

## Minutes the AGM of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in the Discovery Centre

- 1) Apologies – Jack Poole, Brenda Whiteley, 15 members attended.
- 2) Minutes from the AGM 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Ventham 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 Riddle. 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. Margaret 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, Ho Membership proposed and accepted.

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

12) AoB- None

Prepared by Secretary Ian Jeffery

Signed Chairman Sydney Aynsworth

7<sup>th</sup> May 2015