



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

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

NEWSLETTER

MARCH/APRIL 2018

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 8th March

Thursday 12th April

Thursday 10th May

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

Gosport Gallery

Southern Shores

to 17th March – FREE

Out Of Egypt (change to planned display)

7th April to 19th May - FREE

AGM

Thursday 17th May 4:30pm SEARCH

(please note change of place, date & time)

Please see the committee nomination form
enclosed, for return by 12th April 2018

Report from the Chair

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. The Trust will have been re-structured by the end of March ready for the new financial year. The old system in Gosport will return! A Venue Manager will be responsible for the Collections in the Museum and the Stores, the Geology Gallery, Gosport Gallery and Search. Also to be appointed are a Facilities Manager and a Visitor Service Assistant to organise the volunteer rotas in the Gallery and elsewhere when required. Wendy Redman has a contract to carry on her valuable work at Search. Staff based here will be able to give Gosport the attention it deserves. The VSAs, as they are known, are the front of house staff to greet visitors. They are vital to the success of the Trust. If you are available at a regular time do please consider becoming a volunteer.

When the funding becomes available, the Discovery Centre is hoping to make the Mezzanine Floor into a Heritage Area. At this stage I don't have the Library Service's plans but the Museum will probably remain on that floor. The Local Studies materials plus the Naval Collection will return to the main building and thence to the Mezzanine.

The project we've wanted to do for the Museum will hopefully get underway during the creation of the Heritage Area. With the help of the Trust's staff, and the co-operation of the DC, we could help with the self-guided museum display. Replacing both worn out desk-top screens with modern tablets as well as updating the audio headsets may not be possible but we will do our best.

Our Project Fund of £2,500, from donations and the sales of Joan Russell's books, has been increased to £3,500 by a grant of £1,000 from Cllr Peter Edgar's devolved budget. We are very grateful for his support and thank him and Joan for considering our project worthy of help.

The new 'Play Gallery' opened on Jan.26th with a group of under five year-olds trying out the playthings. Chosen to explore textures, shapes and colour, it was exciting to watch them gradually gaining confidence and talking about the materials. Our volunteers will be 'Being Scientists' at Search on Saturday 17th March. The April 3rd Market Day Drop-in is in the Easter holidays - the focus is on Spring Cleaning as it was done in the 1950s, take the great grandchildren to see how hard you had to work to keep the home clean in the days of open coal fires! The next Gosport Gallery Exhibition will be 'Out of Egypt' this is a change to the planned exhibition. Gosport Heritage Open Days '18 is in the planning stage, we are repeating our 'Guess the Mystery Objects' event. Meanwhile, enjoy your visits to places of historic interest, and get into print! Please send an account of your day out to Ian our Newsletter Editor. M.Ventham Chair

New Members

Over the years the number of members of the Friends of Gosport Museum has reduced. A couple of years ago there was a campaign to bring in new members which was quite successful. Unfortunately few of those new members renewed their membership for the following year. All the lapsed members for the next year were contacted and a couple rejoined. The committee would like to try another membership campaign so would like some idea of what keeps people members.

Please would you contact me to answer the following questions or make suggestions.

- 1) What do you think the Friends of Gosport Museum could offer members to encourage them to join and stay members?
- 2) What is the main reason you are a member of the Friends of Gosport Museum?

I will only record the replies and not who sent them in or pass on those names to others. (GDPR)
Thank you for your help. Ian ian@gosport.info

Ghetal Herschell - another Portsmouth Extension Student

Ghetal's story involves an uprising, murder and a draconian reaction by the British authority. It starts when she was a young baby in Jamaica.

Although slavery had been abolished in Jamaica by the 1860s, black Jamaicans had remained virtually powerless and impoverished. They were the overwhelming majority on the island but had almost no political vote. The Jamaican assembly was controlled by a white elite made up of the same families and plantation owners who had run the island before emancipation. Laws were passed to restrict black people's access to farmland although thousands were unemployed and in poverty. Black Jamaicans squatting on abandoned sugar estates and empty farmland were evicted by magistrates. The event that ignited tensions and led to the uprising occurred in early October 1865. It involved a court case over one of these evictions.

