

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

Tours of Local Studies Centre

Heritage Weekend

Saturday 11th September

Only – Please Book

Details below:

Hospitals and Prisons -

Prisoners of War around

Gosport 1794-1815

Mezzanine Studio 23rd September

7:30 to 9pm

Details below:

Friends of Gosport Museum

Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30pm

Every 2nd Thursday of the month.

Meetings before next Newsletter

Thursday 10th September

Thursday 14th October

Thursday 11th November

For around 1 hour meet at

Readers' Rest Café

Heritage Open Days at Gosport Museum Services

The building which currently houses Local Studies, the museum storage rooms and SEARCH Museum is open to the public for one day only as part of Heritage Open Days on Saturday September 11th. Behind-the-scenes guided tours, led by museum staff, will leave on the hour throughout the day, but spaces are limited and must be booked (please phone Erica or Alison on 02392 588035 to reserve a place).

We would like to know if any Friends have any interesting information or stories about the building and its history that might liven up the tours - you might know some details about when it was the Free Library, you might have anecdotes from when Gosport Museum was still in the building, or from when it was a school. Please contact Erica on erica.munro@hants.gov.uk, call 02392 588035 or leave a note at the Local Studies desk as soon as possible if you can help. **Erica Munro**
Gosport Museum Officer

BAFM Day Selborne

Mary Duly is going to the meeting of the British Association of Friends of Museums on the 6th September at the Field Studies Centre, Selborne, Alton, Hants. Is anyone else going to be at the event?. Please let me know. Ian Jeffery.

Report of the AGM held on 10th May 2010

This years AGM was held at the Gosport Discovery Centre in The Studio up on the Mezzanine floor where the Museum is at 7:30pm. 30 members attended.

No new nominations were received for Officers or Committee Members, Joan Russell is no longer Project Director and there is the vacancy for Vice Chairman. Committee is elected as follows:

Chairman Dr Sidney Aynsworth

Vice Chairman Vacant

Treasurer David Moore

Secretary and Newsletter Editor Ian Jeffery

Committee Secretary Joan Symonds

Membership Secretary Linda Hedley

Project Director Vacant

Committee:

Joan Adams, Michael Adams, Giselle Aynsworth, Mary Colyer, Mary Duly, Michael Leopold

Margaret Ventham, Joan Russell

Followed by Ruth Warren very interesting and entertaining talk "Childhood Memories" based around transport.

Hospitals and Prisons talk by Abigail Coppins from English Heritage

23rd September Mezzanine Studio, Discovery Centre, 7:30-9pm

Booking Essential Tickets £2 Concessions £1 FGM Free.

Museum Services in Gosport Discovery Centre

Museum Service Delivery Manager's Report June 2010

Full **visitor figures** will be produced at the end of the quarter, but April saw 6393 visitors to the community museum spaces, and 1081 to SEARCH. May saw 4873 visitors to the community museum spaces and 772 to SEARCH. This is an increase on last year for the community museum and a slight drop for SEARCH as schools have stopped doing the science SAT which used to generate a lot of science revision workshop bookings at SEARCH at this time of year.

20 Family/Community Workshops/Events/Talks April – June

- 6-8 April - 3 days of Inspiring Science activities in SEARCH and Gosport Gallery, with Southampton University science departments (273 visitors)
- 8 May – Opening of Forgotten Emperor Exhibition, with Legio Secunda Augusta and family activities (243 visitors)
- 13 May - Empire's End evening talk by Dave Allen, linked to exhibition (45 visitors)
- 19 May – Playing in the Past, story time special for under 5's and carers using exhibition (7 children, 5 adults)
- 1 June – Finds Identification Day with a member of the Portable Antiquities scheme identifying local peoples' finds (14 people brought finds in).
- 2 June – Roman Warriors art workshop for families (101 visitors)
- 10 June – R.S.Downie author talk linked to exhibition (42 participants)
- 13 June – Gosport's Big Day Out, Sunday opening with 'Collections' theme (410 visitors)
- 23 June – The Aurelian Legacy evening talk on butterfly collecting
- 26 June – Wing Your Way Back to the Past family workshops (2) on forensic archaeology
- 2 outreach reminiscence sessions – Locks Heath Day Centre (15 participants) and Club Hampshire, Leigh Park (18)
- 2 reminiscence workshops at SEARCH – Locks Heath Day Centre (13) and local Library Books and Banter Club (6)
- 1 Hands-on History workshop at SEARCH for Gosport Disability Activity Group (13 participants)
- Creative Landscapes - On-going series of workshops (2 so far) in partnership with English

Heritage, artist in residence working with local people with disabilities and mental health problems to interpret Gosport Heritage through art and display for HOD's.

