



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 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 10th September

Thursday 8th October

Thursday 12th November

Thursday 10th December

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

Friends of Gosport Museum Sponsored Talk

Flight – The Human Factor
by Ashley Morgan,
Archivist of the Farnborough Air Sciences
Trust (FAST) Film Archive

Wednesday 16th September 7.30pm

Tickets £3, Friends of Gosport Museum FREE

Booking Essential

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends,

I trust that you all been enjoying this summer and the activities that have been going on in Gosport in the last several weeks.

It has been an interesting period in the Museum and Gallery. In May we saw the end of "Discworld and Beyond" an exhibition of the book covers, produced by Paul Kidby, of Terry Pratchett's "Disc world" series. This was followed by the exhibition of William Wyllie prints (also a few original paintings) Again this proved to be popular and was well attended, with several visitors coming from far afield especially to see the prints. I would like to thank those who have been acting as Stewards at these venues in their capacity as Volunteers to the Hampshire Cultural Trust. I am sure they found it worthwhile, as did I. It was interesting to meet some visitors who had first- hand knowledge of William Wyllie and his family. As you know Erica does need more Volunteers to assist in this valuable work in order to keep the gallery viable.

Several interesting talks have been given in the GDC during May, June and July, most recently "Duelling in the Royal Navy" given by the local author Mark Burton, which was sponsored by us. More are in the "pipe-line"

The AGM in May was not very well attended, just sufficient to be able to elect the Committee and I thank Maggie Ventham for her educating dissertation on the Grove Estate.

As you know Pirates are here in Gosport. This is the themed summer event in the Town with activities being held at various venues around the Town. Latter in the year, October to be precise, we shall, be hosting "Dinosaurs in your Garden " as part of the Trust's Dinosaur theme; there have been exhibitions about Dinosaurs in the Museums in Hampshire, these are ongoing and as I have said we have one in October.

Do continue your support and come along to the various activities on offer
My best wishes to you all,
Sydney Aynsworth
Chairman, Friends of Gosport Museum

Flight – The Human Factor by Ashley Morgan,
Archivist of the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) Film Archive

As aircraft design became more sophisticated enabling man to fly higher and faster, a new science emerged known as Aviation Medicine. This illustrated presentation looks at the work of the former RAF Institute of Aviation Medicine (IAM) and their colleagues at the Institute of Naval Medicine (INM). It features remarkable film clips which captured the extraordinary, often brave, and sometimes amusing work of these experts.

(From The Discovery Centre What's On Guide) Tickets £3 Friends of Gosport Museum FREE

Christmas Meeting

There will be a Christmas Meeting on Monday 7th December at 2.00pm in the museum area of the Discovery Centre. Light refreshments will be provided and if anyone wants to make a donation towards the cost it would be much appreciated, though not compulsory. Yvonne Riddell

The Silk Road

To me just saying or hearing someone mention "The Silk Road" makes me think of so many things – travel, exotic places, adventure, history, Marco Polo, trade etc. How many of you have thought you would love to travel the Silk Road – in comfort though, not as they used to when trips were full of danger, discomfort, thirst, starvation, high risk as to whether you would or would not make a profit from the goods you were transporting and could take years. Well earlier this year I went and saw a very small part of the route by going to Uzbekistan for two weeks. The first week was spent visiting archaeological sites and the second week visiting some of those towns I am sure most of us have heard of – Khiva, Bukhara, and Samarkand.

OK the first week might not have appealed to most people as often what we were looking at resembled Iron Age Forts (though much, much larger) or brown, desolate areas with lumps all over the place – these lumps were actually the remains of mud brick walls, towers, citadels and cities.

The place that resembled an Iron Age fort was Shahruhiyah (about 80km from the capital Tashkent). It flourished between the 1st century BC and 10th century AD and lies next to the Syr Darya River. A grassy area of banks and ditches but if you looked closely you could make out

the internal layout of the town and could imagine it as being a major entreport on the Silk Route.

After that we went to Nukus which is in the far north west. From there we visited Gyaur Kala, a fortress of the First Persian Empire with mud brick walls and towers still visible. Then it was on to the necropolis of Mizdakhkan, parts of which date back to the 4th century. The town of Nukus itself has the second largest collection of Russian avant-garde art in the world: an astonishing array of paintings from widely contrasting painters.

From Nuxus we worked out way back towards Tashkent via the fortress of Chilpik Dakhma where there is a Zoroastrian tower of silence, the three mighty fortresses at Ayaz Kala built between the 4th century BC and 7th century AD, and the citadel of Toprak Kala, whose long line of crumbling city walls can be seen long before you arrive at the site itself. My favourite site was Paykent, where arrangements had been made for us to have special access to what is an ongoing excavation and their lovely small museum. Why my favourite? Because I found and held a piece of 9th century decorated glass.

Of the cities for me the walled city of Khiva was one of the most atmospheric places full of narrow alleys, graceful minarets and markets and was once the centre of an independent Uzbek Khanate until being captured by the Russians in the 19th century. Bukhara contained some of the most beautiful buildings and was one of the great centres of the Silk Route. Samarkand was a focal point of the Silk Route and there we saw some of the most spectacular friezes that have been rescued from the Afrasiab. Look them up on the internet and marvel at the colours and detail. The biggest of all the structures we saw was at Shahrisyabz (the birthplace of Tamerlane) where there are the remains of his Ak Sarai Palace. In 1404 the Spanish ambassador Clavijo passed, wide-eyed between 215 feet high towers, flanking a portal arch 130 feet high and 70 feet wide, into a marble-paved courtyard 330 feet wide, enclosed by two-storeyed arcades. The inscription on the towers reads "let he who doubt our power and munificence look upon our buildings". Very apt I think.

The above really is only a brief description of what I saw but it fulfilled all the thoughts I had had about the importance of The Silk Road at its height and has left me feeling I want to visit other parts of it. I have not included images of what I saw but do look them up on the internet.
by Yvonne Riddell

Sorry, I am short of an item or two

I have space in this Newsletter. In the past I have added memories of Gosport's past that have been sent in for Gosport.info a web site that I look after or put a list of Gosport events over the following few months.

I could add the type of items above in any future gaps, but I would prefer items from members, which I believe will be of more interest to other members.

It could be memories of some place in Gosport or outside of Gosport. Research that you have carried out in to history. It could be a visit to a historical place a local famous person or a new take on a past even.

You do not have to worry too much, just let me know if you want it added as close as it can be or if you wish me to take the information provided by you and made in to an article.

Just send it to me, email is easiest for me but by post is also very welcome. Ian Jeffery

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 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 Ventham

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

Final Subscription Reminder 2015

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum 2015/16 are due from 1st April 2015. Payments to Linda Hedley, 7 Fairhome Close, Gosport, Hants PO12 3PU. Single £6 Joint £9.

If you no longer wish to be a member or receive this Newsletter you need do nothing and you will not receive future Newsletters from the Friends the of Gosport Museum.

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at 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 . If you would like to volunteer for the remainder of the Discovery Centre it would be Rose Redman rosemary.redman@hants.gov.uk . The Gallery volunteering to now contact Erica Munro 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 September Newsletter by 16th October 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
Ian Jeffery, FoGM Newsletter Editor

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 Cultural Trust or its staff.

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