

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2014

Friends of Gosport Museum Sponsored Talk Discovery Cntr

**Floating Prisons: Prisoner of war
prison hulks in Portsmouth Harbour**

1793-1814 by Abigail Coppin

Thursday 20th November, 7.30pm

Tickets £4 FoGm FREE

Members Drink & Chat 7pm-7.20pm

See details in newsletter.

Christmas Meeting (Party)

8th December 2pm with refreshments

The Studio Discovery Cntr £2.50 each

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 November

Thursday 11th December

Thursday 8th January 2015

Thursday 12th February

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

Chairman's Report

Here we are back again following a fine summer lasting until the end of September and I trust that we are all "raring for the off" of the new season.

There was not really a summer break, because the Gallery was the venue for 3 very good exhibitions. Firstly "Ebb and Flow" a distinctive personal view commemorating D-Day in drawings and etchings. This was followed in August by "Entrenched," a remembrance of the onset of WW1. This was produced and devised by pupils from schools in Gosport and Fareham. They had drawn not only from their reading of the era but had obviously benefited from school visits to the trenches in Flanders. I thought it was very evocative and I particularly liked the "Recruiting Desk" and "Casualty Clearing Station." Well done to all those pupils who put in so much work to make a most interesting Exhibition.

Now showing, as they say in the Cine World, is the exhibition of national importance showing the history and work of the Artist's Rifles, we are fortunate to be only one of 3 venues in the county, the others being Southampton and Basingstoke, to hold this most interesting display. Personally I was amazed to learn that the "Artist's" were formed in 1860 in response to Louis Napoleon's threat (which also resulted in Palmerston's Follies in the Solent and around Gosport, Fareham and Portsmouth). I had always thought that they were formed just prior to WW1. The works of the Nash brothers of the horrors of trench warfare and the earlier works of Ford Maddox Brown reveal the broad range of the "Artist". At this point I must diverse and thank those of us who are invigilating during this exhibition.

Back to the cinema, coming soon; Abigail Coppins giving a talk entitled "Floating Prisoners" this concerns the France PoWs held on the hulks in the harbour during the Napoleonic War; although

I know the hulks were used before then in, the mid and late 18th century, to hold prisoners awaiting transportation to the American colonies and Australia. There is also a provisional date early in December for our Christmas party.

Maggie is also assisted by our newest member of the committee, Yvonne Riddell, whom we have already welcomed to "the band". We have, thanks to the generous gift from Cllr Chris Carter, now produced posters for the GDC and branch libraries, together with new leaflets for the Friends and banners that we can show at events, again I must thank Maggie for all her efforts.

Sydney Aynsworth, Chairman 16th October 2014

Chairman's report to the Committee of the FoGM, Thursday, 17th July 2014

I welcome Dot Bedenham to the committee and thank her for taking on the onerous task of Minutes Secretary; thank you Dot.

To more mundane matters; I attended the Area Conference of the BAFM at Southampton in early June. This was an interesting meeting. There was a lecture by Prof. Robin Jones "Design and the Decorative Arts in Post-War Britain" an informative dissertation on the Architecture ie the Festival of Britain etc., furniture design such as G-Plan and other iconic furniture; textiles, printing and ceramics from 1945 to 1960. In an hour Prof. Jones could only scratch the surface of a very interesting period for the Arts. Following this we heard an illustrated talk by Christopher Dobbs, who has been active with the "Mary Rose" project since its inception. We were lead from the finding and raising of this historic ship and of all the problems that had to be overcome with the conservation of the wreck and its artefacts; continuing with their display and finishing with an excellent insight into the new Mary Rose Hall, which has recently opened. After lunch there was an Open forum at which various topics were brought up by the participants. The constant and common theme was the problem of declining membership in nearly all Groups of Friends in the area. Various suggestions, thoughts and opinions were brought forward the foremost being how to encourage and retain new and younger members and keeping existing members informed of the activities of their group. With our Newsletter and current "Recruitment Drive" I think that we are doing much of what came to the fore at the Forum. There are a couple of suggestions I have been mulling about and I will ask Maggie to bring these before the committee at "Any other business".

