



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

Supporting Gosport Museum & Art Gallery
www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk
or www.fogm.org.uk

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER 2020

Friends of Gosport Museum AGM
Thursday 7th May 2020 7pm
POSTPONED
I will advise the new date in the Newsletter

Open Day Pop-Up Museum
18th and 19th September 11am to 3pm
Front room and Geology Gallery

Report from Chair

In welcoming you to our late summer newsletter I hope all our readers are keeping safe and finding worthwhile things to do. My cupboards have never been so tidy and plans to make changes to the garden are formulating in my mind ready for the winter!

You will be pleased to know the following information. Volunteers over 80 years old are able to continue volunteering for the HCT provided they go through the 'Social Distancing and Covid 19 Safety Training' before attending events or working at venues. I hope to see you at Heritage Open Day 'Pop-Up Museum' planned by Wendy - September 18th & 19th 11.00 am - 3.00 pm in the front room and Geology Gallery. Maggie Ventham

Venue Manager's Report

It has been another interesting time in the venue. Prior to our official re-opening on 17 July a detailed risk assessment of the venue was undertaken to assess which parts of the service could be undertaken safely. Measures such as screens, social distancing, and hand sanitiser stations have been put in place. Not all of the services have been able to resume however what we can offer is slowly increasing. Staff and volunteers were trained in the new ways of working.

During lockdown the BBC, through the 'That Peter Crouch Podcast' which has 12 million listeners, put out a plea for an empty gallery to host a virtual exhibition. This request was answered by the Venue Manager and resulted in a virtual exhibition, 'The Sixteenth Chapel', being created in the small gallery. The Sixteenth Chapel is a series of photos sent in by listeners to the podcast, 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



Manchester United shirt number and the fact there are 16 pictures.



The exhibition was installed by the venue manager and a volunteer, filmed, and sent to the BBC where Peter Crouch added a voiceover. The film was posted on Twitter, BBC Radio Five Live, and football linked web pages. To date the film has received over 400k views on different online platforms. Articles about it were featured in national newspapers including The Daily Mirror. It also appeared on web pages for sport linked sites in other countries

including Italy and France.

The exhibition was opened up for 2 days before the official re-opening attracting 44 visitors with some coming from as far afield as Northampton. The gallery officially re-opened with Microsculpture. The exhibition features the photography of Levon Biss and reveals the stunning detailed form of insects. 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 the photographs, a display of insects from the collections cared for by Hampshire Cultural Trust can be viewed. A discovery area for younger visitors has been created with specimens that can be viewed using a video microscope.



A freelance photographer visited and took pictures of our insect collections. One of the photos appeared in The Times newspaper.

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation and the museum stores being relatively small spaces volunteers have not been able to work with the collections. This will be reviewed over the next few weeks.

Enquiries received this period have included a request for photos of Stokes Bay during the preparations for the D-Day invasion, a previous donation of WW1 medals in the collection, and information about the Snape works. The team have also responded to object identification requests received via social media.

The collections team from Hampshire Cultural Trust have been working on improving the records on Modes which includes all items in the Gosport stores.



The Schools Loans Box service run by Hampshire Cultural Trust was moved in July from Hampshire Wardrobe to Gosport. The Gosport team will now manage the hire and resourcing of the boxes. There are approximately 40 boxes for schools across Hampshire to hire on a wide variety of themes linked to the National Curriculum. Bookings for the new school term are good.

The Schools Manager was successful in applying for a grant from the European Society for Evolutionary Biology Outreach Fund to create a new loans box on the theme of Darwin. This box is ready for hire from September. The box includes animal specimens and fossils. It has also has a wide range of books, a Darwin costume, and activity ideas for teachers to use. Other new boxes that are being created include one on The Mayans, a habitats one, and a geology themed one.

The original programme for family activities over the summer holidays has been greatly reduced to ensure a safe environment is provided for those participating. The large space at the front of the building has been adapted to create making pods set out at a safe distance. Each week during August a different mini making activity is being offered on a Tuesday morning linked to the gallery exhibition Microsculpture. Three timed sessions have been offered each week and the activities have been well supported particularly by grandparents wanting activities to do with their grandchildren.

