

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

April 2004

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday May 18th at 7 p.m.

Because the meeting room in the Museum is now closed the AGM will be held in:-

Williams Room, Thorngate Halls,
Bury Road, Gosport

followed by a talk by Mary Tillman

(Refreshments should be available in the Centre's Lounge/Common Room)

Summer Social

Sunday 4th July 12 - 4 p.m.

to be held at

5 Grange Farm, Little Woodham
Lane, off Howe Road, Gosport

As agreed at the last AGM this will be a barbecue lunch and drinks party. Numbers will have to be limited to a maximum of 60

Tickets £7-50 each available from the Reception Desk at the Museum now.

Gosport 800!

Joan Russell's booklet about Gosport's Foundation in 1204 was launched by Peter Viggers, on the 5th March. Already in one month half of the printed copies have been sold!

If you haven't bought your copy yet - or are thinking of buying one as a present for someone else - **Buy it now** before stocks run out!

September Coach Trip

Saturday 11th September

to **Kingston Lacy, Dorset**

This is a superb building containing an outstanding collection of paintings set in a lovely park - contact Mary Duly or the Museum Reception for full details Tel: 023 92 588035

Grange Airfield Museum

Wednesday 6th October 5.30 p.m.

This excellent museum is inside **HMS Sultan** and can only be visited by special arrangement. Further details should be available at the Annual General Meeting but note the date now so that you don't miss an unique opportunity.

"People and Places in Wessex"

We enjoyed an enthralling and beautifully illustrated talk on 10th March by *Kay Ainsworth* about Wessex from the earliest times to the end of the Roman period - hopefully she will return next year to complete the story.

As it was the last time we would meet in this room at the Museum, the staff who prepare the room and tidy up afterwards were presented with some flowers as a token of our thanks for all they do.

Share your Memories of D Day

The next edition of this Newsletter will be in June - 60 years on from D Day and the eventual liberation of Europe. We would like to mark this by producing a much enlarged *D Day special* Newsletter with **your memories** of that time - whether you were a child or young adult in 1944. Please let the Editor have your story - address for contributions is on page 4.

The Museum on the Mezzanine

by Oonagh Palmer - Curator, Gosport Museum

A small but very experienced project team is working on developing the display which is aimed primarily at families with children aged 6 - 11 approximately and also older residents. The characteristics of the display will include:

- graphic panels with simple text in a large font and illustrations
- cases of 3 dimensional material. Any objects from the present collections not used in the displays will continue to be stored at Gosport.
- drawers full of surprises
- "interactives" - mostly as low tech as possible. There will be lots of computers elsewhere in the Discovery Centre.

The space allocated is approximately 100 square metres on the mezzanine floor of the current library building. The plan on the next page gives an idea of what the space will contain but very little is cast in stone yet. The plan is an architect's working drawing and is not intended at this stage to show accurately the Museum elements.

The **main displays** will be as flexible as possible so that it is relatively easy to change the graphic panels and the contents of the display cases. The cases and drawers will be interspersed with the graphic panels and "interactives". "Interactives" are elements of the display which involve the visitor in some sort of activity - for example a jigsaw, a game, some questions.

There are **two main themes**; "The Waterfront" and "In Living Memory".

"The Waterfront" will be in two sections. **Side A** will deal with leisure yachting, boat building, sail making, the seaside, royal connections etc. There will be a set of "interactives" for families based on the shipbuilding/sail making and possible other elements. **Side B** of the "Waterfront" will deal with Gosport's naval history and include Haslar Hospital, Priddy's Hard, Royal Clarence Yard, Sailor's Life etc. There will be a set of "interactives" based on victualling the Navy based partly on the cooper's model which we are recycling from the "Gosport Story" display in the present museum.

The graphic panels will be simple but eye-catching in format. They will be supported with additional material where possible for those who want to find out a bit more. If a visitor wants to know a lot more, they can visit the Local Studies building.

"In Living Memory" will tell the story of ordinary people in Gosport from the 1930s onwards. It will include wartime, social life, work, house and home, shopping, sport and leisure, and schools.

The sections on schools, work, house and home, shopping, sport and leisure have been identified as areas which can be easily changed to cover many aspects of Gosport life over time. For example, sport and leisure covers a vast area of life. The opening display might consist of a graphic panel and some objects about "Cinemas in Gosport". Several months later, that could be changed to a graphic panel and case about a local Gosport Sports Club put together by a local group working with the Curator. Several months (or maybe weeks) later this could be changed again to celebrate an anniversary.

