



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk
or www.fogm.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2017

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 9th November

Thursday 14th December (Do)

Thursday 11th Jan 2018

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

Gosport Gallery

30th September to 6th January 2018 FREE

May the Toys Be With You

FoGM Christmas Do

Thursday 14th December 10:30am

Details in Report from the Chair

SEARCH, Local & Naval Studies Centre

Back in time for Christmas –

Market day Drop-in – 1950s Christmas

19th December 10:30am to 12:30pm

Report from the Chair

Welcome to the last Newsletter of 2017. The year seems to have flown by with the world changing around us. On November 1st the HCT entered its fourth year, a celebratory 'Big Get Together' at Milestones Basingstoke marked the Trust's successes and introduced future plans to a meeting of staff and volunteers from all venues. This was a chance to meet the 'teams' who work across the county and to understand who does what in the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) management business!

Our membership is down to 35 paid members. The committee is aware of the lack of support for the museum. Possible changes to the facilities at the DC are not confirmed but reduced funding for libraries have knock-on effects. If we book an evening event we would be charged the hire fee. Currently our finances do not make this possible. Better use of our free monthly access to the DC Community Table could be for planned meetings (not just for a coffee break!). As most members are retired, let us know if you think it's worth considering.

September's highlight was our events for GHODs. 'Guess the Mystery Objects' was popular. Nearly 60 visitors made guesses – some wild ones! A youngster wanted to take his favourite object home. The four of us really enjoyed conversations with the public and recommend taking part again. This year Tours of the old Grammar School needed a little more than the planned hour, due to the collections at Search-Hands-on-Centre being fully displayed in advance of a visit for teachers. Of the 24 free tickets, 23 were booked and the feed-back was supportive of our efforts. The re-useable material we created is available for future events. We had invaluable

support from Wendy Redman (Search) and Tim Woods (DC).

'May the Toys be With You' at Gosport Gallery got off to a flying start with 605 visitors on opening day. Star Wars began in 1977. Using the SEARCH collections, Wendy's displays in the room next door featured toys from both the 70s and earlier in the 20th century. Activities for families were available from 10am to 4pm – these included making Star Wars paper finger puppets and other things to cut out and stick. A volunteer, collecting donations for 'Mind', came dressed as a Star Wars Storm Trooper. It was great fun but very tiring especially for two volunteers who were there all day, three others each did a 4 hour shift. Mine was so hectic I wasn't totally in control of children handling museum objects. The modern Jack-in-the-Box lost his spring but fortunately the toy can be replaced.

Sadly, Wendy McClellan one of our older members who lived at Stokehurst, Alverstoke died at the end of August. Until she became ill, Wendy attended the Thursday morning meetings. If you need help to attend the Xmas meeting at the DC table on December 14th please let us know – tell Ian or me – we'll try to arrange a lift. We buy our own drinks and mince pies from Bookworm Café. Keep in touch and if invited we'll visit you with the latest news from the Museum Front. Maggie Ventham

Emily Jones of Portsmouth by Dot Bedenham

In the January 2017 edition of the Newsletter I wrote an article about James Herbert Fisher and his association with the Cambridge University Extension courses that were held in Portsmouth from 1886 until 1939. There were plenty of other local people who attended the lectures and took the examinations so I thought you might like to know what I have discovered about Emily Jones of Portsmouth.

Emily Jones went to the course held on 'The Body and Health' in 1887 when she was a pupil at Portsmouth High School. The 1901 Census tells us that she was then living with her mother and father at 71 Beach Farm Road, Portsmouth and was described as a Professor of Music. Her occupation took an interesting turn in 1911. When it came to completing the 1911 census form there were women across the country who, infuriated by the action of the Liberal government concerning the question of female suffrage, spoilt the form by writing comments or refusing to provide information. Emily Jones was one of these women. She proudly wrote 'Suffragist' as her occupation and, to ensure that it was properly recognised, underlined it. Emily was clearly associated with the Votes for Women movement. On 3 July 1912 the Portsmouth Evening News reported that Miss Margaret O'Shea, Hon Secretary and Treasurer of the Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies had written the words of an inspiring song for Suffrage meetings and that her colleague, Emily Jones, had set it to appropriate music, "tuneful and vigorous." The song, "Forward ever Forward" had been published by the International Suffrage Shop in the Strand and the reporter expected it to be in vogue. The newspaper even recorded the words:

On the near horizon,
See a city fair.
Where true love dwelleth,
Love and hope are there.
At the seat of Council
Truth sets women free –
Free to her the ballot
Citizen is she.
Forward be our watchword
Raise the woman's state,
Rest not till our voices
Help us guide our fate.

