

OPEN ART EXHIBITION

Amateur artists will be invited to submit work to the museum during next year on the subject

'The Millennium'.

Entry forms will be available in the new year.

OPENING OF NEW ACCESS RAMP

Work on the construction of the new access ramp into the Gosport Gallery was completed in time for the opening of RISK, the hands-on exhibition on display during the summer. Museum staff and County Council architects worked closely with the

Gosport Disabled Access group attended the small ceremony to formally 'open' the ramp. The improvement scheme also included an attractive garden area in front of the gallery and resurfacing of the museum car park. The building work costing £10,000 was funded by Hampshire County Council, however it was funds from the Friends which paid for the splendid garden.

Visitors to the Gosport Gallery will notice two stone plaques that have been built into the ramp. The first is to mark the opening of the ramp by Councillor Emery-Wallis, whilst beneath the second stone lies the museum's 'Millennium Time Capsule'. The time capsule differs from most others as it only contains a single CD ROM. This disc which is now buried beneath the concrete of the ramp contains messages from Councillor Emery-Wallis and museum staff as well as information from the museum's web site. If or when it is dug up, it will give future generations some insight into the museum and the people who worked there at the end of the 20th century.



Borough Council and the Gosport Disabled Access Group in order to ensure that access to the gallery met the needs of all visitors.

The ramp was opened by Chairman of Hampshire County Council Freddie Emery-Wallis. Gosport's Mayor Councillor Ken Searle together with members of the

continued over

Coffee Shop Gallery

Haslar Hospital is currently in the news. Come and see the exhibition of the pages from news magazines of the Victorian period. The hospital is just one of the local places making news in the 19th century. This exhibition can still be seen in the museum's Coffee Shop Gallery until the end of October. This will be followed by a 'Fashioned by Stitch' embroidery exhibition by the Solent branch of the Embroiderers Guild.

The museum is looking for further ideas on local exhibition topics. They must be topics where there is likely to be sufficient information and objects to go on display. If you have a pet subject and would like to be involved, please contact the Curator.

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Building works are not quite finished, as within the next few months a major scheme funded by the County Council for the external redecoration of the entire building is due to commence.

BRIEF NEWS

Linda Hedley is the new face currently to be seen on the museum's reception desk. We wish her well as a member of museum staff.

Don't forget this newsletter is also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/museum/gosport/Friends/index.html>

ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING AT COUNTY MUSEUMS SERVICE'S HEADQUARTERS

Jo Adams and Rosemary Gibaud, together with Ian Edelman, attended the Annual Meeting at Chilcomb House which the County Museum Service held on 14th September. This provides a useful opportunity to meet other Friends from Museums in the County and, as always, nourishing sandwiches and coffee are provided. After the socialising, Stephen Locke spoke at length about the problems presented by the diminished funds available to the Museum Service and difficulty of meeting the Government's "Best Value" policy. Compare the service provided by museums with those of schools or leisure services in general, and one sees the problem.

Fordingbridge and Romsey wish to open museums and it is hoped to establish them, but the next landmark will be the opening of the Milestones museum, near Basingstoke in August 2000. This will give the County space to display collections at present in store and will provide enough of interest to occupy a half-day visit

Mary Duly took her grandchildren recently to Fort Brockhurst and discovered the Aviation Heritage Museum there. This can be found in the south east corner of the main quadrangle, and is run by a small number of enthusiasts. It is open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, from 11am to 5pm, April to September, and is well worth a visit. (Alas, too late for this year: make a note for the spring !)

The Hovercraft Society have asked Joan Russell to give a talk at Gosport Library on 7th October. This is a fund-raising event, tickets £2 per head.

JESSIE WHITE MARIO

Margaret Roberts reports that a recent enquiry from Italy has revived interest in the Victorian, Jessie White. There is a school in Genoa named after her, and we were recently asked whether Gosport too, Jessie White's birthplace, had a school commemorating her.

Born in 1832, one of six children of Thomas White, Jessie grew up in Forton Road, near the junction with Ferrol Road which was then known as White's Slip - to Forton Lake. Her father was a shipbuilder there and possibly owned the Slip to the



creek). Thomas White was a zealous member of Dr Bogue's Dissenting Congregational Chapel and Jessie found it hard to live up to her father's ideals. Eventually she was sent away to boarding school, first in Reading and then in London and by the early 1850s she was in Paris, attending lectures at the Sorbonne and earning her keep by writing and teaching. There she met Parisian liberals and became

acquainted with the revolutionary movements in Europe, and especially in Italy. In 1854 she moved to Italy with Mrs Emma Roberts (who believed herself to be engaged to Garibaldi). She brought Garibaldi's lame son, Ricciotti, back to England for treatment and tried herself to gain a place to study medicine at 14 London teaching hospitals. Despite support from leading surgeons, her application was refused - in common with other like-minded women. Frustrated by this she turned to journalism and lecture tours to raise money for the Italian Risorgimento and met Mazzini. She was arrested whilst acting as a courier for him and was imprisoned for four months in Genoa. During that time she corresponded with Alberto Mario and after release from prison they came to England and married in December 1857.

Jessie continued to raise funds for Garibaldi and she and Alberto joined Garibaldi's campaign of 1860 when he led his supporters from Sicily to the Italian mainland and thence to Naples. The kingdom of Italy was proclaimed the following year, and from that time on Jessie and her husband reverted to a calmer lifestyle. In 1866 Jessie began a long career as Italian correspondent for the new American journal, *The Nation*. Alberto died in 1883 and Jessie herself in 1906 (in Florence). She left vast quantities of personal papers, correspondence and documents and these were deposited in the Museo Centrale del Risorgimento in Rome.

Her name lives on at the Jessie White Mario Elementary School in Genoa.

Gosport Gallery
Exhibition
Programme
1999/2000

19 Oct - 27 Nov
The return of the
wonderful life sized
caricatures of famous
people made from
papier mache by
Peter Rush

7 Dec - 15 Jan 2000
Season's Greetings
Christmas cards from
the 1860s - 1940s

25 Jan - 26 Feb
Victorian Valentine
cards

7 Mar - 11 Apr
War Memorials
An Imperial War
Museum exhibition
tracing the history of
war memorials

To look out for in
2000

20 April - 13 June

Local Artist Ian
Banfield

Dec 2000 - Jan 2001
Open art exhibition

DON'T MISS VERY SOON.....

Brian Sharp of
Hampshire & Wight Marine Archaeology

Lecture on Marine Archaeology

7.30 pm Tuesday 12th October 1999

In the Meetings Room
Gosport Museum.

Please leave your name with the Front Desk at the
Museum if you wish to attend.

There are sixty places only.

DON'T MISS SOON.....

All members of the Friends and their guests are invited to
the private view of

RUSH ON PAPER

AN EXHIBITION OF PEOPLE SIZED PEOPLE IN PAPER

BY PETER RUSH

On Tuesday 19th October

From 4pm to 6pm

DON'T MISS LATER....

CHRISTMAS PARTY

3.00pm

2nd December 1999

Quiz, Cakes, Mince Pies and Sociability

A charge of 50p per head will be made to cover costs.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE
1999/2000

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