2 Gallery Exhibitions

- Planetarium Shows 14 & 15 April (262 visitors over 8 workshops)
- The Forgotten Emperor in-house exhibition (615 visitors in first month)

Gosport's Big Day Out

- 410 visitors (many new and many not traditional museum visitors)
- Visitor feedback excellent
- Whole Discovery Centre involved – Library, Museum and Archive resources
- Partnership with Gosport Borough Council – excellent promotion by them
- Good community involvement – local lace-makers group, model aeroplane group and cacti society delighted to exhibit collections and promote themselves; local Guide, Scout and Brownie groups involved.

9 new displays in DC museum cases

- Alver Valley Lace Group display in Pride of Place Case
- Portsmouth Cacti and Succulent Society display in Pride of Place Case
- Photography by local girl with learning difficulties in Pride of Place Case
- Provincial Society (bus heritage group) display in Pride of Place Case
- Geology display in Story Boat
- Roman display in Story Boat
- Wildlife (arctic camouflage) in Hampshire Hidden Treasures Case
- Mammals in Hampshire Hidden Treasures Case
- New acquisitions case instigated for Museum on the Mezzanine

Displays and Research Area Created in Museum Store

- Story of D-Day in Gosport panels put up as a display in the museum store area mail corridor
- Gosport Railway Station panels and signs, other transport related panels also put on display
- Whole area made more accessible and welcoming – ready for Heritage Open Day tours in September
- Research room created next to main store – where stores visitors can work with collections in a suitable environment.

30 enquiries/identifications/donations dealt with by Museum Officers (April/May only)

62 hours of work done by 10 volunteers (April/May) in the stored collections and at Roman exhibition opening. Plus EDGE youth group once a week.

New Museums Service trainee, Lesley Denham, has started digitising and cataloguing the stored photographic collections. 2 major school projects – Inspiring Science Year 6 project for Gosport schools to raise attainment in science through work in SEARCH. With Southampton University. National Insect Week 21-27 June, funds for free workshops for local schools. Janet Wildman 15/06

DAY 1945

Such news as “The war is won!!” circulates pretty quickly!! Westfield College students (girls only in those days) bubbled with excitement as we queued for breakfast on the lovely staircase to the dining room of St Peter's College (to which we were evacuated from London: Oxford students under false pretences !!) on the morning of May 8th 1945.

My group of friends quickly decided we would head for London. We 'knocked up' a picnic lunch for

survival purposes of what was to hand. (Remember rationing was strict) I found an egg, hard-boiled it – or so I thought, but discovered -to my embarrassment, when I tried to eat it in a very crowded railway compartment that it was anything but... a real test of eating etiquette!

Something told us to head for Parliament Sq. Getting there from Paddington was no problem – the public services were running well.

Everywhere was crowded.- young and old, civilians mingling with the service folk of many nations (U.S.A. , Free French, Polish) The atmosphere was euphoric, a mixture of relief and happiness.

The highlight of the day was the realisation that the car slowly approaching from Whitehall carried Mr Churchill, the hero of the hour, standing up, beaming and demonstrating the famous V-sign, on his way to make the official announcement in Parliament. Even better, the crowd parted, just where we stood and the car passed slowly right beside us: we couldn't have had a better view, or left with a more wonderful memory.

I stayed on in London for a lovely meal in Soho with a family whose daughter had been evacuated to my Yorkshire village. When with them the happy news came through to 2 Australian boys in our party that the brother thought missing was in fact safe!

I thought with relief, thanksgiving of my three brothers, now out of danger, all who had been involved since the war began , Edward who had been on his first voyage as a cadet in the Merchant Navy, Peter and John both in the army, Peter on searchlights and John a veteran of D-Day. Now all safe, thank God.

P.S. Now , in retrospect, I feel guilty that I was a student and not in uniform. But it was not expected of me then , no one made me feel a shirker. ANON

Subscription Reminder 2010/11

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscriptions for the year from 1st April,£5 for a single and £7.50 for a joint membership. Please send your payment to Linda Hedley, or if you wish to pay by standing order contact David Moore. If you no longer wish to be a member or receive future copies of this newsletter, you need take no action.

If you have any information 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 October for the Nov/Dec Newsletter, include details for events in January 2011.

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

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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.

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