

# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

Next Talk 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

Caring for St Faith's LoS

Listed Parish Church

By Revd Canon Peter Sutton

The Studio Discovery Centre

7:30pm Free to Membership

£3 & £2 cons. non-members

Booking Essential. At the

Discovery Centre 'Don't Delay'

Friends of Gosport Museum

Informal Coffee Meeting

in the Discovery Centre 10:30pm

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

Meetings before next Newsletter

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

For around 1 hour meet at

Readers' Rest Café

### Chairman's Letter December 2010

Dear Friends. The past 3 months have been rather quiet. We have had a meeting with Dr Janet Owens, Museum & Collections Head, who informed us about the forthcoming changes in the Museum services in Hampshire due to the restriction in funding. These changes have been published in the last Newsletter; however the final changes are not at present known to us. There will be reductions and I think considerable changes in the Museum Services.

There is a most delightful and interesting exhibition at present in the Gallery- The Exhibition of Illustrations from Children's Books; there are many original drawings and I feel that we have been lucky to be able to present this exhibition, which is continuing until January (8<sup>th</sup>). We are lucky in Gosport to have the Gallery, because it is one of a very few venues in Hampshire which has Central Government Indemnity and is thus able to give Exhibitions of high quality which go on National Tour. The autumn lecture "Prisoners of War in Gosport 1794-1825" by Abigail Coppins, the result of original research, was a very interesting evening. The talks for next year are in the course of confirmation and I am assured that they will be of the same high standard.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, Sydney Aynsworth.

### Volunteer Form

If you were not at the Christmas Party on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, you should find a volunteer form enclosed from Janet Wildman. If you did not receive one, please let me know and I will get one to you. With all the cuts and reorganisation, in an attempt to keep going as close as possible as it has been in the past, she has produced a form where you can show if you would be willing to volunteer for any of the items listed on the back.

## Christmas Party

The annual Friends of Gosport Museum Christmas Party was held in the Discovery Centre on the 14<sup>th</sup> December. Around 20 members, or about a third of the membership attended, as well as Alison Firth. Janet Wildman and Angela Gill also came for a while. As they had meetings to go to they gave an update of what is currently known about what will be happening from January 2011, but had to then leave. There was time for a chat and some food from the buffet, and in my case 3 cups of coffee. A quiz had been prepared by Joan Symonds, but the time went so quickly I do not believe anyone did it. It is always good to have something prepared for the future. As in past years, let me know if you have comments about the party, or suggestions on how it may be improved, or if you do not find the time or location convenient. Ian Jeffery

## Museum Officer's Report November 2010

Full **visitor figures** for the quarter: July-September saw the following visitors visit the sites:

Gosport Gallery:	9691	209 children in school groups
Local Studies:	4977	187 children in school groups
Museum on the Mezzanine:	13791	235 children in school groups
SEARCH:	2470	768 children in school groups

Visitor figures so far for this quarter (October– 20<sup>th</sup> November):

Gosport Gallery	1407	156 children in school groups
Local Studies	2090	60 children in school groups
Museum on the Mezzanine	6297	169 children in school groups
SEARCH (October only)	950	515 children in school groups

11 Family/Community Workshops/Events/Talks September – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2010

- Outside In: Sea, Land and Townscapes exhibition,
- Search and Discover in Gosport (Creative Landscapes),
- Drop in Arts Activity for Search and Discover,
- Behind the Scenes in the Museum, 4 Tours for Heritage Open Days,
- Gosport, the Diving Helmet and the Mary Rose talk by John Bevan,
- SEARCH stall at Bird Festival, Manor Farm,
- Meeting, Gosport Society,
- Prisoners of War Around Gosport 1794-1815 by Abigail Coppins,
- Reminiscence Workshop for Locks Heath Day Centre – SEARCH Outreach,
- Planetarium Shows in the Gallery,
- Meet Spot and his friends (Opening Day of Exhibition) Gallery,
- Reminiscence Workshop for Club Hampshire, Havant, - SEARCH Outreach,
- Where's Spot? - Storytime Special,
- The Big Draw drop-in event, Gallery,
- The Big Draw artist-led workshop, SEARCH,
- 2 Reminiscence Workshops for Lutman Day Centre, SEARCH,
- Local Heroes Exhibition Community Consultation Group, SEARCH,
- SEARCH by Torchlight family open evening, SEARCH,
- Gosport Beavers Visit, Mezzanine,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Portsmouth Brownies Visit, Gallery,
- Meet Elmer – Storytime Special, Gallery,
- Victorian Christmas and Animals in Winter, family open day, SEARCH,
- Outside In: Sea and Townscapes – Gallery Exhibition,

- World of Imagination – Gallery Exhibition,
- Ms Tricia Ross – rag rugs and button badges – Pride of Place Case,
- Ms Sue Dewey – Native American Indians - Pride of Place Case,
- Gosport Methodist Church Centenary - Pride of Place Case,
- 'A Good Yarn' Knitting Group - Pride of Place Case,
- Story Boat – History objects from Gosport's stored collections,
- 2 Hampshire Hidden Treasures events.

