



# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

Supporting Gosport Museum & Art Gallery

[www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk)  
or [www.fogm.org.uk](http://www.fogm.org.uk)

*NEWSLETTER MAY/ JUNE 2020*

## AGM

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 7pm  
POSTPONED

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

Hampshire Archive Trust  
On-line VE Day Event  
7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> May see details below.

## Gosport Gallery Play Gallery

All Hampshire Cultural Trust Venues are closed  
from the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Plan to reopen 1<sup>st</sup> July –  
See Venue Managers report

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

## Report from Chair

Welcome to our late-spring newsletter which comes to you in extraordinary times. I hope you are coping with the 'rules', keeping well and finding interesting things to do in between spring cleaning, turning out your cupboards, gardening and wishing you had more time to read a book!

As the Trust closed all venues and furloughed assistant staff, managers have carried on visiting their sites to check the security etc. Wendy is allowed only one day a week to do this. However, all of the staff are in contact, using 'FacebookWorkplace' and Zoom/Skype sessions where they can, to plan for the re-opening of venues with re-scheduled events and exhibitions. It is a tremendous responsibility to keep the doors to culture as open as possible during the 'Lockdown' and staff are responding using today's digital world. Wendy is doing a 'Guess the Mystery Objects from Gosport's Collections Quiz' and the gallery 'Open Art Exhibition' has featured on-line along with suggestion sheets to print off at home for children to colour and paint.

The computer equipment we asked Wendy to choose and order on our behalf, using the County Councillor Grants, has arrived. David Moore and I were contacted by the supplier. It was agreed that a cheque would be sent when the goods arrived. As the museum building is shut, I received the parcels. Then collected the cheque from David – no social contacting, he left it in the porch! I did my daily exercise walking the old railway path in lovely sunshine to pick it up, sign, and post it on my way home.

The planning for the new museum is continuing but I'm not involved because of the situation. I'm sure we will eventually be given more information, provided the rules are relaxed, but if the powers-that-be decide that the elderly are to be confined for months on end, I may not be consulted! Best wishes to you all, Maggie Ventham May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

## Venue Manager's Report

The last 2 months have definitely been very different from what was planned for the venue!

With the end of the financial year at the beginning of April I can report that 19/20 was a very successful one for the Gosport Venue. Over the year April 2019 - March 2020 we engaged with 28,170 people through SEARCH, Gosport Gallery, the museum collection, and outreach. This is a big increase compared to last year which was 24,210 and up on our target of 24,672. This has been down to the hard work of the Gosport team including all our amazing volunteers and the support of partners such as yourselves. Plans are continuing for the development of the site over the next few years and I am looking forward to seeing what we can achieve.

The current worldwide pandemic has had to see changes in the way the venue is interacting with our visitors. With the Gallery, Play Gallery, and SEARCH all closing to the public on 18 March our aim was to continue to engage with our audience building on all that has been achieved over the past year. A new way of working was quickly found to continue to give access to the collections and exhibitions. It also gave us an opportunity to reach out to a wider audience. Social Media became very important as a tool for engagement. An amazing virtual tour of the current Open Art exhibition was streamed live in 2 parts over 2 consecutive days. These films had 100s of people watching live and to date have been seen by over 7600 people a much greater number than would have visited the exhibition. Over the past month artists exhibiting in Open Art have been featured on a daily basis and this has even led to enquiries about purchasing the artworks. The SEARCH page has been posting a daily 'Mystery Object' on its Facebook page. Over 400 people each day have been guessing what the objects are and leaving memories of having or using the objects. Lovely comments of how much people are enjoying seeing the objects and interacting have been received.

Hampshire Cultural Trust has created a blog in response to the need to carry on engaging with visitors. The blog features articles about collections, our venues, volunteering roles, and projects undertaken. It also offers activities for adults and children to participate in. The Gosport Team have made a big contribution to it including a virtual tour around the gallery, family activities, and a spotlight on one of our volunteers. Items are being added regularly and coming up in the next week will be lots linked to VE day 75 including a short film, created by Gemma, of interviews with Gosport residents recalling their VE Day memories of what happened in Gosport. The blog can be found at <https://www.cultureoncall.com>.

At the moment an exact date for re-opening the venue cannot be set as we are waiting Government instruction. However we are working towards July 1. A plan to ensure visitors stay safe when visiting is being discussed with possible ways to ensure social distancing can happen if necessary. The programme will be changing with Open Art staying in the gallery for another 2 weeks before Microsculpture opens in mid-July. Plans are being looked at to have both of the exhibitions originally planned for July-Dec, Marvellous Mechanicals and Gosport Past and Present, running at the same time in different spaces in the building but this is still a work in progress. Plans are still in place for HOD and the creation of another Pop-up Museum as done last year but again this may have to be cancelled depending on government guidance.