I was present at the recent meeting of the JMC at which the various reports showed that on the whole the Museum is performing well; visitor numbers are up and Search is well attended.
Sydney Aynsworth, Chairman. 14 July 2014

Museum Joint Management Committee Meeting held June 20th 2014

The Chairman for this Municipal Year is Councillor Mrs Hook representing GBC and Vice Chairman is Councillor Mr G. Burgess representing HCC. These posts alternate each year between HCC and GBC. The other councillors on the committee are Cllr Edgar and Cllr CR Carter from HCC and Cllr Farr and Cllr Dickson from GBC.

The Museum Friends are entitled to be represented by Chairman (Dr Sydney Aynsworth) Secretary (Ian Jeffery) and one Committee Rep. (Margaret Ventham). As the meetings are now held in the mornings and Ian is not retired, we make sure that at least one of us is always at these important meetings. The agenda for this meeting covered the legal requirements for governing the finances of Gosport Museum and the budget for the next year.

Tom de Wit, Area Curator for South East Hants, ie our area, has taken up a new post in Dorset.

Erica Munro is to replace him later this year, Erica was Museum Officer here in Gosport for three years before the museum service was reorganised and we welcome her return. Meanwhile Janet Wildman Community Engagement and Learning Officer (CELO) and Annabel Cook Collections Officer, for S.E. Hants are sharing the curator's work. Annabel presented the Curator's Report at this meeting.

Emma Hart the Assistant Teacher at SEARCH has been offered a post at Winchester Cathedral to continue the development of educational activities at this historic site. We shall miss her very much but wish her well for this "job of a lifetime" She will not be replaced until April 2015. For Friends who have joined recently, SEARCH is housed in the Discovery Centre's old building. This 'hands-on' style of museum was opened in 1995 to serve all Hampshire's schools and colleges. It is staffed by trained teachers. Wendy Redman assistant CELO is in charge, Wendy organises the school visits and plans the activities to fit the National Curriculum with one assistant teacher, who is not full time and no ancillary help. The Friends volunteers (five of us at present) do their best to help on open days when the public visit to see this excellent facility and to try their hands at some activities their own children and grandchildren have been doing.

Gosport Gallery Exhibitions will include "ENTrenchED" a project funded by a HLF grant. Work done by local schools, including Bridgemary and Crofton, co-ordinated by the Ashcroft Arts Centre has enabled young people to develop skills around curation and exhibition delivery as well as giving them an insight into what life was like during the First World War, both in Hampshire and in the trenches. There will also be a large scale community day happening in the town to commemorate WW1 when "The Artists Rifles" exhibition will come to Gosport in the autumn.

D-Day 70 "Ebb and Flow" at the gallery in June, received grants from 'Art for Libraries Fund' and 'Arts Council England' to allow the professional artist lithographer Mary Dalton to work with local people and schools to create this commemorative exhibition around D-Day 70. The museum service team were involved in supporting the D-Day concert at Bay House.

Hosting Special Temporary Exhibitions - The biennial "Open Art" exhibition for Hampshire artists was held in January this year. There are plans to have a young artists' exhibition in that slot next January. "Blooming Marvellous" the knitted garden exhibition increased the Gallery visits in April by a staggering 367%.

Caring for Collections, Access, Advice and Specialist Knowledge - Monitoring of storage conditions, auditing collections, research, answering queries and maintaining objects have continued. The Mayor and Mayoress joined a Civic Day in April to visit Chilcomb House Winchester, the County Museum HQ and were shown the collections. Two volunteers from Gosport attended a 'Behind the Scenes Day' at Chilcomb in May. The Martha Tottenham archive - diary, letters etc presented to the Arts and Museum Service, is being audited at Gosport Museum. Work has begun with DC team on a display of material from our museum collection for WW 1 exhibition.

