



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

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

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2020

Informal Coffee Meeting

No Longer Take Place Each Month, maybe
reinstated in the future

Look out for changes and events in the old
Library/ Gosport Gallery/ SEARCH building.

AGM

Provisional Date and time
Thursday 7th May 2020 7pm

SEARCH

Clarence Road, Gosport
Come and hear the latest
Museum and Art Gallery news.

Gosport Gallery

11th January to 22nd February
Surviving the Stone Age

29th February to 21st April
Open Art 2020

Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm
FREE suggested donation (both) £3

The Play Gallery FREE
Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Report from Chair of the Committee

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020. I hope you will be interested in our reports and articles this year. Feedback from you is always welcomed. On your behalf a letter of thanks was sent to Mrs May Bumford, one of our Founders, for her years of involvement with the Friends. Due to ill health May is no longer a member but her interest and help in the museum was important and has not been forgotten.

At our Christmas Gathering in the old building our President Robert Whiteley, in whose care the bequest was left, agreed to the official donation to the Hampshire Cultural Trust of the **Margaret Roberts Bequest** in the certainty that The Friends of Gosport Museum have control of its use for the new museum. This followed a letter from Bryony Hope, who is part of the Trust's Fundraising Team who believe our help will encourage other funds to donate. The letter was read and those present including five members of the committee were in agreement. The bequest was donated and a card of thanks received from Bryony.

We will keep you informed of progress when the result is known of the Heritage Action Zone Grant to GBC. It is likely that further fundraising may be required to reach the £2 million for a complete redevelopment of the building. Meanwhile please re-join us in March/April and encourage others to become members. Thank you.

Maggie Ventham 13/01/2020

Venue Manager's Report

It has been a very busy time in the venue across all the areas with 9837 visitors Oct-Dec.

Four volunteers continue to work in the collection stores on a weekly basis. Enquiries received this period have included Council Electoral results, Ward boundaries, the Godfrey Williams collection, and Alverstoke Children's Home. The collections team from Hampshire Cultural Trust have spent some time in the stores looking at improvements that could be made to improve access and ease of locating items. The volunteers have been trained how to use Modes, the online system for collection records. They will be working on recording what is currently stored where then updating on the Modes system. Where necessary items will be relocated to other areas in the store to maximise space for collections. An area is being created in one of the currently vacant office spaces for collection display related items such as stands and small cases.

The volunteers have been shown how to store paintings correctly including covering with Corex and labelling. They have begun the process of undertaking this for the Snape works exhibited earlier in the year. Work has continued on generally sorting out filing cabinets and boxed paperwork relating to collections to create more space within Store A.

During this entire period the gallery has hosted 'I Grew up 80s' which has proved popular with all ages. The exhibition is the display of 1980s memorabilia from the private collection of Matt Fox. There were over 200 objects in the show which focuses on the childhood experience of the 80s, rather than the political or social changes in the 80s. Matt has been collecting these pieces since the success of his exhibition 'May the Toys Be With You', which was in Gosport Gallery in 2017, although there are some of his own personal treasures included from his own childhood. The Donkey Kong machine was popular and additional activities such as Rubik Cubes, Rubik Snakes, and 80s board games 'Guess Who' and 'Frustration' were well used by families during half term. Replica 80s retail items have proved popular as well. The exhibition has attracted a lot of media attention. It was featured live on Meridian Tonight, as well as pre-recorded articles for That's Solent TV and Radio Solent.

Alongside the main gallery the Play Gallery continues to offer a space for children under 5 to explore colour, line, shape, and texture. A donation of £200 was received from The Villagers Open Air Drama Group to purchase additional resources for the Play Gallery. One of the group members, who has moved to Gosport recently, uses the space regularly with her young child and feels it is an invaluable resource for young parents in Gosport which she found a great asset when moving to a new area to make new friends. This amount will be added to funds raised through the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme as the Play Gallery was one of the chosen causes for green tokens for the month of December.

SEARCH has continued to offer formal learning opportunities to schools and other groups. This period has been the busiest for school visits for both booked and self-led activities utilising the Geology displays and gallery exhibition. During this period SEARCH has delivered 56 workshops for primary aged children of which 16 were for Gosport schools. In addition to led workshops 27 classes have visited the 'I grew up 80s exhibition' and 17 the Geology Gallery.

In partnership with Historic England SEARCH hosted and contributed to a CPD day for Gosport teachers. The focus of the day was teaching Local History and there were 16 participants. It was an opportunity to showcase the SEARCH Local History workshop and the resources in the venue.

