



# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

[www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk)

## ***NEWSLETTER***

***NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2015***

### Friends of Gosport Museum

#### Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30am  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

#### Dates of Next Few Meetings

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February

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

### Friends of Gosport Museum Christmas Meeting

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2pm to 4pm

In the Museum on the Mezzanine  
of the Gosport Discovery Centre

Tea/ coffee cake etc will be there.

Donation to defray costs will be very  
welcome. Thank you

### **Chairman's Letter**

In the past 2 months the Pirates have come and gone, hopefully leaving your pockets empty and the coffers of the Museum replenished. This proved to be a popular exhibition, doubtless because it was held during the school holidays. We are now being terrified by Dinosaurs !. The present "Dinos in your Garden," which is at the Gallery until the 5<sup>th</sup> December, is an excellent study of the hypothesis that birds evolved from reptiles some 60 million years ago and is quite convincing. No need to be frightened, there is no Tyrannosaurus Rex only Raptors.

I attended the recent JMC meeting at which the work of the museum was praised, there seems to be increasing number of visitors ( pity it is not reflected in an increase in our membership ) The work of the Volunteers in Stewarding events in the Gallery and helping in SEARCH is much appreciated. All the events in the Gallery and talks in the GDC can be seen on the web-sites and Facebook of both the Hampshire Cultural Trust and Gosport Discovery Centre, not forgetting " What's On "The Trust has introduced a Family pass for families of two adults and two children. This costs £69 per annum and entitles the holder entry to all events and Museums in Hampshire

which charge admission fees. It was suggested that this should be extended to individuals and perhaps be Gift-Aided.

Christmas will all too soon be upon us so don't forget the Christmas get together in early December.

Sydney Aynsworth,  
Chairman Friends of Gosport Museum 13 October 2015

## Madame Marie de Tocqueville (Mary Mottley) A Remembrance

Here is the story of a young woman named Mary Mottley, the daughter of George and Mary Martin Mottley, who was born at the Royal Haslar hospital on August 20 1799, and baptized at St Mary's church by the Rev: John Hall March 2 1801. She would become the wife of a young French aristocrat, a man who possessed one of the finest minds of the 19th century, and whose writings continue to influence much of the world in the 21st century. This was Alexis de Tocqueville, known among other things for his book Democracy in America, which he wrote following his visit to America in 1831. It has been read and re-read, praised and re-printed over and over again, even more today than 100 years ago. He is recognized for the extraordinary richness of his insights, which are manifested in so many of his writings. Democracy in America is a rare example of a most important book written about a country by a foreign visitor. Tocqueville saw that a system of democratic government and a democratic society would spread across the civilized world. He warned that the pursuit of equality and liberty were not necessarily the same. Throughout his life Tocqueville was a profound admirer of England. But it is likely that, without the support of his wife Mary, he would never have achieved so much. Yet up to now, history has largely ignored this fascinating woman, who came from Gosport.

This item has been provided by Maggie Ventham via Joan Russell via the USA. I have only included the introduction paragraph

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If you would like to read the rest of this, you will find it on the St Marys Alverstoke web site below [www.stmarysalv.free-online.co.uk/marymottley.htm](http://www.stmarysalv.free-online.co.uk/marymottley.htm)

## The Diary of Martha Georgiana Lofus Tottenham 1883

The museum was given this diary at the end of last year and it covers the period March 16<sup>th</sup> 1883 to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 1884. It is the diary of a well-to-do young lady living in Gosport with her family. It is a snapshot of the social life of a 17 year old girl, unmarried, in a navy port. It not only covers her everyday activities but gives the reader quite a lot of information regarding the regiments and boats in Portsmouth/Gosport at that time. Anyone interested in the social history of this period will find it fascinating.

A group of us have spent most of this year transcribing it so that anyone can request a copy to read. Eventually it will be available via the museum but if in the meantime you would like an uncorrected/ unedited copy of the transcription then please let me know ([vonnyr2@btinternet.com](mailto:vonnyr2@btinternet.com)) and I will send you the file. Yvonne Riddell

## Two Recent Exhibitions at the British Museum

Recently I had a day at the British Museum as there were two exhibitions I wanted to see – one coming to the end of its run and the other just starting.