A letter to the same paper published On 20 March 1915 confirms that Emily had strong views about the role of women in society. In her letter she expressed the hope that women would be given a role in regard to the peace settlement at the end of the war and in the consequent social reconstruction. Sadly I don't know any more about Emily. If you have any information I'd be grateful if you would let me know. My email is dot.bedenham@gmail.com

The C.S. Lewis Narnia Trail by Mary Duly

It is only to be expected if you make a visit to Belfast, top of your list for something to do will probably be a visit to the splendid new Titanic museum in the city, Belfast and the "Titanic" being practically synonymous. But if you are a fan of the Narnia stories, to follow the trail created by the city to honour its distinguished literary son, C.S. Lewis, can certainly be a rewarding experience.

Born in Belfast in 1898, he spent his early formative years in that city, and probably would not have been sent to school in England, where the rest of his career was spent until he died in 1963, if it had not been for the unexpected death of his mother.

The exhibition in Belmont Tower in East Belfast, is a good starting point as it provides a useful overview of Lewis's life. Next visit nearby St. Mark's Church which his family attended and where his mother's father was the rector. In 1935, C.S. And his brother, Warren, presented a fine, stained glass window to the church in memory of their parents.

His childhood experiences clearly shaped his literary work. The Trail points out many possible links. For example the ornate gas lamp that stands at the entrance to Narnia could well have been inspired by the similar lamp that stands at the entrance to Campbell College, the famous boys' school, near to his home, where it had been intended he would receive his schooling, a plan only changed by the death of his mother.

Similarly, the enormous wardrobe that his grandfather made and which was in his family home clearly was the inspiration for the wardrobe that features in the book as the entrance to Narnia. In the newly-created C.S. Lewis Square, there is a fine sculpture of the wardrobe with Lewis depicted as Professor Dickory Quirke, an important character in "The Magician's Nephew".

C.S. Lewis Square was developed by the City Council with the double intention of honouring the author but also to spark renewal of a rundown area. It was opened in 2015. Here you can see other fine sculptures of many of the main characters in the Narnia saga, Aslan, of course, 3 metres high and impressive on his high rock, an icy Snow Queen, Mr Tumnus and Mr & Mrs Beaver. All set alongside a winding, wooded path.

If you know only of C.S.'s writings for children, there are wider aspects of his life to be explored, for example, the touching story of his loyal support for many years of a friend's widow at the end of World War I, his return to Christianity after many years of declaring himself an atheist, and his late marriage to Joy Adamson, the American poet, a love story featured in the film "Shadowlands".

I first became aware of Lewis in the 40s, long before the Narnia stories, when he wrote a highly original and popular book called, 'The Screwtape Letters'. In this he imaginatively described the training of a junior devil by his long suffering uncle. It was serious theology amusingly presented.

The C.S. Lewis trail is not spectacular in the way that the Titanic experience is, but it is a genuine thoughtful tribute to a much-loved author, a major player on the 20th Century literary scene.

If you would like to know more 'Look Up Google'. By Mary Duly

Christmas Past
SEARCH, Local & Naval Studies Centre
Saturday 25th November 2 to 5pm

For Gosport's Christmas Lights Switch-on this year, come and explore the Christmas Past room sets.

Discover how many of our Christmas traditions began in our Victorian House and reminisce about the Christmas of your childhood in our Twentieth Century room .

No need to book, just drop in.

All the best for Christmas and a Happy New Year from FoGM committee

President

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Subscription for Membership

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum due from 1st April each year at £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.

Joined since 1st November 2017 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2019.

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 Mark Collyer mark.collyer@hants.gov.uk . Gosport Gallery volunteering contact: Jef Whitcher 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 January Newsletter by 15th December 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. 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
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
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member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6
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