SEARCH has been successful in securing 2 grants for schools projects. A grant for £1300 had been given from the ESEB Outreach Initiative Fund. This is for a project, "SEARCHing for Darwin", to fund 5 free Darwin schools workshops, some teacher CPD and a Darwin loans box next year coinciding with Darwin's birthday. Funding for a VE Day project was secured for £2000 from Historic England to work specifically with Gosport schools in Spring term 2020.

We hosted our first Silver Saturday (part of the national initiative Silver Sunday) giving older people the opportunity to drop in to play some traditional games with families and have a cup of tea. The event was well received and gave us an opportunity to talk to older people about what they would like programmed for them in the building.

To link to the I Grew up 80s exhibition we held a 80s themed quiz. There were 11 teams with a total of 55 people taking part. It was a fun evening although the team of volunteers and Friends did come last!

For October half term we had 2 events for families, The Army Flying Roadshow and SEARCH by Torchlight, which were both well received. The Museum of Army Flying visited with their Roadshow which linked to Gosport's old airfield with 82 visitors. Visitors could handle some of the collections from the museum, make a parachute, and get dressed up. SEARCH by Torchlight once again was very popular with 158 visitors bravely exploring our building in the dark. The Year 10 Drama students from Brune Park School were amazing as costumed characters.

For the Christmas light switch on event the building was in full use. A craft fayre, with 23 stalls, was set up in the front part of the building. The items on sale included Christmas decorations, food, home wares, and jewellery and many were Gosport crafters. The demand for a stall so was great, with a waiting list, that another craft fayre is planned for Easter. The SEARCH rooms were also open for the light switch on. The Victorian House was decked out ready for Christmas and in the 1950s room set displays of Christmas cards, decorations, and toys were out for visitors to see and handle. During the day 2 lantern making workshops were delivered by the Gosportarians and Asda in the Community. The lanterns were then paraded through the town before the lights were switched on. Throughout the day over 1000 people visited the building.

A special event for under 5s, All I want for Christmas, was held in our 1950s room just before Christmas. This was an opportunity for young visitors to access the collections and the highlight was a visit from Santa. The final event of the Christmas period was 'Back in time for Christmas', another opportunity for the community to visit the room sets festively dressed.

Surviving the Stone Age opens in the gallery on 11 January-22 February. Linked to the exhibition there will be workshops for adults to gain some archaeological skills. Schools will be offered a 'Stone Age Day' full of hands-on activities both led and self-led linked to the curriculum.

Open Art returns to the gallery on 29 February with an opportunity for local artists to showcase their work. Submissions are now being accepted.

In partnership with the Gosport D-Day Fellowship we will be hosting a talk by D-Day veteran Ron Cross as he clears his centenary year. Wendy Redman

Anns Hill Cemetery Names

The names of people buried in Anns Hill Cemetery are to be found in a recording in the Local History Section, recently returned, I hope, from the Discovery Centre, to what was in happier days, the old Museum, soon to come to life again! 3 cheers! Mary Duly

Final Notes

The Christmas event had the committee members plus three others, the best attendance for a number of years. I believe the chance to go round the building with Bryony and Wendy with the plans so far, followed by tea/ coffee/ eats and chat. I hope something can be arranged for the AGM.

The monthly Informal Coffee Meetings had to be discontinued partly due to sorting out a meeting space. The membership is quite low so I understand the attendance was quite low. If you would like to see these meetings restarted if arrangement can be made, please let a committee member know.

Plans for the final fundraising for the new museum should be available in the next few months.

New membership forms are now available. If you have ideas for membership benefits to encourage new membership please let a committee member know. There are vacancies on the committee.

President

Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman

Margaret Venham
023 9252 5229

Vice Chairman

Hon. Treasurer

David Moore
023 9258 6575

Hon. Secretary

Ian Jeffery
023 9252 3358

Committee Secretary

Dot Bedenham

Membership Secretary

Linda Hedley
023 9258 6130

Project Director

Committee Members

Sydney Aynsworth
Mary Duly
David Taylor

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. Tel: 023 9258 6130

Joined since 1st November 2019 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2021.

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or for the Museum and Gallery Katie Andrews VSA katie.andrews@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

New Education Officer Gemma Walters, as both new staff are part-time please allow them time to get back to you as not in every day. Thank you

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 21st February 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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Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is
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member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6
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