

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Gosport Museum
Thursday 7th May 2015

1. Apologies – May Bumford, Linda Hedley, Brenda Whiteley, Cecelia Riber
2. The minutes of the AGM held on 8th May 2104 were proposed by Jack Poole and seconded by Mary Duly. Adopted and signed.
3. Matters Arising – there were no matters arising
4. Chairman's Report – The past year has been an eventful one for the Museum and also personally for me. Unfortunately I was indisposed from Christmas until the beginning of April and consequently I missed some events.

The Hampshire Cultural Trust is now in operation. This is as I am sure you know a Charitable Trust comprising of the Museums in Hampshire and is the successor to the Hampshire County Councils Museum and Archaeology Department. It appears to have been a smooth transition which bodes well for the future (I am sure that the staff have had many headaches!) Our immediate contacts with the Trust are – Wendy Redman at SEARCH, Erica Munroe the SE Hampshire Area Curator and the Area Manager, Annabel Cook.

One aspect that the Trust is actively developing is in the area of Volunteers, several are already assisting, not only as Stewards in the Gallery during Exhibitions but also in SEARCH and in the Museum on the Mezzanine; all those participating find it worthwhile and a broadening experience. More Volunteers are needed, the ideal number (I have heard) being between 40 and 50, with this number the duties do not become too onerous and I assure your help is greatly appreciated. It is not necessary to be a Friend to become a Volunteer and if you know anyone who would be interested, get them to contact Erica Munro (you could persuade them to become a Friend also!) As I have noted the work is not onerous and if you can give a few hours on a weekly, or even a fortnightly basis, it is very rewarding. So far the Volunteers have been active at the D-Day exhibition, The Artists Rifles, the Young Artists and Terry Pratchett; they have also been active in SEARCH

and in the Museum. The theme of the year is Dinofest and the Volunteers are being briefed on this tomorrow.

The talks given in the Discovery Centre have been enjoyed by large audiences and of course, more talks will be given during the year. The Thursday Coffee Mornings remain popular, with many topics being discussed along with a cup of coffee. SEARCH seems to go from strength to strength and children take back fond memories of their time spent there and this is shown in their classroom work.

The Area meeting of the Association of Friends of Museums is being held at Reading. I regret that I will be unable to attend this year but Ian Jeffery, our Secretary, has the details if you wish to attend. In the past there have been some very interesting lectures in the morning and after luncheon a general discussion among the groups of Friends, exchanging ideas about how the groups can support their local Museum.

I thank you all for coming this evening and for your continued support of the Museum

Sydney Aynsworth
Chairman

5. Secretary's Report – I am sure the main items discussed at the 4 Committee meetings in the last year, as well as the general running of FoGM, there were projects and fund raising, some of which have been included in the newsletter.

FoGM are members of the British Association of Friends of Museums, we can be involved with conferences, and receive copies of the Journal produced 4 times a year. They are on-line at www.bafm.uk but if you would like to see a copy, please let me know.

Ian Jeffery

6. Treasurer's Report – income for the year £368.20, expenditure £375.87. Balance Bank £367.25 Cash £2.98 total £370.23.

David Moore Treasurer

7. Membership Secretary's Report - The Friends of Gosport Museum currently has a membership of 40. So far, not all previous members have renewed their membership for this year so if you know of anyone who has not renewed and would still like to be part of the Museum Friends please give them a reminder so that they can continue to receive a copy of the

Newsletter plus take advantage of free tickets for 2 sponsored talks each year and a discount on tea and coffee in the Discovery Centre café.

I would like to welcome Pauline Skinner who has recently joined us and to thank all our regular members for their continuing support.

Linda Hedley Membership Secretary

8. Newsletter Editor's Report - at the request of the Committee, myself and Yvonne Riddell have made some changes to the newsletter. Some format changes in particular on the back page and a move to shorter items which means that more people will be able to have items added to the newsletter. I have not had any comments about the first two but let me know if you have had any thoughts about it. I expect there will be other changes in the future.
Ian Jeffery

9. Project Report

i. At the FoGM Committee meeting held on 17 July 2015 it was suggested that an award be instituted to mark the retirement from the Committee of Joan Russell who had been on the Committee since the inception of the Friends in 1991. With the advice of Wendy Redman it was decided that 'The Joan Russell Award' be awarded annually for a well-researched school project on a subject of local history by children at Key Stage 2. One prize could be a free group session at SEARCH. Wendy Redman has contacted history co-ordinators at both Primary and Junior Schools in Gosport to find the level of interest.

ii. Screen: the Museum Curator has supplied details, including cost, for a screen and unit to display slideshows at the Museum on the Mezzanine. This will be purchased by the Hampshire Cultural Trust once the Friends have raised sufficient funds, the software to be Powerpoint to enable the Friends to produce the slideshows using photographs and text but without sound. It will be a non-networked visual display unit with no interactivity and will require a free-standing display fascia to be made.

iii. Jack Poole was congratulated for his presence at the Museum on the Mezzanine on a regular basis on Saturday mornings to talk to and help Museum visitors.

10. Election of the Committee: the nominations were read and proposed on block, Ann Lane proposed, Heather Leal seconded.

Chairman Sydney Aynsworth
Vice Chairman Margaret Ventham
Treasurer David Moore
Secretary Ian Jeffery
Minutes Secretary Dot Bedenham
Membership Secretary Linda Hedley
Newsletter Editors Ian Jeffery
Other Committee members Mary Duly, Jack Poole, Yvonne Riddell

11. Museum Curator's Report:

The Museum Curator, Erica Munro was present and reported that the past seven months in office have been very busy, particularly so now that the Museums she covers are under the new organisation of the Hampshire Cultural Trust. The staff of the Trust have been involved in a lot of meetings with individuals and businesses interested in culture. Annabel Cook has now been replaced by Helen Ashwell.

Gosport Gallery has seen some very successful exhibitions – The Artists Rifles, Haslar Hospital and Discworld and Beyond. The Youth Open Art exhibition was relatively popular and met a criteria.

There is still no replacement for Emma Hart.

The Museum on the Mezzanine needs some updating. Nat Gonella's clarinet will be added to leisure and changes will be made where there are mistakes (Jack Poole to supply a list).

More volunteers are needed for the Gallery

The Curator said that she is keen to help FoGM find more members and that it is a pleasure to be back in Gosport.

12. AOB

1. Heather Leal suggested that there should be a fund for the Joan Russell Award. (Joan was a founder member who resigned from the Committee at the AGM in 2014). Proposed by Heather Leal, seconded by Margaret Ventham.

Prepared by Dot Bedenham

Secretary Ian Jeffery

Chairman Sydney Aynsworth 5th May 2016