Community Engagement and Learning - The activities and projects carried out by our area CEL staff Janet and Wendy are enormously important. Not only do they support schools with programmes tailored to their requirements and exceeding the targets for numbers of visitors to SEARCH, they plan activities relating to gallery exhibitions, do out-reach-work in the community, work with young parents, the under fives Museum-Explorers, the elderly in sheltered housing/residential care and, when asked, answer museum enquiries - 27 were dealt with between January and March.

Discovery Centre Report - The manager Elizabeth Weighell gave a brief update including the news that volunteers are now helping to attend the Gallery when staff are on lunch break but will

not do so on their own for the "Artists Rifles" exhibition. There is a D-Day display on the Mezzanine and by the foyer a Wartime Dugout, with sound commentary about D-Day in Gosport. The D-Day events have been popular and planned to link with SEARCH.

Hampshire Cultural Trust. Work is going on to establish the identity of the Trust and the necessary legal agreements, the Founding Board of Trustees have met and agreed the name, the Trust is now registered at Companies House and an application has been submitted to the Charity Commission. By the end of this year it is hoped that the management of the Arts and Museum Services for Hampshire and Winchester City will be settled. With the possibility of Gift Aid donations and subscriptions, and the potential to seek funding from previously unavailable sources, the future stability and development of Hampshire Arts and Museums Service will not entirely rest on government funding to local authorities. M.V. FoGMs Committee Representative

Brief Report of AGM on 8th May 2014 in the Discovery Centre

- 1) Apologies – Jack Poole, Brenda Whiteley, 15 members attended.
- 2) Minutes from the AGM 13th May 2013, Proposed Heather Leal, Seconded Mary Duly Agreed.
- 3) Matters arising – None
- 4) Chairman's Report – The Friends have had a successful year, in spite of an ageing population our numbers have remained stable and several of you have been active in promoting our activities in stewarding, providing back-room support and other helpful work assisting the Museum staff. For this I thank you all.

The re-organisation of the Museum and Library services in the county seems to have gone smoothly in Gosport and there does not, on the surface at least, appear to have been too many glitches. May I congratulate the staff on achieving , what must have been a very difficult change, with much alacrity. Old faces have gone and new ones have appeared. Tom de Witt, our Curator for the last few years, has moved to the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum in Dorchester and on your behalf, I convey out thanks for his help in the past and wish him well in his new post. Having completed so successfully these recent changes I think that there may be some concern, because as you know, further changes are appearing on the horizon. The Museums in Winchester, and South East Hampshire are consulting on ways of fusing the Museum service into a Charitable Trust. This it is hoped will have several advantages, the Museum would be able to become financially independent under the Trust umbrella, Thus relying less on community funding and able to attract sponsors and other financial backers, donations would attract Gift Aid status and perhaps there would also be VAT relief. This project is at present in the consultation phase and we await further development.

To be more parochial, we the Friends have, as I have previously said, continued to support the Museum staff in various ways and I proffer my grateful thanks to all those hard working volunteers among us. There has been the usual sponsored talks in the Discovery Centre and more will be coming in future, the first being in a couple of weeks about the disappearance of Cmdr Crabbe in Portsmouth Harbour. At this point I would like diverge to thank Councillor Chris Carter for his donation to us which has enabled us to proceed with our Recruitment Drive. To this end Maggie Venham and myself (I must admit that Maggie has done 95% of the work) have produced posters which will be displayed in the GDC to advise the public that we do have a Museum in Gosport and giving directions as to its whereabouts. Also smaller posters are to be distributed to the branch libraries in Lee, Bridgemary and Elson. These together with new information leaflets, give more details of the activities of the Friends concerning volunteering etc. and have an application form for membership. It is hoped that with this increased publicity we