Sadly our planned project with schools in Gosport for VE day 75 had to be cancelled. However Gemma, the Schools Manager, has created a fantastic online pack for teachers using our collections. This includes the Gosport VE Memories film as mentioned above. Wendy Redman

The videos of the tour of the Open Art exhibition can be found at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/gosportgallery/videos/1386066011566364/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/gosportgallery/videos/566491390880482/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/gosportgallery/videos/1418132705035873/>

### Do you Remember the Winters of 1968/9 and 1969/70?

I am asking this, as I should, as I was 9 and 10 years old those winters. I understand this was the last big pandemic, Hong Kong flu killing an estimated million around the World and 80,000 in the UK . Though I do remember people talking about the Hong Kong flu, but feel more in later years.

I wonder if you could fill a gap in my memory and on the Internet, which seems to concentrate on the Hong Kong flu effect in Asia. Perhaps you could also compare that pandemic and the action taken with this one. If you do send something in, please advise if you would be happy to allow your comments to be put in the Friends of Gosport Museum Newsletter. Thank you. Ian Jeffery

### Wessex Film and Sound Archive / Hampshire Archives VE Day Online Event

In common with many organisations, we are moving our planned VE / VJ Day event online, with a film screening with LIVE introduction and exhibition on Facebook and YouTube, a first for us, so we hope you will join us! Details have just been posted on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/320934375548626/>

Full event details are here; please do share them with others:

#### **This is Your Victory – Dive into the archives 75 years on from VE Day**

With the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day just around the corner, Wessex Film and Sound Archive and Hampshire Archives and Local Studies are offering a fascinating glimpse into their collections.

On the evening of 7 May 1945 the end of World War II was officially announced and the following day declared a national holiday – Victory in Europe Day, 8 May 1945. Hampshire Archives and Local Studies and Wessex Film and Sound Archive hold a wealth of material about the region, its involvement in wartime and the peacetime celebrations.

#### **On Friday 8 May there will be an online event - This is Your Victory.**

At **11.30am**, there will be a film screening with LIVE introduction and exhibition on Facebook and YouTube. Zoe Viney from Wessex Film and Sound Archive will provide a live introduction.

You can join the event on Facebook [@HampshireArchives](#) YouTube [WessexFilmArchive](#) 11.30am. The exhibition will go live at 12.30pm, a link will be shared in the film screening's description and on the Facebook page ou will be able to view a selection of photos and documents <https://hampshirearchivesandlocalstudies.wordpress.com/>

### Can You Help? (contact me for more information, [ian@fogm.org.uk](mailto:ian@fogm.org.uk) )

I'm secretary to [Gerrards Cross Sailing Association \(aka GXSA\)](#), our membership are keen sailors, and have quite a few boats moored in Portsmouth Harbour, with primary access via Gosport. Many sailors pass through their marina town without learning much about it. I'm quite keen to fix that problem.

We run 20 lectures each year, from October to March, at [our venue in Gerrards Cross](#). It would be excellent to get some sense of Gosport History, one evening. We're currently constructing our Speaker Programme for Autumn 2020, beginning in October. I wonder if you would know of anybody in your History Society that would be interested and able to speak on a relevant subject. Stuart Gaunt

## Alan Read – Memories of My Life

Alan Read has sent me a copy of the memories of his life back to 1933. I have sent a copy to the the Gosport Museum and Art Gallery and I understand that he is going to send a copy to the Hampshire Records Office when it reopens.

It is 77 pages with chapters such as Aborted Evacuation to South Africa, The Doctor, The Blitz, D-Day, Evacuation to Eastleigh, The Beach & Fossils, VE & VJ Day Flying Model Aircraft, The Gosport Ferry, Billy Graham, Air Days & Aircraft, The 1953 Fleet Review and many more.

He does not want it published as contains people's names and he has not asked them if it is alright to use them. He is happy for people to read it and use for research.

It is a large file so depending on what your email service provide allows you to receive. If you would like to receive a digital copy, please let me know and we can sort it out. [ian@fogm.org.uk](mailto:ian@fogm.org.uk)

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## Subscription for Membership

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum due from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 your subscription lasts to 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk) or for the Museum and Gallery Katie Andrews VSA [katie.andrews@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto: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 send them by 26<sup>th</sup> June if you can to: Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto: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](mailto: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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