The uprising started in the court house at Morant Bay, the capital of St Thomas in East Jamaica. A crowd of local people led by a charismatic Baptist lay-preacher, Paul Bogle, marched to the court house. They threw stones at the white militia. The Riot Act was read. Soldiers opened fire and killed seven local people. A wave of anger overtook the crowd who attacked and burnt down the court house killing 18 white people. The Reverend Mr Victor Herschell, a young curate and landowner in Jamaica, was one of several people killed and mutilated. Herschell appears to have

been targeted, and one account of the rebellion suggested that much of the ill-blood that day was caused by the illegal permission given to the Reverend Herschell to rebuild a chapel at Bath in St Thomas-in-the-East. The reaction from the colonial authorities was brutal and disproportionate. In the aftermath of the uprising nearly 400 black Jamaicans, many of them innocent, were killed and hundreds left homeless.

Herschell's daughter, Ghetal Helen, born on the island, was just a year old at the time of her father's death. His wife, Theodosia, was reported to be heavily pregnant (I haven't found any further evidence of a second child.) Theodosia received a lifetime pension from the Jamaican government, presumably as compensation for her husband's death. By 1871 she was living in England with her small daughter. Every census return from 1871 to 1901 (apart from 1891) shows them living in boarding houses, each decade in a different English town - in Worthing in 1871, Paddington in 1881 and Weston Super Mare in 1901. Although they have not been traced on the 1891 census, at some point in the 1890s they must have been living in or near Portsmouth. Ghetal Helen Herschell passed just one Extension examination, Physical Geography, in Portsmouth in the Lent term of 1894. Moving around the country, living in boarding houses, might suggest that their income was tight. However, in 1911 the record shows Ghetal as living in Oxford and 'of independent means'. When she died in 1942 she left a sum of £970 in her will. By Dot Bedenham

The Diary of Martha Georgiana Loftus Tottenham 1883

Thursday 24th May

The de Horseys took me and E. over to Cowes to go to Redfern's – lovely sail – Ad and Mrs very sweet.

Friday

E, I and Spencer went to Southsea by the 12,20 steamer. Tried on dress at Wink's. Returned home about 3 o'clock or later. Decorated Reading-Room. Dance in the evening. I enjoyed it immensely. I could have danced everything twice over. I cut out Wills, Mr Larking and Mr Johnson to my great satisfaction – also Spencer (and Raymond), but we arranged for mutual accommodation beforehand. I danced with the McCaul though I had vowed I would not, and found him not so bad after all. Mr White came late so I had to cut out two people for him; Wills did look mad. I harrowed Mr White's feelings so dreadfully that his conscience began to prick him; I regret it now rather.

Saturday 26th

"Excellent" dance in the afternoon. The Mansells were going to take us to the Review in the morning, but it rained all day more or less – very nice dance – I had the pleasure of cutting out Key (he cut out E the other day) – also Spencer (by mistake) and Dr Bury. Met Mr Poulter for the first time; I did not make myself too agreeable to him – Wills did not ask me till some way down, when I am pleased to say I had none for him – he looked perfectly mad all the afternoon because Lily did not come – Mr Lang was there; I made Capt. Hassard take me round to look at him.

Sunday May 27th

Mr McCaul and Tyler Smith called after dinner to our disquiet, Mr McCaul and I walked round the garden for some time humbugging. I promised to write his character; I also promised him six dances on Monday on condition that he should give me lessons in flirting. Mrs Webber called.

Transcribed by Yvonne Riddell

Subscription Reminder Due from 1st April 2018

The 2018/ 2019 subscription are due soon, it has remained at £6 single and £9 joint for the year.

You should find a subscription reminder form with this newsletter, if not please let me know.

Please send to Membership Secretary Linda Hedley (address below and on form)

If you joined since 1st November 2017, your membership lasts to 1st April 2019

If you pay by standing order, the subscription will be taken from your bank account as before.

See the What's On Guide – Spring January to April 2018

For the many other events held at all of the Discovery Centre sites.

Also look out for events at your local Libraries at Bridgemary, Elson and
Lee-on-the-Solent

Details at the library website on www.hants.gov.uk

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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. Subscription reminder should be enclosed.

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: Jeff Witcher jeffwitcher@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 May Newsletter by 20th April 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
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.

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