



# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

Supporting Gosport Museum & Art Gallery  
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*NEWSLETTER JULY/AUGUST 2020*

## Friends of Gosport Museum AGM

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

**POSTPONED**

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

## Gosport Gallery

Hampshire Cultural Trust Venues are closed

Plan to reopen Gosport Gallery 17<sup>th</sup> July –

See Venue Managers report

Play Gallery is Not Opening at the Moment

## Report from Chair

As Chair of the Friends, I wish Members and readers a good summer, hoping that everyone is well and staying safe. The Hampshire Cultural Trust, HCT, has not been idle during Lockdown, plans are in hand for re-opening venues, with precautions for social distancing etc, hopefully towards the end of July. Maggie Ventham

## Venue Manager's Report

The venue is preparing to re-open. The staff team will be back from 1 July. I have been hard at work to ensure the team and visitors will be safe. The gallery will be opening reduced hours Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 10am-4pm and it will look a little different. There will be a separate entry and exit with a clear route around the space marked. Sadly we have had to reduce the number of visitors in the space at one time to ensure social distancing can take place. Visitors will need to book in advance to view the exhibition although we will still be admitting walk ups when possible. Hand sanitising stations will be placed around the building and a screen in front of the main desk. The number of interactives within the exhibition has been greatly reduced to ensure effective cleaning can take place and sadly the Play Gallery will not be open initially. The exhibition will be extended into the small gallery allowing a few more visitors at any time. We will be encouraging cashless payments and a contactless donation box is also being installed. The new way of working will take some getting used to and training will be provided for all staff and volunteers. I am currently looking at ways for the volunteers to work safely in the stores.

During lockdown I have been working with the BBC to create a virtual exhibition for the That Peter Crouch Podcast. The Sixteenth Chapel is a series of photos sent in by listeners to the podcast, which has over 12million listeners, of selfies with Roy Keane, a past player for Manchester United and the Republic of Ireland. He is well known for his dislike of being asked for selfies with fans which leads to some amusing images being taken. The exhibition is entitled The Sixteenth Chapel after Keane's iconic Man Utd shirt number and the fact there are 16 pictures. The virtual exhibition has been voiced by Peter Crouch and can be viewed following this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLh4wxEBQqE> . It was featured on the podcast Twitter account and has had over 300k views. An article about it appeared in the Daily Express and Daily Star and even went international through football web pages. It has been exciting working on something very different and put the gallery on the map. The exhibition will be opening for visitors for 2 days initially 10 & 11 July, pre-booked tickets, and then be in a slightly reduced form on a wall in the small gallery for a short while.

The venue will be re-opening on a permanent basis from July 17 with an exciting exhibition, Microsculpture. featuring photography by Levon Biss revealing the astonishing and stunning detailed form of insects with breath taking clarity. The images, created in collaboration with Oxford University Museum of Natural History, present insect specimens as never before, using large-format photographic prints to expose their beauty at microscopic levels. Combining art with science, visitors can view the images up close and discover more about these fascinating creatures through their shape, colour and sculptural forms. Alongside these exquisite photographs, will be a rare opportunity to view a select display of insects from the outstanding collections cared for by Hampshire Cultural Trust .

It is hoped that we will be able to offer activities for families in some form during the summer holidays. Gemma the Schools Manager will be focusing on how we can continue to offer a service to schools. The schools loans boxes previously managed by Hampshire Wardrobe are moving to Gosport and I am already getting booking for them for September. There is also a plan for room hire to resume safely as soon as groups restart.

The past few months have been a challenge and I am really looking forward to welcoming visitors back in to the venue. Wendy Redman

### What Was I Doing on VE Day? By Mary Duly

Well I was a student of 20, determined to enjoy the day and went up to London to join the fun!. Just before 3 o'clock I found myself at the Whitehall end of Parliament Square in a Great crowd. We could see Churchill standing erect in his car, fingers are making the famous V sign, the car approaching us on its way to Parliament for Churchill to make the historic announcement that the WAR was OVER!! Coming Nearer, the crowds parted and Churchill's car passed right at my side. I could have touched it! (I have embellished the story, by adding that I was lucky it did not run over my foot - no-one can gainsay me!). The rest of the day passed in a whirl - I joined a family I knew, the daughter had been evacuated to my village in Yorkshire and thrown herself into our village life, they first swept me to a box in a theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue, to see a famous Ivor Novello musical - it had a famous song about 'Lilacs in the Spring' in it, then on to a swep-up restaurant in Soho - oh, I was living it up! I also remember the 2 Norwegian Air Force boys In our party who had that day heard the joyful news that their missing brother had been located!