shall encourage new and hopefully “young blood” to join us. Once again I thank Cllr Chris Carter for his support. Returning to our activities, I must congratulate SEARCH for the increasing work they provide and those of us who have assisted in this work. I know personally from teachers, that a visit to SEARCH is very much appreciated and the children really enjoy the time spent there, which leads to further project in the classroom back at school. The Gallery has presented several excellent exhibitions, some of them of national importance, for example the “World Wildlife Photographer of the Year” at which I was astonished by the quality of the photographs especially from young children barely in their teens. There have been the usual art exhibitions, notably the charcoal drawings of Pete Codling and Colin Baxter's “Harbour Views”. If you have not seen it yet go now to the Gallery and see the “Knitted Garden” you will be facilitated by the imagination and ingenuity of the knitters of Hampshire, go soon it closes in 10 days. The annual meeting of the Hampshire branch of the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM) is meeting in Southampton in June and I shall be present and represent us at this venue.

Thank you for coming this evening and again my thanks to all those whose work keeps the Friends and the Museum Viable. Enjoy the coming summer and keep visiting Museums where ever you go. Sydney Aynsworth (Chairman)

5) Secretary's Report – Continued membership of British Association of Friends of Museum, 4 copies of journal available, also on the BAFM website. Let me know if you would like to see one. Four committee meetings last year, main items general running as well as fund raising and the recruitment drive. Nominations for next year have closed but if you would like to become involved in the committee, there are vacancies.

6) Treasurer's Report - Income for year £563.00 Expenditure £1,137.03 leaving a shortfall of £574.03. £920 was paid for the Mammoth. David Moore

7) Membership Secretary's Report - Currently have 33 paid up member, 29 have renewed plus 4 new members Mrs Diffy, Mr & Mrs Gill and Mrs Riddell. Linda Hedley

8) Newsletter Editors Report – 6 editions last year, to cut costs free copies to councillors and BAFM now sent by email, will mean cannot go in for newsletter competition but as lowest group is for up to 250 members. Now just 23 copies sent by post rest by email. Ian Jeffery

9) Project Report – Chris Carters £250 has been spent on recruitment posters, banners leaflets and membership forms. The were all on display at the AGM with explanations. M Ventham.

10) Election of Committee - Mr R Whiteley took over the meeting read nominations and asked to have the list proposed on block. A Lane proposed S Webb 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, David Taylor, Jack Poole,

Thank to Joan Russell for all her time on committee, Honorary Membership proposed and accepted.

11) Museum Curator's Report- No Curator at present.

12) AoB- None

Admiral Robert Fitzgerald Gambier

Admiral Robert Fitzgerald Gambier was known in Gosport for his support for seafaring men. He was, together with Captain Hall and Sir Edward Parry, one of the founders of the Royal Sailor's Home at Portsmouth in 1848. Born in Lisbon Portugal he was the son of Sir James Gambier (who served as Consul-General in Portugal) and Gemima Snell. In 1838 he was married to Hester, daughter of Mr Thomas Butler of Berry Lodge, Hambledon Hampshire. Admiral Gambier entered the service as a cadet in 1816. He served as lieutenant of the *Asia* at the battle of Navarion and was promoted to the rank of commander for his services on that occasion, his commission being dated one day senior to all others given for that battle. He served as Commander in the *Satellite*, South America in 1842 and as Commander in the *Sappho*, in the Cape of Good Hope in 1845. He was promoted Captain in 1846 and he retired in 1864 with the rank of Rear Admiral. Again in 1871 he retired as Vice Admiral and then Admiral in 1877. He became a well know figure at Gosport by devoting himself entirely to the affairs of Alverstoke and Gosport. He was an active churchman and politician. He was chairman of the Army and Navy Institute at Gosport.