The next exhibition coming to the gallery is Marvellous Mechanicals which will run Oct 15 – Dec 19. This is an exhibition of modern automata or mechanical sculptures on tour from Cabaret Mechanical Theatre.

In September we will be taking part in Gosport Heritage Open Days opening a small pop up museum for 2 days. SEARCH has been asked by GBC to be the lead Heritage Partner for a schools project on the Stokes Bay conservation area with funding being applied for from HAZ. Wendy Redman

Museum Fundraising – Bryony Hope

We are delighted to announce that in June 2020 we received confirmation that Gosport has been awarded £1.78million towards the regeneration of its historic town centre, through improvements to heritage buildings and a programme of cultural activity and community engagement. The funding comes from the High Streets Heritage Action Zones programme run by Historic England, and is the result of a joint application made by Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire Cultural Trust.

The project to redevelop Gosport Old Grammar School into Gosport Museum and Art Gallery, a cultural community hub with a new museum, sits at the heart of the wider scheme. The funding from Historic England secures £467,500 towards this project.

In December 2019 the Friends of Gosport Museum made a very generous donation of £50,000 towards the Gosport Museum and Art Gallery project, which will be used towards a physical item or items within the new museum. This gift was made on behalf of founding member Margaret Roberts, who bequeathed £50,000 to the Friends.

The £50,000 donation from Friends of Gosport Museum, along with the Historic England funding, has made a significant contribution towards achieving the final fundraising target for the project. With match funding already secured from Hampshire County Council, Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire Cultural Trust, just over £1.2million has now been raised towards the £1.3million target for the capital works, with only £79,000 left to raise.

We will keep the Friends of Gosport Museum updated as delivery progresses. Thank you for your support of this exciting project. Bryony Hope Fundraising Manager HCT

Remembering Richard Carlile by Mary Duly

I thought his little-known fact about the Peterloo Massacre really important when I came across it recently. It raises the whole issue of how/ why people are remembered, and the frequent unfairness of it all.

Everyone with an interest in this shocking event will certainly know the name of Henry 'Orator' Hunt – that's taken for granted – but have you heard of Richard Carlile? When you hear the importance of the part he played, you'll marvel as I do at how he has been written out of the story. I first heard of the Massacre as a student in wartime, but have only just learnt Richard's name at the age of 94.

Richard and his wife, Jane, first came to my notice thanks to a talk by Bob Forder of the National Secular Society in Gosport, a place with a tenuous claim to Richard in the that he was married to Jane there. His importance lies in the fact that later he earned a living as one of the printers in the Fleet Street area of London, so hated by the authorities at that time for their support of the views of Thomas Paine expressed in his book 'The Rights of Man'. He and Jane were frequently imprisoned for their activities.

He was a wanted man when he actually appeared on the stage in St Peter's Fields with Henry Hunt, but he could take the risk as he was not known in the North. Further, and what is more important, is that after interviewing a number of those still present, his was the first written and published account of the tragedy.

In view of this key piece of information, it is rather surprising, I feel, that his name has been so overlooked. He was also a fervent advocate of education for women and, our speaker claimed, the first advocate of birth control ever in this country. Mary Duly

July/ August newsletter correction from Mary Duly for item 'What Was I Doing on VE Day': should read, 'Churchill was on his way to St Margaret's, the Parliamentary Church for a Service of Thanksgiving.'

Gosport Gallery

Microsculpture Exhibition 17th July to 7th October

The startling photography of Levon Biss reveals the astonishing and stunning detailed form of insects with breathtaking clarity.

The images, created in collaboration with Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Marvellous Mechanicals 15th October to 19th December

An exhibition for all ages which features modern automata, or mechanical sculptures, with clever mechanisms and often humorous ideas!

The automata are on tour from Cabaret Mechanical Theatre.

Gosport Gallery Walpole Road Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 4pm

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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 please send them by 23rd October if 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

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