Another example is shopping. We might have a graphic panel giving an overview of shopping in Gosport, from online to the little corner shop. The case and drawers accompanying the panel could start with a display of objects from a chemist's shop, be changed to a butcher's, to a grocer's - or the graphic panel could be changed to show the High Street as a shopping street with relevant material in the case and drawers.

FLEXIBLE
* PERFORMANCE SPACE *

JUKE BOX

THE WATERFRONT

figure of Cooper

NAVAL COLLECTION

interactive table low level by R&H

FORTIFICATIONS

prison door

WITHIN LIVING MEMORY

ARCHITECTURAL
ITEMS

the 2nd WW

PEOPLES NETWORK

FL +4254

optical images

room no.

A. M01

projected image on floor

optical images

M01

314

2

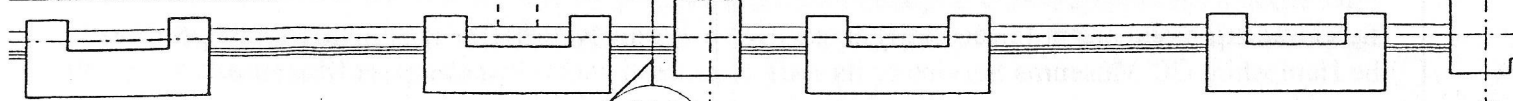
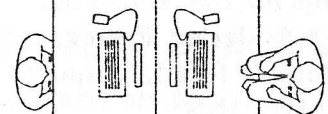
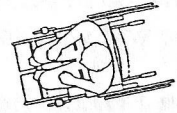
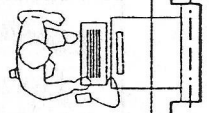
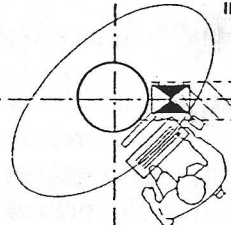
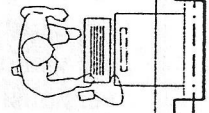
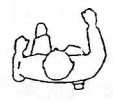
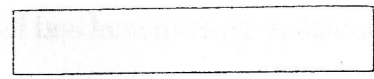
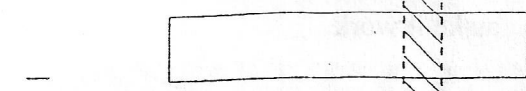
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STAIRS

STAIRS

LIFT AREA



The Museum on the Mezzanine - (continued)

This approach *is* experimental and it will obviously need resources to make it work.

Other elements on the plan on the previous page are:

“Optical Images” are “lenticulars”, a sort of moving collage of images showing aspects of the displays to encourage visitors to explore further.

“Fortifications” is an important topic in Gosport and this will be dealt with by a computer presentation currently being developed.

The **“Juke Box”** is going to be a fun way of making film and sound archive available as tasters. This aspect is currently being developed - it won't now look like a juke box which was the original idea. Visitors can get a taste of some of the sound and film available from Wessex Sound and Film Archive in Winchester. If the visitor is interested they can then go to the Local Studies Area in the current Museum building for longer versions.

Friends of Gosport Museum Committee

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Michael Adams

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Mary Duly

Joan Symonds

Brenda Whiteley

The “doughnut” in the middle of the space is **“The Time Detective”** section. Work units will be arranged around the column and visitors will be given the opportunity to investigate and find out more about objects.

Hampshire Museum and Archives Service has a great deal of expertise in developing these sort of activities and it will provide an excellent opportunity to get as many objects as possible into the public area.

The **“People’s Network”** terminal will give visitors the opportunity to look at photographs and other digitised material if they wish

“Architectural Items” will be a “reminiscence” seating area including objects.

We have to be aware of equalities issues and try to ensure that all our visitors enjoy the experience. I would stress that the “Museum on the Mezzanine” is not designed for the local history expert - the Local Studies Area will provide for them. We do hope, though, that the finished result will look so attractive that everyone will want to visit again and again.

How can Friends Help ?

It would be very useful for me to know your views about the proposals. I know not everybody is happy about the Discovery Centre concept in general but work is now well under way. The important thing now is to get the “Museum on the Mezzanine” as right as possible.

E. mail me: oonagh.palmer@hants.gov.uk - use the People’s Network terminals in the coffee shop ! or drop a note into the Museum; or give me a telephone call.

**Please send contributions for the Newsletter
to Bob Whiteley, the Newsletter Editor
c/o Gosport Museum, Walpole Road, Gosport,
Hampshire PO12 1NS**

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 enquire
at the Museum reception desk or ask any
Committee member.**

**This Newsletter was printed and produced
at Gosport Museum.**