His memory lives on in Gosport with the Drinking Fountain that he caused to be erected in the Ferry Gardens. The fountain is a column of highly polished red and gray granite with two basins, one midway and the other at the nave. It is surmounted by a circular lamp and has four jets of water proceeding from open lion's mouths. The cost was reported to have been approaching £100. It is inscribed around the column with a quotation from the Bible 'Jesus saith whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him never thirst.' An inscription below the basin states "Erected by Admiral R.F. Gambier and E.M.S. September 1870. E.M.S. was a lady from Gosport, a 'dear friend' of Admiral Gambier, who wished to remain anonymous. The purpose in erecting the fountain at the ferry gardens was to benefit all who frequented the hard but more especially for those who in their vocation constantly waited for hours every day. When presenting the fountain to the town Admiral Gambier expressed his trust that "it will save many a man from having to enter a public house or beer-house when he is thirsty after a row across the harbour, and that he will be satisfied with a drink of pure water which he could not get here before, and thus save many a penny and two-pence for the use of his family at home." He also hoped that "it will be kept from injury, especially by thoughtless boys, for whose benefit it is also placed here". It originally stood inside the Ferry Gardens but was re-sited at the harbour end of the High Street when it was pedestrianised in 1991 and is no longer functioning as a fountain. The lion's heads have been removed.

Admiral Gambier died at his home at Anglesey Gosport on October 17th 1885 at the age of 82 years having suffered from total blindness for his last few years. A metal plaque was placed in remembrance of him in the north wall of the isle of the Royal Garrison Church, Portsmouth. It was inscribed "To the glory of God and as a mark of love and respect to the memory of Robert Fitzgerald Gambier, Admiral in the Royal Navy, of Anglesea (sic) Terrace, Alverstoke and for many years chairman of the Sailor's Home Portsea. Born November 21st 1803; died October 17th 1885. 'And so shall we ever be with the Lord' Thesa 1st, iv and ivii' " This plaque is now in the English Heritage store at Fort Brockhurst [EH Ref No. 87900128] and is reported to be in poor condition but still legible. David Moore



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To All Members

The Committee invite members, attending our free Discovery Centre talk in November, to come for a drink beforehand. We will be in the Museum-on-the-Mezzanine between 7.00 and 7.20 pm on Thursday November 20th before Abigail Coppin's talk about the Prison Hulks. Do consider joining us, we would like to meet and greet you!

SEARCH Event 7th January

SEARCH set out on Tuesday, January 7th one of their rooms as a Wartime Kitchen to catch, and interest we hope, passing folk coming to the Market. Dot Beddenhan, Jack Poole and I came along from FGM to help as volunteers and 2 other volunteers, Maureen and Mary, both retired teachers, who as teachers had learnt the value of SEARCH. On arrival, we were all very pessimistic. The weather was terrible and the market could only be seen in the distance. However we were wrong – we had a steady stream of visitors who were all most interested and many had memories and information to contribute to our fund of knowledge of the 2nd World War, some, in particular, able to add useful information to the Gosport story. Mary took contact numbers from those interested so that their facts could be recorded and followed up by a team anxious to do this. Jack, having lived through the war in Gosport, and having an amazing, retentive memory added greatly to everyone's interest and enjoyment.

Unsolicited testimonial. The following day I was in my local greengrocer's shop in Lee when I heard the owner, who had been one of our visitors, telling a customer what an interesting visit he had made the previous day to SEARCH. "How long is it open?" he asked me, and they were both disappointed to learn that the display had only been open for that one morning. Mary Duly

Report from the JMC meeting for Gosport Museum February '14

Curator Tom de Wit reported a visit in January, to SEARCH and the Discovery Centre complex, by three teachers from Uganda. The teachers were on an exchange scheme with a confederation of Hampshire schools. They were very impressed with all they saw on their visit.

