



# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

[www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk)  
or [www.fogm.org.uk](http://www.fogm.org.uk)

## *NEWSLETTER*

*JULY/AUGUST 2017*

### Friends of Gosport Museum

#### Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30am  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

#### Dates of Next Few Meetings

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

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

### Gosport Gallery

15<sup>th</sup> July to 20<sup>th</sup> September FREE

The Navy at the time of Jane Austen:

Fighting, Flirting and Fortune

[www.janeausten200.co.uk](http://www.janeausten200.co.uk)

### Discovery Centre Talks

18<sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm Tickets £5

Jane Austen and the Military

### Edit of Report from The Chair to Committee

David Moore kindly printed the revised Membership Form (copies available from Committee Members and Discovery Centre). The revision includes Yvonne's suggestions.

I attended the Private View of the current exhibition at the Gallery. The Provincial Bus Society members, and in particular their archivist Chris Richardson, have created an excellent display. They invested in interpretation boards of high quality which will no doubt be telling the history of the company, and travel within and away from this area, in future exhibitions. If you notice my name on the credits list, it's because there were copies of the early stagecoach amongst 'Joan's Stuff' and I gave them to Chris.

The 'Mystery Objects' from the museum store will need to be photographed in order to make answer cards for the volunteers stewarding the GHOD's (Gosport Heritage Open Days) event. I will arrange this with Jacqui Ready. A copy of the Museum Inventory has been made for us by Jacqui. It's a print version with items pre or post 1991. A digital CD version of the inventory was sent to GBC(Gosport Borough Council) 4 or 5 years ago, which has never seen the light of day. I will remind Jacqui regarding the request for better information for the yacht stove model.

Dot and I have gone through the material about the history of the Technical Institute and Free Library ready for our tour event for GHODs. I asked Ian to put a request in the newsletter for volunteers to help with the open days, thus far Jack, Dot and I have agreed to help.

A presentation has been prepared for the talk to the Anglesey Conservation Group on June 20<sup>th</sup>, the title was "Gosport Museum Past and Present" I hope I haven't made any blunders.

The Drop-in-on-Market-Day at SEARCH this week was well attended despite the windy weather. It took place in the Shore Room at Local Studies. Wendy opened the doors to the High St and stood outside encouraging the public to come in and look at the 'stalls' she had arranged with a variety of goods from the collections at SEARCH. There were items from the early and middle 20<sup>th</sup> century ranging from corsets to biscuit tins! Jack brought 2 show cases of his model shops for display to the visitors. (Newsletter Editor)

## BAFM or, in full – the British Association of Friends of Museums

You will know, I'm sure/hope that we, the Friends of Gosport Museum, have belonged to BAFM since we began. The subject has come up at least once a year, when we have discussed our finances, membership is not cheap, especially for a small group like ours when the economies of scale do not seem to come into the reckoning. In the end, we have always continued. We rather felt that we ought to be part of the national organisation, to be part of the wider museum world.

The discussion at a recent committee meeting was, however, rather different and of a really serious nature, we were having to take into account the consequence of the stark fact that our membership has dropped over the years to such a low number that it is really questionable that we can afford to continue our membership of BAFM – it absorbs nearly 20% of your subscription!

The Association, however does publish a journal which ideally should be available to all members but then the problems of organisation and COST does make things difficult, from IT to US and from US to YOU. At present we only receive a few copies (the number has declined over the years, due to expenses no doubt at their end) We have always told you they are available for the asking, no one ever has!

I had a serious look at the last issue, the 119<sup>th</sup>, and found a lot of interest. This touches on some of the entries from museums up and down the country. These vary in size and scope, from major to minor.

The London Transport Museum, for example, has a Friends with a membership of 2850 of whom 150 are active volunteers. I can only inelegantly say, "Cor!".

Our membership is now down to the low 40's and our number of volunteers to 5 or so, not enough for the tasks we are asked to help with, not all our volunteers can be available every time. A regular plea is put in the Newsletter for volunteers, without response. SEARCH provides the easiest situation in which to help as its events only occur from time to time so it's not a heavy commitment. Think about it!

A doctor from the Thackray Medical Museum looked at its 'The Medicine in the Crusades' exhibition and it was interesting to learn that contact between western and Islamic medicine was beneficial to both. For racing buffs, the news from Brooklands was exciting as the Finishing Straight of the famous race course, had been rescued from the under the hangar where it had been hidden since the 1940's. Salford Museum of Friends felt it could help a project outside the strictly museum context which provides courses for horticultural students at nearby Ordsall Hall and Gardens. I thought the oddest entry came from the Geffrye Museum of the Home in London which was taking on the challenge of Curating Teenage Bedrooms, very brave to go there!

