



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

Supporting Gosport Museum & Art Gallery

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

NEWSLETTER MARCH/ APRIL 2020

AGM

Thursday 7th May 2020 7pm
POSTPONED

I will advise date when it will be, in the
Newsletter

Question About Talks

Would you like some talks via the Friends of
Gosport Museum, would you have any
suggestions for the subject of those talks?

Gosport Gallery

Play Gallery

All Hampshire Cultural Trust Venues are closed
from the 18th March 2020

They say they will reopen on the 5th April.

If this changes, I will send an email to
members where I have an email address.

Report from Chair

Welcome to our early spring newsletter, with the hope of better weather to come! In the current GB Council 'Coastline' booklet you will have read the article about the town centre revamp. We are still on tenterhooks waiting to know when the new museum and re-development of the Old Grammar School can begin. This project depends on the potential date and size of grant to be given to GBC by Heritage England for the Heritage Action Zone.

The museum volunteers have begun their training to re-check the collections against the official inventories. They need to use the digital system. Two County Councillor Grants will be used to provide computers to access the system. These computers would also be used in the Research Room, Stores and link with the Interactive Screen we provided two years ago. Thanks to Councillors Edgar and Carter.

Some progress has been made to return museum objects used for exhibitions, to their correct places in the museum stores – there are more boxes etc to investigate since there were changes to staffing and running the department. Volunteer help will be augmented by a professional person on a contract to manage the effort for the preparation of the new museum. We really look forward to working with the appointee!

Don't forget to re-join us in April and please put the AGM date in your diaries.

Maggie Ventham 24th February 2020

Diving in Gosport and Whitstable by Mary Duly

I had a session one recent, damp day sorting out a pile of cuttings, letters & the like.

I found one letter from Dr John Bevan of the Submarine Museum in Stokes Bay in answer to my worried query as to whether Gosport or Whitstable in Kent could claim to be the pioneers of deep sea diving. I had definitely believed it to be Gosport.

This was until I had seen a T V programme which made the claim for Whitstable. I had turned to the right man, Dr Bevan, for an answer.

Both in a way, he claimed, for while 2 Gosport men, John Deane and Henry Abbinett, co-invented and purchased the 1st set of equipment, John Deane then moved to Whitstable where the mariners took up the invention with enthusiasm and became the country's leading experts for a generation.

Dr Bevan of Gosport was actually "instrumental in promoting the diving heritage of Whitstable".

So he surely has the right from his experience of both places to sum up, "Both towns can share the claim to having been the origin of the industry, in their different ways".

Lets be generous and go with that. By Mary Duly

Committee Membership Nomination Form

You would normally have the Committee Nomination Form for the AGM, but as this has been postponed I have not included it with this newsletter. I will send it out when we know that we can hold the AGM. I and other members of the Committee are always happy to hear from those who may wish to stand for the Committee. All the best, Ian Jeffery

Subscription Reminder 2020/21

You should also find the Subscription Reminder Form due from 1st April, there has been no increase this year and if you joined after 1st November 2019, your current subscription will last to 31st March 2021. If you complete a form, please would you put your contact information as you would wish the information to be recorded, which will only be used by committee members for Friends of Gosport Museum membership purposes and sign the form. If you are unable to pay your subscription at the moment, you would not be removed from the membership list until the beginning of November and would continue to receive newsletters until then Thank you Ian

New Logo

The New Logo on the newsletter was produced by David Moore and Maggie Ventham, and is being used on other items from the Friends of Gosport Museum such as the new members form.

Aircraft Crash and Bus Hit by Bombs or Aircraft Parts 1942

I have received a telephone call from Brenda Langdon nee Symonds. She lived in Eastbourne Road as a child and later worked at Frasers in the High Street. She was until recently the Membership Secretary of the Romsey History Society.

She asked if there was any information or knowledge about an aircraft crash around Lee or

Rowner, the aircraft on its way down either dropped unused bombs, it was on its way back from London, or something came off the aircraft which hit a bus with passengers which included children travelling from Lee to Privett School she has some extra information that it was a Hinkle 111 that crashed at Browndown on 23rd April 1942 and at least some of those on the bus were killed, including children in her brothers class.

Please let me know if you have any information about this, as I have not heard of it before and she wants to have more information for her brother. Ian Jeffery

Bemisters Lane Cafe

Tony asks: I wonder if you are able to tell me whether the Cafe in Bemisters Lane was the Cartoon or Khartoum cafe back in the sixties ?

Forton Bowling Club

I am compiling a history of Forton Bowling Club and wonder if you or any one has pictures of the old club house, before it was burnt down, or of members. Also Reg Jeffery's shop in Forton Road. Thanks Martyn Cross President Forton Bowling Club

Community Archive Forum Hampshire Archive Trust

Saturday, 21st March 2020, Winchester: 9.45am to 1pm POSTPONED

Museum Report

All volunteers have been required to sign an agreement form which explains the terms on which they work. That the Chief Executive Officer of the Hampshire Cultural Trust CT has been updating the staff and venues with official info re the Coronavirus. www.hampshireculture.org.uk

The event at SEARCH went ahead on Saturday 14th March. The event was 'Be a Scientist'.

It was not as busy as last year of course! Gemma Walters put much time and effort into organising a well considered offer with new uses of resources and an extra - two volunteers each presented a topic using their own ideas. These topics were 'Flying and Flight' and 'Geology and Soils' which were set up in empty rooms on the ground floor. It was a pleasure to thank them for their involvement. Maggie Ventham

The Gosport Liners by John Hendy and Andrew Munn

The most comprehensive history of the Portsmouth Harbour ferry ever published. Its 128 pages contain an unrivalled historical account combined with carefully chosen images. The Gosport ferry service represents part of a proud nautical tradition which has long been associated with Portsmouth Harbour.

Although a floating bridge was established in 1840, it was not until 1869 that the first privately owned steam launch began to ply its trade across the narrow neck of water between both towns. Its introduction was met by fierce hostility from the traditional wherrymen who did everything in their power to prevent their livelihoods from being threatened by the new mode of transport.

Publisher: Ferry Publications, PO Box 33, Ramsey, Isle of Man, IM99 4LP. www.ferrypubs.co.uk
Format: Softback, 22 cm x 22 cm ISBN: 9781911268307 Price £18

Information on the Revolutionary/Napoleonic War Period Wanted By Janet Cairney

I am from Romsey, and I have been researching the many French refugees who flooded the town in the 1790s, who were not either the nobility or priests that everyone expects, but naval officers plus their families and dependents from ten French naval vessels which had been given into the command of Admiral Lord Hood by their officers and men during the occupation of Toulon.

The sailors were paid pensions, and one of the lists in the National Archives, for the 2nd division ships only unfortunately, shows their residence, and in 1794, very many were in Totton, where there was a barracks for the ratings, but also in Gosport and Hardway, where I think there may also have been barracks. All this is a new discovery for us in Romsey, and was also new for the history society in Totton. Do you have any experts in this area? Or is it new to you? Would it be of interest? I have amassed a lot of material. By Janet Cairney

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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. 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 as I am not sure when the next will be, please just send them when 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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