

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2010

The Geology of the Solent Area -
adult education workshop
8th March 2010
6pm - 8:30pm

Talk by Dr Chris Palmer
'Rock Star' Dave Kemp
25th March 2010, 7:30pm
The Studio Discovery Centre

Details of both events below.

Friends of Gosport Museum
Informal Coffee Meeting
In the Discovery Centre 10:30am
Every 2nd Thursday of the month
Meetings before next Newsletter
Thursday 14th January
Thursday 11th February
Thursday 11th March
For around 1 hour meet at the
Readers' Rest Café
Meeting to discuss local heritage.
Topic for
January/ February/ March 2010
Gosport's 948AD Royal Saxon
Charter of Stoke.

Newsletter Editors Report

I hope that you had a great Christmas & New Year, all the best for 2010.

As I have now produced the final Jean Hill article, a very big thank you to Jean for producing them and allowing them to be used. I do not have items for future newsletters, so if you have anything that you feel may be interest to members and non-members who read this newsletter please send it to me, it can sent as you wish including hand written or typed to meet 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, PO12 3NR or by email to ian@gosport.info. You may have questions that you would like to put to Friends of Gosport Museum Committee Members or Discovery Centre Staff, or memories, suggestions or historical research that you are happy to have printed. You may also have other ideas. I look forward to receiving them all. Ian Jeffery.

Discovery Centre Open Art Prize

The Friends of Gosport Museum have donated a prize for the Open Art Exhibition which opens on the 6th February for the piece of art work judged the best produced by a Gosport resident. Please advise Wendy Redman at SEARCH if you would like to enter. There is to be a special private view the evening before (5th 7pm-9pm) for those selected to exhibit. It is at this private view that we would like to give out the prize donated by yourselves. Winner to be selected by Friends of Gosport Museum Coffee Morning Group. Information provided by Wendy Redman.

The Geology of the Solent Area - adult education workshop

8th March 6pm-8.30pm - Geology Gallery.

Explore the fascinating geology of the Solent area with geologist Tony Cross, Curator of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery in Alton. The evening will start in the Geology Gallery and move across to the Conference Suite after a coffee and cake break (hopefully not rock cakes!). Handling specimens will help to illustrate the subject. Sponsorship by the Friends of Gosport Museum for National Science and Engineering Week allows us to keep the cost down to £5 per head. Please call 023 9252 3463 booking line or book places in person at the Discovery Centre.

Rock Star - Geology Talk

25th March 7.30pm-9pm - Mezzanine Studio, Gosport Discovery Centre.

An illustrated talk about the late great Dave Kemp, local palaeontologist, keeper of geology for the museums service and long time assistant curator of Gosport Museum, and the development of the Geology Gallery in Gosport. Speakers will include Dr Chris Palmer, Head of Collections for Hampshire Museums Service. Organised by the Friends of Gosport Museum and free to their members.

Tickets £2. Concessions £1. FGM members free. Booking essential Tel: 023 9252 3463 or at Discovery Centre.

Summary of Gosport Museum Service Provision in 2009

From April 2009, all the museum services were merged into one management strand, with Janet Wildman managing both SEARCH and the community museum services within the Discovery Centre. The part time Senior Keeper role ceased to exist and the Community Curator is going to become a Museum Officer post from April 2010, shared by Alison Firth and Erica Munro. This role is the main contact for the Friends group and is based in the office above the Local Studies Centre.

2009 was a good year for both visitor numbers and range of museum activities offered throughout the Discovery Centre. At time of writing December figures were not available, but the first 11 months of 2009 saw 8669 visitors to the Gallery (7352 in same period of 2008), 16516 in Local Studies (13715 in '08), 29628 in the Museum on the Mezzanine (26531 in '08), and 14452 using SEARCH (13645 in '08). So visitors to all museum areas of the DC have risen from 61243 in the first 11 months of 2008, to 69265 in the first 11 months of 2009. That's a rise of over 13%.

