

# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2009

AGM 22nd April  
Gosport Discovery Centre

Advanced notice more details later

Thorngate Halls – an amazing legacy

by Joan Russell

Wednesday 4th March 7:30pm

Gosport Discovery Centre

Tickets £3 Free Refreshment

Proceeds to Gosport Community Ass.

Friends of Gosport Museum  
Informal Coffee Meeting  
In the Discovery Centre 10:30am

Every 2nd Thursday of the month

Meetings before next Newsletter

Thursday 10th January 2009

Thursday 12th February 2009

Thursday 12th March 2009

For around 1 hour meet at the

Readers' Rest Café

Informal meeting to discuss local heritage  
and perhaps extras such as gallery visits  
and opportunities to discover  
what is available at the Discovery Centre.

## REPORT on our Christmas Part 12th December 2008 at Gosport Discovery Centre

The party this year was held in The Studio area of the Gosport Discovery Centre. The Discovery Centre staff looked after us very well, the tables were set-up when I arrived. The numbers of those attending was not as high as the last few years, but the weather made a few later than they had intended, so perhaps it also stopped some from coming. In the end there were 27 members and 4 guests including, Councillor Chris Carter, Chairman of the Museums Joint Management Committee, Alison Firth and Wendy Redman of the Discovery Centre and Jan Wildman of SEARCH.

Dr Aynsworth introduced Councillor Carter, first thanking the membership for what they have done this year.

Councillor Carter, current chairman of the Museum Services Joint Management Committee, introduced the work carried out by the Joint Management Committee and said that there is a need for groups such as the Friends of Gosport Museum to assist with the Museum Service.

There was the normal bag of presents for the patients at the War Memorial Hospital, delivered by Dr & Mrs Aynsworth. Thank you to all who gave them.

If you have gone to the party in the past, but did not go this year, for some reason that the Friends of Gosport Museum Committee can do something about date, times, location and so on, please let me know, so it can be added to the discussions about the 2009 Christmas party.

Ian Jeffery

## Email Newsletter

I have some members email addresses, but please would you advise if you would be able to receive the newsletters by email rather than in a paper form. You will receive the newsletters in PDF format as soon as ready. This would reduce any delays due to printing and delivery, as well as in the case of posted newsletters a saving of postage costs to the Friends of Gosport Museum. It will mean copies can be sent to more people and it will continue to be added to [http://www.gosport.info/Organisations/Voluntary\\_Groups/Friends\\_of\\_Gosport\\_Museum/Newsletters/newsletters.html](http://www.gosport.info/Organisations/Voluntary_Groups/Friends_of_Gosport_Museum/Newsletters/newsletters.html) (though I suspect it would be easier to go to [www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk) then click the Newsletters link, who knows I may even get round to adding some of the earlier ones.

Please send me your email address, confirming that you are happy to receive the email newsletter rather than a printed one. [ian@gosport.info](mailto:ian@gosport.info) Ian Jeffery

## Thorngate Talks by Joan Russell

Joan Russell will be carrying on with her series of talks about 'Thorngate'. The dates and details that I have is as follows, but understand that there could be some changes, so will you please keep a look out for new dates and also for any changes to the details for the current dates.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm Gosport Discovery Centre Tickets £3 from the Discovery Centre.

## Events Discovery Centre

21<sup>st</sup> January. Meet best-selling crime author Anne Perry 7:30pm. Tickets £3 under 18s £1.

21<sup>st</sup> January. Big, Bold and Brave story time special in Gosport Gallery 2pm Free up to 5 years old

29<sup>th</sup> January. Under the Influence with Stuart Olesker 7:30pm. Tickets £3 under 18s Free.

5<sup>th</sup> February. Meet the author Catherine King 7:30pm. Tickets £1.

12<sup>th</sup> February. Through the Looking Glass – Gosport in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War 7:30pm. Tickets £3 under 18s Free.

13<sup>th</sup> February. Get Lucky on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, Discovery Centre open 7 to 9:30pm. Free refreshments.

16<sup>th</sup> February. Jurassic Fantastic 11am to 12 noon. Aged 4 to 10 years old. Free but booking essential.

16<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March. Feeding the Forces – the History of Royal Clarence Yard – Exhibition in the Local Studies Centre. Free just drop in.

17<sup>th</sup> February. Here Be Dragons – Fantasy map making. 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. Free just drop in.

18<sup>th</sup>/ 19<sup>th</sup> February. Signs of Spring – Family Workshop at SEARCH museum. £2.50 per person.

19<sup>th</sup> February. Feeding the Forces – talk by Lesley Burton 7:30pm. Tickets £1.

25<sup>th</sup> February. The Lost World with Dr David Martill 7:30pm. Tickets £1 under 18s Free.

26<sup>th</sup> February. The Why and How of Organic Gardening 7:30pm. Tickets £1 under 18s Free.