The one coming to the end of its run is “*Drawing in Silver and Gold – Leonardo to Jasper Johns*”. I know nothing about metalpoint work but thought it was worth a visit to learn a little more. It is one of those exhibitions which you will either, like me, wander round stopping at what catches your eye or spend the whole day there examining each illustration in detail. For those of you who have no idea as to what metalpoint was or is, it is the art of drawing with a metal stylus. As you can imagine this means that the artist cannot afford any mistakes as they cannot be erased. A few of the illustrations I especially loved were “One Touch of Nature Makes the Whole World Kin” by William Holman Hunt dated 1879; “Forest of Scots Firs” by Andrew MacCallum dated 1876; “A Nude Man With a Horse” by Benozzo Gozzoli dated 1447/1149; “Standing Women” by Fra Filippo Lippi dated 1460/1469. There was so much more but you might like to goggle these and see what you think.

The one just starting its run is “*The Celts – art and identity*”. This is worth a visit if only to see the fantastic workmanship produced by these people who occupied Europe and Britain. The items on show span the period 500BC to 1600AD. I spent two hours just looking at the first half, and even then not in detail, by which time I could not take anything else on board. I need to go back at least a couple more times to even begin to appreciate what I was looking at and, for anyone interested in the Celts, you could probably spend two or three days closely studying all the artefacts on display. I was going to mention a few highlights but would not know where to start. The brooches and torcs (necklaces) I would happily wear today. Some of precious metals like gold, some bronze. Some had jewels but in most cases it is the intricate designs that grabbed my attention. The same applied to many of the weapons and everyday objects. Even if this period of history is not one that appeals at least go and see it for the fantastic designs that they produced. And remember, all of these objects were created with the most basic of tools.  
Yvonne Riddell

### From the Curators Report to the Joint Management Committee 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015

The last four months have focussed heavily on the two Gallery exhibitions, associated events and staffing/customer service. The *W L Wyllie* exhibition was very popular and successfully earned income from the sales of artworks. It also represented a good partnership with a local business (White Dog Gallery). The fantastic *Pirates* exhibition brought in families who returned a number of times, bringing a boost in visitor figures, wonderful comments, good press coverage and some very successful events.

Staffing of the Gallery has been the organisational priority in this period. After HCC Library Service staff ceased their front of house duties in July 2015, we recruited a pool of volunteers, casual and contract staff to open and steward the Gallery. With the assistance of the Discovery Centre staff and management, the 7 new casual staff have settled in well and are ensuring that service delivery to the public is uninterrupted. A part-time Visitor Services Assistant now makes certain that the volunteers and staff are managed on-site and that communication with the Discovery Centre is well maintained. Our dedicated Gallery volunteers support the staff and ensure that visitors receive a good welcome. The *Pirates* exhibition, as with the following two exhibitions, require paid staff to invigilate so our casual staff will continue to be present until March 2016, when we will become more reliant on volunteers, whom we will continue to recruit throughout 2015 and 2016. By Erica Munro

(The first two paragraphs, I have the rest if you wish to see it. Ian

## 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](mailto:erica.munro@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) or by leaving your contact details at Gosport Gallery. Erica Munro Curator

All Friends of Gosport Museum Committee Members who were at a meeting a couple of meetings ago, were given a couple of the Volunteer Packs and application forms, so you may be able to obtain them from the committee, Names in the panel below Ian Jeffery

President

*Bob Whiteley*

Committee Chairman

*Sidney Aynsworth*

*023 9258 0544*

Vice Chairman

*Margaret Venham*

Hon. Treasurer

*David Moore*

*023 9258 6575*

Hon. Secretary

*Ian Jeffery*

*023 9252 3358*

Committee Secretary

*Dot Bedenham*

Membership Secretary

*Linda Hedley*

Committee Members

*Mary Duly*

*Jack Poole*

*Yvonne Riddell*

### Wanted Memories of Gosport Ferry

At the HGS meeting(Hampshire Genealogical Society)

[www.hgs-familyhistory.com](http://www.hgs-familyhistory.com) we've had a request from a David Gary who is writing a history of the Gosport Ferry. He's 'got' the historical structure but wants people's human stories to enliven the material.

Mr Gary's telephone number is 023 9260 1148.

Mary Duly

### Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at [wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rosemary.redman@hants.gov.uk) . The Gallery volunteering to now contact Erica Munro [erica.munro@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto: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 January Newsletter by 18<sup>th</sup> December or as soon as you can to : Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR – [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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, FoGM 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  
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Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is  
open to all - Please contact any Committee  
member. Annual Subscription  
Individuals £6 Families £9.00.  
Due 1st April Each Year.

This Newsletter was printed and produced  
with the help of the Discovery Centre.