Of proposed projects, the largest in hand is probably the development of a National Mining Museum, the smallest, the Teenage Bedroom one, and just above that is the makeover of The Gardening Museum in the de-consecrated church of St. Mary's Church in Lambeth, right there at the doorway of Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The plan had been to turn the site into a petrol filling station (!) and it was a couple who loved museums who saw the possibility of it being turned into a museum – didn't it have the graves there of John Tradescant and family, pioneer 17<sup>th</sup> C. plant collectors and Captain Bligh of Mutiny fame. I love good small museums. With a possible reorganising of our Museum being hinted at, wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be a leading example? Something to boast about in the BAFM journal!

The issue brought to our attention the worrying fact that AQA, an examining board, has axed A Levels in Archaeology and Classical Civilisation as well as in History of Art, all essential subjects for those contemplating a career in Museums or Archaeology, especially when there is a shortage of those so qualified and the demand is increasing with the growth of infrastructure projects. The usual short termism? Is it only because the students are not coming forward, or does the problem lie deeper in the schools?

Which brings me back to Money and whether we can or should maintain our BAFM membership. The Committee will discuss it again I know. This look at the latest journal has made me feel that it is a good thing to be part of the national museum family.

Do ask to see the Journal in future – we can organise it I'm sure. Mary Duly

(I receive 4 copies each quarter, I still have 3 of the Spring issue, if you would like to have/ see a copy let me know. My address and email are at the end of the newsletter or telephone number in the Committee Members list. They are also at times found on [www.bafm.co.uk/bafm-journals/](http://www.bafm.co.uk/bafm-journals/) though the last couple of issues do not seem to be there yet. Ian Jeffery)

### From the BAFM Newsletter - BAFM Review

The review of how BAFM works and how it can be even more effective and valuable for members in future is ongoing. The project has a wide scope looking at our mission for the future and how we can help you support your museum. We also want to be a stronger advocate for Friends who make significant contributions to the sector which is especially critical during these difficult times for many museums. The Council will look at emerging ideas at its July meeting and there will be a report of that in the next newsletter.

**We want to include your ideas too.** So we have compiled a very short questionnaire which is being disseminated in a variety of ways over next few months. Your Regional Co-ordinator will be sending them out, it will be on the website and an electronic version will also be available shortly. However you receive it do please fill it in and return to me. If you would like a copy emailed to you do contact me. [a.m.walker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:a.m.walker@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5LL8735](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5LL8735)

### AGM 2018 Possible Change, What do you think?

You may have noticed the late notice change to the date of 2017 AGM. In the past the FoGM has been able to have a space in the Discovery Centre for free as there was always another group or event on at the same day and time. They can only open the Discovery Centre if a paying event is on. This may not be known for any particular day until a month or so before the date.

It was felt that the cost and the small number who attend the AGM (10-15 over the last few years) was not worth the amount needed by the Discovery Centre to cover their costs. A number of venues were looked at both Community and Commercial. Wendy Redman suggested that space in SEARCH may be able to be found (she would stay on). Provisionally a date and earlier time has been suggested of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 from 5pm to 6:30pm. It was felt this may be a problem for people working to attend and any earlier time would be more of a problem.

Please would you send me your comments regarding the possible change of AGM, any ideas or suggestions. Please also advise if this time would stop you attending. Ian Jeffery (Secretary)

Episode 8 to 11 from 25<sup>th</sup> April of The Diary of Martha Georgiana Loftus Tottenham 1883 by Yvonne Riddell will follow in future newsletters. Ian

## Gosport Heritage Open Days 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Friends of Gosport Museum is involved in this years Heritage Open Days. If you feel that you may be able help at the event for any of the days please contact Maggie Ventham on 023 9252 5229 or by email [margaret.ventham@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.ventham@btinternet.com)

The main days that Friends of Gosport Museum will be involved will be Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>  
[www.gosportheritage.co.uk/](http://www.gosportheritage.co.uk/)  
[www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting)

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*Linda Hedley*

Committee Members  
*Sydney Aynsworth*  
*Mary Duly*  
*Jack Poole*  
*Yvonne Riddell*

### Subscription Reminder 2017/18

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum 2017/18 due from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 £6 single £9 joint please send the Payments (cheques made to: Friends of Gosport Museum) to Linda Hedley, 7 Fairhome Close, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HZ. Please renew your subscription for 2017/18 by October to continue receiving the Newsletter from that date. Thank you  
Joined since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 your subscription lasts to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at [wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:jacqui.ready@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) . If you would like to volunteer for the remainder of the Discovery Centre it would be Mark Collyer [mark.collyer@hants.gov.uk](mailto:mark.collyer@hants.gov.uk) . Gosport Gallery volunteering contact: Jef Whitcher [enquiries@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@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. If for the September Newsletter by 25<sup>th</sup> August or as soon as you can to: Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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. This will help save FoGM cost keeping the subscription down. Thank you Ian

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to Ian Jeffery, FoGM Newsletter Editor 11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto:ian@gosport.info) If you would be happy to receive this Newsletter by email in .PDF, please let me know. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Hampshire Cultural Trust, GDC or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is open to all - Please contact any Committee member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6 Families £9.00. Due 1st April Each Year. This Newsletter was printed and produced with the help of the Gosport Discovery Centre and Hampshire Cultural Trust.