The Exhibitions in the Gallery during 2009 were varied and popular and included Myths and Legends, Martin Snape, Visual Journeys, Harbour mouth, Dressed to Express and the 1970s – something for everyone! One day of the exhibitions programme stands out, and that was the hugely enjoyable, inclusive and interactive opening of the 1970s exhibition which caused panic on the High Street when we unleashed the Star Wars Storm Troopers and Scooby-Doo, not to mention a museum officer in hot pants! This event attracted 1014 visitors to the Gallery in a day. The Friends' favourite was probably Martin Snape, a brilliantly researched and displayed exhibition of works by the Gosport artist. We are looking into ways of getting these pictures up more often or even permanently.

In 2009, museum staff ran 445 school workshops, 42 family workshops, 24 other community group workshops (from under-5's provision to reminiscence workshops), 13 SEARCH Open Days or evenings, 5 evening talks, 6 training courses for other professionals as well as training Discovery Centre Assistants in museum functions, and also provided a range of self-led drop-in activities for

families.

Erica has, with the help of volunteers (several from the Friends), been auditing and organising the stored collections and has increased access to and use of these collections enormously over the last few months. She has also changed the display cases in the Discovery Centre regularly, with 5 different displays in the Story Boat since April, 4 in the Hampshire's Hidden Treasures case and 6 in the Pride of Place case.

What will 2010 bring?

Many thanks to the Friends for commissioning both the adult education workshop on 8 March – The Geology of the Solent Area, and the Geology talk on 25 March – Rock Star, about Dave Kemp and the development of the Geology Gallery. The latter is free to Friends as it is part of your programme. The former is £5. Both need booking at the Discovery Centre. More details in the DC's latest What's On Guide or the Museums' What's On, or on the website.

The Gallery has the Open Art exhibition in February and March, and in May it is the opening venue for a new Hampshire Museums exhibition, The Forgotten Emperor. The summer programme will hopefully include some promenade concerts and a giant interactive sand sculpture!

Of course there is lots more planned, and plenty of opportunities to get involved. By Janet Wildman



Friends of Gosport Museum Christmas Party

This years (2009) Christmas party was again held in The Studio at The Discovery Centre and a very good spread as well as plenty of tea and coffee was provided by the caterers at The Discovery Centre. I will start with a big thank you to The Discovery Centre staff and the caterers for their welcome and everything they did to make the event a success.

There were just over 20 members as well as a few guests. Janet Wildman and Erica Munro came during the event, after they had been at a meeting. I think in Winchester, though I maybe wrong.

After the introduction by Dr Aynsworth general chat and tea, many members did a quiz linked to the Museum on the Mezzanine. A number of members felt having the quiz took them to information and exhibits in the museum that they found items that they did not know were there, having to look more carefully with the quiz. I think all at the party enjoyed it.

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Michael Leopold
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Margaret Ventham

If you have any comments about this years party, suggestions for future parties, including any preference for venue or time please let me know, if you do not want it printed, please let know. Ian Jeffery.

If you have received this for the first time, as a Gosport Borough Councillor, I hope that is not a problem. It has been sent to give you an idea of what the Museum Service of Gosport and Hampshire, the Friends of Gosport Museum and the Museum on the Mezzanine does. If you wish to continue to receive a printed Newsletter or even better a PDF email version, please let me know at ian@gosport.info or Ian Jeffery, 11 Harcourt Rd., Gosport, Hants, PO12 3NR. It was taken from a comment made at a meeting of the Joint Management Committee, I was going to ask at the Friends of Gosport Museum committee on the 7th January 2010 to do this for the March newsletter, but as an item I was expecting did not arrive, so I have gone for it, so any complaints should come directly to me.

It has been suggested that I create an index for the FGM Newsletters that are on the www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk web site, to save those viewing the site would not need to go through all the Newsletter to find the items they want. I will work on that in the near future, until then you may be able to find what you want by using the search boxes on the site.

It was also suggested that Newsletters with items about David Kemp be added, I will do this before the talk on the 25th March 2010.

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 12th February for the March/April Newsletter, please include any items for early May 2010.

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. The past newsletters and membership form on the site in time.

Friends of Gosport Museum web site at www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk.

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
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11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR 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
The Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff

Membership of the Friends of Gosport Museum is
open to all - Please contact any Committee
member. Annual Subscription
Individuals £5 Families £7.50.
Due 1st April Each Year.
This Newsletter was printed and produced
with the help of the Discovery Centre (Museum)