I did not return to college that night, daringly, and a bit uncertainly, flouting college rules. The next day, I returned to Oxford to try out the unauthorized entry of which I had been tipped. One of the college buildings was sited next to the wall of the drive of the Methodist church next door. The window had been fitted with the protective bars which had been fitted to prevent egress, but we girls knew better! I slipped back into college grounds with ease! I didn't get into any trouble - I think the Principal, the distinguished academic, knew when 'to turn a blind eye!' (And remember at that time, a 20 year old girl - me - had to ask permission of the Principal each time it was wanted for an extension of an hour to the 10 pm curfew!) Mary Duly

### Asian Flu Epidemic 1957/8 by Jenny Bartlett

At the time of this epidemic, I was aged 12 and lived in London Road, North End, Portsmouth in a flat over the shop then managed by my father, George Brown. My family had moved to Portsmouth from Middlesex in the early months of 1956 to enable my father to open this new shop which was Nelsons Furniture a part of the then Murdoch group. My sister Anne, who was then 19, worked at Westminster Bank Petersfield, travelling by train each day. I attended the Southern Grammar School for Girls in Fawcett Road, Southsea travelling each day by bus. Our mother was a full-time housewife and mother.

Anne and I were both very ill with Asian flu although I don't think our parents were affected at all. At the time Anne and I shared a bedroom and a large double bed but the illness meant that we

had to be separated as we both had such high temperatures. Our doctor's surgery was nearby in Kingston Crescent and to my memory we had several visits from the doctor although I don't remember that there was much medication or treatment given. My main memory, which still stays very clearly in my mind more than sixty years later, were the awful hallucinations I had, caused I suppose by the high temperature.

We must have been ill in the November/December period as neither of us was able to take part in a nativity play for which we were rehearsing at the church we attended, then Buckland Congregational Church, Kingston Road, Portsmouth. Although we were so poorly and took a good while to recover, it was not being able to take part in the play that hurt us most! I've not been able to find it, but for years we had a photo taken on Christmas Day 1957 of Anne and I at the lunch table in which we both looked so ill and were clearly only just recovering by Christmas.

I don't remember there being any government advice or action such as we've seen during this pandemic. Remembering that we were only one decade into the NHS then, I don't think we would have expected very much to have been provided – it was assumed that you were looked after at home. Another factor was that television in Portsmouth was in its early days and only broadcast in the evenings. It wouldn't have been used as a tool for informing the population about the epidemic situation. Most information was obtained from newspapers and radio. The internet was, of course, still 30/40 years in the future. I certainly don't remember transport or shops being shut and as trolley buses ran outside our windows I might have remembered if they had stopped. As my parents weren't ill, I guess that life for my sister and me continued much as usual although we were both so poorly.

The website given below seems fairly accurate and authoritative compared with my limited memories and I was only 12! I don't remember having flu again until well into adulthood so perhaps gained some immunity from Asian Flu. Jenny Bartlett

Asian Flu Pandemic: British Journal of General Practice - <https://bjgp.org/content/59/565/622>

### Pandemics and VE Day by Dr S Aynsworth

I remember those winters very well (1968-70). Hong Kong flu was rife. It was the only time in my years of General Practise that I had a book of Death Certificates in my case and I remember signing 2 or 3 Death Certificates every day for about a fortnight; this had never happened before and thank goodness not since.

I also remember the flu epidemic of 1957/8, it was not a very bad winter but there was not only the Flu but also several nasty smogs in London lasting several days. I had just qualified and my first House Job was as House Physician at Gloucester Royal Hospital, I started on the 1st January 1958 and on entering the usual Nightingale Men's Ward was confronted with 36 beds half of which had patients with severe chest infections and on antibiotic drips, luckily by the end of the month things had returned to more or less normal. You can imagine this was quite shock to a very young inexperienced Medic.

I also remember very well VE Day 8th May 1945. The house in Ilford, where I lived throughout the War was undergoing the final repairs from the damaged caused by a Doodlebug the previous June ( but the day that hit us is another story !). My father was serving with the RAF in Germany, we were given a holiday from school and my mother took me to London for the celebrations. We were in Trafalgar Square, The Mall - to see the King & Queen it was absolutely crowded; everyone was singing and dancing, hugging and kissing; we spent the night catnapping on the Duke of York Steps in the Mall and then started queuing for breakfast at the Charing Cross Corner House for breakfast which we eventually had at about 8-30am I It was a day that I have never forgotten. Sydney Answorth

## Colour Newsletter

I have had to buy a new printer. With the new printer came a service which provides ink based on the number of pages (black or colour printing) for a price similar to what I was was spending on ink before, as long as the number of pages used can be managed. This is very much a first try and as I am not an expert in colour newsletters, I would welcome comments, in particular the colour of the text. There are many colours available on computers nowadays. From what I have read Blue and Brown give the closest impression to what I hope you see in the newsletter. As producing for both the screen and in print I would welcome comments however you receive you copy, colour photos will also able to be added, at the expense of some text). Ian

## Hampshire Archive Trust

If you would like to sponsor an enclosure map or deposited plan, we are asking sponsors to contribute £100 per map again. This means that those with very large maps aren't penalised at the expense of those with much smaller plans. If you are interested in this, please do contact me. I hope you are all keeping safe and well. Heather Needham [heather.needham@hants.gov.uk](mailto:heather.needham@hants.gov.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 23<sup>rd</sup> August 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  
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by email in .PDF, please let me know.  
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member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6  
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