Other work carried out: 16 enquiries, 10 identifications & 2 donations, 17 visitors to the Museum Corridor, 416 objects and photographs were used for research and consultation. An outreach session to 17 adults. 82 hours of work done by 12 volunteers. EDGE meets once a week. Lesley Dewnham is continuing to digitise and catalogue the stored photographic collection. Alison Firth 29/11/2010 (Edited to fit space) (I have a copy of the full report if you want further information Ian)

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## Volunteers Wanted for Living Links Oral History Project

I am writing to follow up on the project which I outlined to you at your last committee meeting for the Friends of Gosport Museum on the 30 November 2010. As discussed then I would like to undertake an oral history interview with you as part of the Living Links community archive project. The interviews will be done either with myself or with a volunteer from Living Links.

The following topics are areas which will be discussed during the interview (there may be some additional ones as well as those listed below):

Childhood, education, 'teenage' years, music, fashion, hobbies, career/work, marriage and family life, sports, leisure activities and social lives, technology, travel/holidays, social/ethnic make up of communities, national events you have witnessed.

The interview will need to include some information on your life in Hampshire as without that the recording would not necessarily be accepted into the Hampshire Record Office, however we will be covering your whole life so it is not a problem if you have only lived in Hampshire for a short time. As I previously said you will receive a copy of the interview as will Gosport Museum, and Hampshire Record Office will also keep a copy.

Oral histories allow us to capture the lives of a huge variety of people and with the last century having been such an era of change it is important that we record these memories for posterity. Please note this is an opportunity to express your opinions on national and personal themes/events, but there will be an opportunity to restrict access to certain parts of your interview if you feel it necessary afterwards. During the course of the interview should you find you do not wish to answer a question we will simply move on to the next.

We hope to get the interviews started in January and we will be looking to interview up to two people on each of the dates through to March. Bryony Hatton [Bryony.Hatton@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Bryony.Hatton@hants.gov.uk)  
Hampshire Records Office Tel: 01962 846154 / 01962 845954

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## Gosport and Fareham Local Heroes

Gosport and Fareham's community exhibition which celebrates our local heroes, past and present, is preparing to open in Fareham in January 2011.

The final 20 nominees have now been selected by a community panel - 10 heroes from Gosport, and 10 from Fareham. These 20 finalists include a Nobel Prize winner, a renowned local musician,

a man who travelled faster than 1000mph, a world-record-breaking cyclist, war legends and living community heroes. To see who made the shortlist, visit the exhibition at Westbury Manor Museum 15 Jan - 26 Feb 2011, or at Gosport Gallery 5 March - 9 April 2011. Alternatively, you could keep an eye on [www.hants.gov.uk/localheroes](http://www.hants.gov.uk/localheroes) where we'll be adding updates on all the nominees and preparations for the exhibition itself.

If any Friends would like to volunteer to be involved with the research side of the exhibition, please contact Erica on 023 9258 8035 or [erica.munro@hants.gov.uk](mailto:erica.munro@hants.gov.uk). Please get in touch soon as design is already well underway. **Erica Munro**  
Gosport Museum Officer

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*Sidney Aynsworth*  
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*Linda Hedley*

Project Director  
*Joan Russell*  
023 9258 0072

Committee Members

*Mary Colyer*  
*Mary Duly*  
*Michael Leopold*  
*Margaret Ventham*

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## Sorry and Thank you

At the last committee meeting and since, the committee have been sorry to hear of the resignations from the committee of Giselle Aynsworth, Michael and Joan Adams. I am sure all members will wish to thank them for all the time and effort that they have put in over the years, also to wish them all the best and the hope to see them at future Friends of Gosport Museum talks and events. Ian

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## Discovery Centre What's On Guide

If I have hand-delivered your newsletter, I will put a copy of the What's On Guide through the door. In the past it has at times been put in with the newsletter, but as postage is now based on size and weight, it makes it too expensive to post. I will put it though the door even if 'no junk mail notices' shown as it should be read with the newsletter.

If you receive your newsletter by email a copy of the guide should also be attached. I am sorry a copy will not be included where I have posted the newsletter, but they can be obtained from the Discovery Centre, or if you have the Internet the Discovery Centre web site [www.hants.gov.uk/gdc](http://www.hants.gov.uk/gdc) or I can email you a .pdf copy.

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If you have any information or photos that you think may be of interest to members of the Friends of Gosport Museum or others, please let me have them by post or email, details below, by 11<sup>th</sup> February for the March/ April Newsletter, include details for events in early May 2011.

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

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to  
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11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR [ian@gosport.info](mailto:ian@gosport.info)  
If you would be happy to receive this  
Newsletter by email, please let me know.  
The views expressed are not necessarily those  
of Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is  
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