding is being sought for a project to explore WW1 with with a group of 25 young people. Classes and workshops at the Nimrod Centre will continue as will work with two secondary schools and the development of out-of-hours arts and culture provision in local schools. A project to explore work with Portsmouth City Council to develop strategic partnerships between cultural venues in Gosport and Portsmouth is planned. More visits by schools to SEARCH have happened due to increasing the staff by 0.75.
The future of the ARTS will be to support the Borough and County aims set out in greater detail in the Service Plans presented to the Joint Management Committee of Discovery Centre Museum.

Given by Margaret Ventham from the latest reports to the Joint Management Committee(JMC)
12) AoB- Local events dates times and details given.

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. Let a committee member know if you may be interested.

Subscription Reminder for 2014/15

The subscription for members of the Friends of Gosport Museum is due from the 1st April 2014. If not yet paid you will be able too at the AGM. £6 single £9 joint.

Friends of Gosport
Museum

President
Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman
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Margaret Ventham

Hon. Treasurer
David Moore
023 9258 6575

Hon. Secretary
Ian Jeffery
023 9252 3358

Membership Secretary
Linda Hedley

Committee Members
Mary Duly
Jack Poole
Joan Russell
David Taylor

Tom D'wit Leaving

The Area Curator left in April to take up a position as curator of the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum in Dorset, and that we all wish him well. The post is being advertised currently. Janet Wildman

Volunteer Story

There is the interesting story resulting from Jack Poole's Saturday morning (nobly self-imposed) duty in the Museum, how a girl showed him a fossil bone she had found in a local garden which on research proved to be the missing bone from a dinosaur in the Isle of Wight. Mary Duly

Do You Have Email?

If you may be happy to have the Newsletter and other items by email - ian@gosport.info we can sort out the best way for you. Ian Jeffery

Thank you to all those who have provided items for this newsletter. Ian

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 20th June for the July/ August Newsletter. If you have something please let me have your item as soon as you can, thank you. Ian Jeffery

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
of Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is
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