



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

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

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2018

Friends of Gosport Museum

Informal Coffee Meeting

Thursday 11th October

Thursday 8th November

Thursday 13th December

Gosport Discovery Centre

The Community Table

10:30am 2nd Thursday of the Month

Gosport Gallery

I DO! Wedding Dresses over 250 years

27th July to 9th October

Portraits of Unsung Heroes

by Gosport Artist Dan Williams

20th October to 15th January 2019

My Gosport Project St Vincent College

Small Photographic Display

Discovery Centre (Free)

Joan Russell

I am sorry to advise that, founder member (past Newsletter Editor, Project Director, Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman since 1991) of the Friends of Gosport Museum Joan Russell died on the 4th September. The service at the Crematorium is for family only. There will be a memorial on the 2nd October at 1:30pm at St Mary's Church Alverstoke.

I would be pleased to receive items about Joan for the next newsletter. Ian

Report from the Chair

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. Due to changes at the DC our museum has been dismantled and moved to the other end of the mezzanine. Only the glass cases with four free-standing objects remain. I'm told these will be removed in January probably to the former Grammar School building. Meanwhile Local and Naval Studies have been transferred to the DC mezzanine to form a 'heritage hub'. These changes have finally ended the six year integration of museum and library services in Gosport.

Henceforth HCT will be managing the old building and the plan for a Heritage Museum on the ground floor, including the Geology Gallery, will be developed when the result of the Trust's Regional HLF grant application is known later this year. Following our July meeting with the Trust's staff, I was asked to write in support of the application, I emphasised the need to fund the training of volunteers to work with the Gosport Collections.

Dr Janet Owen CEO of the Trust will be leaving in October to pursue her own cultural interests. Founding the successful HCT has been a long project and we wish her a well-earned rest, her place will be taken by Paul Sapwell currently HCT Operations Manager. His post will be filled by an experienced museum manager.

For Heritage Open Days we ran a 'Guess the Mystery Objects' event again. Dot Bedenham and I have chosen eleven objects from Store B plus a photo. Back in April Gosport Manager Rebecca Parrant registered our event before she left. I asked for it to be held in Gosport Gallery due to the uncertainty of changes to the DC mezzanine. Five members of the committee stewarded the event over three days accompanied by the current 'I Do!' exhibition of splendid wedding dresses!
Maggie Ventham 30th August 2018

Jessie White on the National Scene!

Aware of how Jessie seems to be a neglected figure on the local scene in spite of her incredible career, responsible, as she was for Giuseppe Garibaldi's field hospitals in the 19th C. struggle for Italy's reunification, it was a pleasant surprise to read a review of a new book that placed her as a figure to count on the national scene.

The book in question is 'The Warm South. *How the Mediterranean Shaped the British Imagination*' by one Robert Holland.

Jessie comes chronologically in a long list of more famous personalities who had an influence in shaping this change of attitude, but she is there!

The list begins with Charles I, who brought the 1st Titian back to this country from his fruitless visit to Spain in search of a wife! Then come the 18th C artists, Richard Wilson and Thomas Jones who exploited the opportunity provided by the Grand Tours made by the young aristocrats of the time to provide the latter with factual proof of what they had seen. Lord Elgin, of course, had a very important influence. Later came Elizabeth and Robert Browning, Edward Lear, Alma-Tadema and Lord Frederic Leighton.

Jessie is named as a campaigning journalist after of 3 influential female figures, Madame de Stael, the French author of 'Corinne', the author rates her influence highly, then the 2 artists, both foreigners who had settled in England, Angelica Kauffman, a founder of the Royal Academy and Maria Cosway.

In the 20thC., he highlights the influence of the classical scholar, Jane Harrison, a name unknown to me, on W.B. Yeats, T.S. Eliot and D. H. Lawrence.

The book gets the ultimate praise from the author in that he concludes with, 'This book is so crammed with interest that when you finish, you feel like starting all over again to make sure you haven't missed anything' ! Mary Duly

Mary Duly has also come across a pretty full article, 7 pages long, in the June issue of the magazine, 'Current Archaeology' imaginatively called, 'Exercise Magwitch'. It describes an in-depth investigation of Rat Island. A bit of Gosport paranoia is perhaps allowed, in that it describes Rat Island as off Portsmouth!

It is Interesting to read that the archaeological team included service personnel who are stressed and are on the Operation Nightingale programme which uses archaeology, successfully it seems, to aid recovery.

The Diary of Martha Georgiana Loftus Tottenham 1883

Friday 22nd

Mr Tod and Mr Jameson came to tennis though it was raining – idiots! We found them very slow and they us. Lily and I went for a walk in the rain after they went.

Saturday 23rd

Went home in the “Wych”.

X xxxxx xxxxxx

We received our invite, forwarded from Cowe's, to tennis at Parkhurst, July 2nd, 9th, 16th; but the de Horseys were away so we could not do the first two dates.

Saturday 30th

Dance at the Salmons – not bad. Thurkill was there and I gave him four dances and he was very agreeable - I did not enjoy my dances with anyone else, particularly. Wore my new Redfern dress which was very much admired.

Xxxxxxxxxx

Transcribed by Yvonne Riddell

This is the final part that I have so I am looking for articles for future newsletters. Ian Jeffery Ed.

Some Additional Items by Maggie Ventham

A new Gosport Museum is being planned for the former Grammar School, meanwhile the remains of the present display on the DC Mezzanine will be there until January.

Jacqui Ready will be our manager until the end of October.

Volunteers Maggie and Dot are currently retrieving contemporary photos from the museum collection to accompany some of the Martin Snape drawings and watercolours for a HCT exhibition in the Gallery early in 2019.

Also there will be a display of white doves and poppies on tour from Winchester, commemorating the ending of WW1, involving a volunteer practical session at Gosport with Wendy Redman - who is one of the creators of the display.

British Association of Friends Museums (BAFM)

In past Newsletters it has been suggested that the FoGM Committee was considering cancelling its membership of the BAFM. After that inclusion I only received one comment/ article and that was from Mary Duly and that article was also put in the newsletter. Though there are advantages to being a member the minimum charge for a Friends group is £60 per year and with a membership in the early 20's more than £2 per £6 individual membership or around £5 per £9 joint membership would go on the subscription to BAFM.

The committee felt that it would not be a good time to increase the subscription, with a falling membership, reduced benefits of membership and in the middle of changes to the whole Discover Centre including Museum, Gallery and SEARCH.

I did receive the last Journal as well as a recent BAFM Newsletter, which I have sent to those with email addresses. It was one page advising unable to find a coordinator for our area, details of the 2018 and 2019 national conferences and asking for items for their Journal. Ian Jeffery

British Association of Friends of Museums BAFM

You can find the Journal at their website <http://www.bafm.co.uk> or if you wish to see a copy of the printed Journal please let me know. Ian Jeffery (details below)

Events at local Libraries Bridgemary, Elson, Lee-on-the-Solent www.hants.gov.uk

Subscription Reminder Due from 1st April 2018

If you have not yet renewed your membership and wish to remain a member, please could you renew by end of October to receive the November Newsletter. Thank you

Community First Training Courses in Gosport www.cfirst.org.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.
Jacqui Ready jacqui.ready@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk Gosport Gallery or Museum. I will advise when changes are made.

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 November Newsletter by 19th October 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

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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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