Gosport Gallery Exhibitions - 'Animated Hampshire' closed and the biennial 'Open Art' for Hampshire artists began, with support from Gosport Rotary and the local Co-operative business. They selected exhibits and provided the hospitality at the private view, also the prizes. GDC was very grateful for this support. (When you read this, a 'Garden' of knitted artefacts will be on display!).

Preparation is under-way for two separate, significant anniversaries;- D-Day 70 and the Centenary of the Outbreak of WW1.

D-Day 70 Sally Beattie, CEL Co-ordinator based with GDC, is working for a co-ordinated approach to planning between Portsmouth and Gosport. Plans involve exhibition and curatorial teams working with Janet Wildman and Emma Hart (Community Engagement and Learning – CEL), plus teams from the Ashcroft Arts Centre, the Central DC staff, Gosport Borough Town-Centre and various heritage organisations in Portsmouth and around Gosport. The heritage and history of Gosport and its people will be reflected in the high profile events programme. The GDC has secured grant funding from ACE (Arts Council England) for a project to be called "Ebb and Flow" to mark the event. This project will be exhibited in the Gallery in June and July – commissioning new artwork by artist and printer Mary Dalton, working with D-Day veterans, young people and older people to create a project for the anniversary and a legacy for Gosport.

This will be followed by "Entrenched" an exhibition with contributions from local young people who are undergoing deep and intensive experiences to understand the First World War, including

time in a real trench on a military base. A grant was obtained for this expedition. The resulting exhibition will include first-hand stories from a very successful community event which took place last December with the year 9 pupils on the “Entrenched” project. Five sessions with the CEL team were given to help them with skills needed to create their future exhibition.

Finally the Hampshire “Big Theme 2014” in October will be the exhibition “Artists Rifles – from Pre-Raphaelites to Passchendaele” in the Gosport Gallery. This will be a significant exhibition of art from major galleries. Artists’ Rifles were a volunteer regiment founded in the mid 19th century. The exhibition is supported by ACE and will have county-wide promotion, a special event for our gallery!

Collections continue to be maintained and the environmental conditions monitored. Researchers continue to have access once a month by appointment to the stores and collections, related enquiries are processed. County collections have been used at SEARCH for the Darwin event and the Hampshire Hidden Treasures Case in the DC, which has included a ‘Goblin Teasmade’ from the Social History Collection.

Education at GDC SEARCH. Feedback from teachers, bringing classes to the museum areas, continues to be excellent. The CEL staff plan their offer to cover the National Curriculum needs of the schools. World Book Week in March is always popular.

The CEL and GDC Staff have worked together to provide a varied programme for adults, families and schools including the January ‘Market Day Drop-In’ - a visit to the war-time room setting at SEARCH. The Museum Friends are an invaluable help in stewarding these events. (More of us are needed so please think about joining the volunteers).

There are now over 30,000 subscribers to the free email service ‘Showcase’ advertising “What’s On” in all areas of Hampshire Arts. Similarly over 12,000 receive the museum-specific e-newsletter each month.

Postcodes are routinely collected from visitors at key sites over two, three-monthly periods i.e. Jan–Mar and Jun–Aug. This information helps to find areas using/ not using museum services, which feeds into the marketing processes. Facebook and Twitter feeds are now well established to promote exhibitions and events.

A ‘Risk Register’ was attached to the curator’s report.

A Budget Report was given.

“The Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust”

A 26 page report was presented by Dr Janet Owen, Director of Museum Services. HCC and Winchester City Council have decided to go ahead with the Trust. Core partners such as GBC have been given the necessary information to decide to join. Many meetings and reports have happened in order to reach the current position. The financing and governance of the Trust and representation for core members at meetings has been laid down. The legal details of the care, maintenance and leasing of buildings and collections have been established. The position of existing staff, their pensions etc. has been decided. The move to become a Trust will happen later this year. Gosport Community Board has recommended that GBC becomes a core member of the Cultural Trust. More publicity will be given to the change later. M. Ventham FoGM rep.