4<sup>th</sup> March. Tales, Tepees and Totem Poles 2pm in Gosport Gallery for under 5's Free just drop I

4<sup>th</sup> March. The Thorngate Halls 7:30pm (see details above)

5<sup>th</sup> March. An Evening of poetry and music – Harry Haines 7:30pm. Tickets £1

## Christmas Party Scarf – Looking For Owner

There was a scarf left at the Christmas Party, Mary Duly thought that it may be hers but now she has it she sent the following: I thought the scarf left behind after party was mine – but it isn't. (Long absence over Xmas and New Year has meant delay in dealing with this - apologies.) It's pale mauve. Suggest you give my phone number for rightful owner to contact me for retrieval. Mary Telephone: (023) 9235 9804

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## Memories of the National Children's Home Alverstoke

I was a resident at the National Children's Home in Alverstoke near Gosport, with my brother Julian from 1956 until 1962. I was born in 1951 and my brother was born in 1955.

I attended the primary school in Stone Lane during this time. I am keen to get in touch by email with anyone who was at either of these two places in the 50's to swap memories and if possible obtain photos.

I believe the person in overall charge at the Children's Home was a Mr. T. H. Thomas.

I was in a House run by "Sister" Gertrude. I believe her surname was Stephenson. The house in the Children's Home I lived in was Stephenson "B". To begin with my brother was in Anglesey Lodge until he was old enough (aged 2 I believe) to come and live in the same house as me.

My memories of the Children's Home include the freedom we had to wander around the local countryside, running after the bakers van which used to deliver and the smell of fresh baked bread. We used to buy day old cakes from the breadman. I also remember a Santa arriving on a horse drawn sleigh! and waking up on Christmas morning to a pillowcase of toys etc at the end of my bed.

I remember I slept in a small dormitory possibly 6- 10 boys there were girls in the house but they had their own bedroom. I believe the boys bedroom was on the ground floor. I remember watching The Lone Ranger on a black and white TV, and The Sunshine Club arriving with Movies to show us all.

I have many other memories of the Home but I can't remember any of the other children who went to it. I do have one photo only of a number of children, including myself, taken within the grounds of the Home

By Richard Miller

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I received an email from an old NCH boy. It turned out that we were in the Children's Home the same time, but in different houses.

The old memories came flooding back and we were soon recalling old times.

Our Open Days during the summer, when the home was opened to the general public. All the children were involved in setting up stalls, marking out bowls pitches and decorating the grounds ready for visitors.

Christmas Parties the Royal Navy used to give us on board various ships. They entertained and treated us like celebrities.

Saturday pictures at the Ritz in Gosport. The first film I remembered was Reach for the Sky which starred Kenneth Moore. He came to the Children's Home not long after making this film.

The email came with a photograph of the May Fair. I remember dancing round a maypole and making daisy chains to wear around our neck, aged about six. Imagine my surprise, when I found myself on one knee at the front. To see this picture after all these years, made me feel quite emotional. For many children, including myself, this was home.

By Sheila Freeman

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## Memories of Gosport's Past – Items wanted for future Newsletters

The above items about the National Children's Home Alverstoke were sent to the Gosport.info web site. I used them as I had some space to fill in this newsletter. I hope that you found them interesting. I would be very happy to receive memories of Gosport's past, to put in future newsletters where there is space. Ian Jeffery

Friends of Gosport  
Museum Committee

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*David Moore*  
023 9258 6575

Hon. Secretary

*Ian Jeffery*  
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023 9258 3759

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023 9258 607

Committee Members

*Joan Adams*  
*Michael Adams*  
*Mary Colyer*  
*Mary Duly*  
*Michael Leopold*  
*Giselle Aynsworth*

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I would like to say a big thank you to all of those who provided items for this Newsletter. If you or someone you know has not received this newsletter, but wish to receive future newsletters, please would they contact Linda Hedley 7 Fairhome Close, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HZ to confirm membership details. Ian Jeffery.

### Some Meetings and Other Events That May be of Interest to Members

If you come across other meetings or events that you feel may be of interest to other member, just let me know.

From 10th January to 7th March Myths and Legends Exhibition Gosport Gallery

10th January Gosport Society Social, Alverstoke Parish Centre.  
14th January HGS (Members Only) Alverstoke Parish Centre.  
11th February HGS (Members Only) Alverstoke Parish Centre.  
18th February Gosport Society 'Gosport Through the Artists Eyes'.  
11th March HGS (Members Only) Alverstoke Parish Centre.  
18th March Gosport Society 'Growing up in TurkTown'  
20th March Gosport Railway Society, Methodist Church Hall

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Committee Meeting 21st January 4:45pm Gosport Discovery Centre

If you have any information or photos that you think may be of interest to member of the Friends of Gosport Museum or others, please let me have them by post or email, details are below, by the 13th February for the March/ April Newsletter.

The Newsletters are also being put on the Friends of Gosport Museum web site after they have been delivered, so you will be able to look back at them. I also hope to be able to put the past newsletters and membership form on the site.

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Friends of Gosport Museum web site at [www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk).

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to  
Ian Jeffery, FGM Newsletter Editor  
11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto:ian@gosport.info)  
If you use email and would be happy to receive this  
Newsletter by email, please let me know.  
The views expressed are not necessarily those of  
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Membership of the Friends of Gosport Museum is  
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Annual Subscription Individuals £5 Families £7.50

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