Of Mammoths and Men at SEARCH 12th July

I first visited SEARCH in about 1997. I was still living in Essex, working at Chelmsford Museum

as Curator of Social History. Like all the Curators at Chelmsford, I also had an educational remit and so I was keen to attend a workshop at SEARCH arranged by the Group for Education in Museums. I drove down with two colleagues to visit the building and to look at creative ways of interpreting science and history for children. We had been warned in advance about the traffic but, as we moved slowly down the A32, I was able to see Bedenham Lane for the first time and wonder whether, in the very distant past, my ancestors had lived there. Yes, my surname is Bedenham. I didn't retire to Gosport to be near the lane, (although I am), or to revisit SEARCH, (although I do). However, as a Friend of Gosport Museum, it is now a great pleasure for me to volunteer for the events held there for both adults and children.

The event held on Saturday 12th July was part of the Festival of British Archaeology and was a drop-in activity for children aged five plus, led by the Museum staff, Wendy Redman and Janet Wildman, and aided by FOGM members Maggie Ventham and myself. What always amazes me at SEARCH is the way the staff adapt the objects in the education collection for different purposes. It was true of 'Of Mammoths and Men', which was all about the Stone Age. And what better place to start the activity than with Monty, the large woolly mammoth in the Geology Gallery partly funded by the Friends of Gosport Museum. Maggie, who was involved with raising



the money for Monty's sound system, was more than happy to help the children answer searching questions about how Stone Age people killed, used and even learned from mammoths in their own bid to survive the cold. After this introduction, the children followed a trail of mammoths which took them to rooms where there were a lot more questions to challenge both them and their parents. They had to spot native birds and animals from those on display, become hunter-gatherers and avoid getting stomach ache or dying from the wrong choice of food, and even become Stone Age doctors and attempt to cure ills such as bad backs and stomach ache. There was a Stone Age animal memory game and even something to smell. A sudden shriek of laughter meant that someone had found the Mammoth Muck and Dino Dung! There were also plenty of Stone Age objects to handle and to view under microscopes. The drop-in finished with things to do – a mask and a mammoth to make and a stone to paint.

The activities were fun but they were also to help children to learn. They were a prelude to what will be on offer to schools from September at SEARCH. The history curriculum has changed and children of 7-8 will now be learning about the Stone Age. With their usual creativity the staff have adapted what they already have, added more, and are ready to teach the subject, which is just as well, as they already have over 20 bookings and the phone continues to ring.

I think it's a wonderful place, but did I use the ideas I had picked up at SEARCH to change the way I taught at Chelmsford? I remember being bowled over by the upstairs rooms in the building, where children can imagine they are in a Victorian house or a 1930s kitchen, or having tea around a 1950s table. And, yes, with a lot of help from the Museum's technician, I created a large walk-in Victorian kitchen with plenty of objects for children to handle. I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a curator but creating the kitchen was definitely the most satisfying thing I did.

Dot Bedenham

Special Offer to Friends of Gosport Museum Members

With thanks to the owner of both the Discovery Centre café and the Submarine Museum café, as a member of the Friends of Gosport Museum and show your card before purchase at the café you can claim 10% discount from your purchase. Also thank you to Dr Aynsworth for asking for the discount on behalf of members.

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 for Gosport Museum Collection then it would be Jacqui Ready Jacqui.ready@hants.gov.uk. If they would like to volunteer for the Discovery Centre main building it would be Rose Redman rosemary.redman@hants.gov.uk. Wendy

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Committee Members
Mary Duly
Jack Poole
Yvonne Riddell
David Taylor

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 please send to Linda Hedley at 7 Fairhome Close, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HZ. If you do not wish to continue to be a member, you can do nothing and no further newsletter will be sent, if you wish to receive the next newsletter, please renew as soon as you can.

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.

A very big thank you to all of those who have provided items for this rather late and large 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 15th December for the next Newsletter, which should be in January. 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
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