

Friends of Gosport Museum

Access Award for the Museum

Staff at the museum were delighted to have received an 'excellent access award' from the Gosport Access Group for Disabled Persons. The award not only reflected the County Council's work in providing the new access ramp for the Gosport Gallery but was also because of the helpful

attitude of the museum staff.

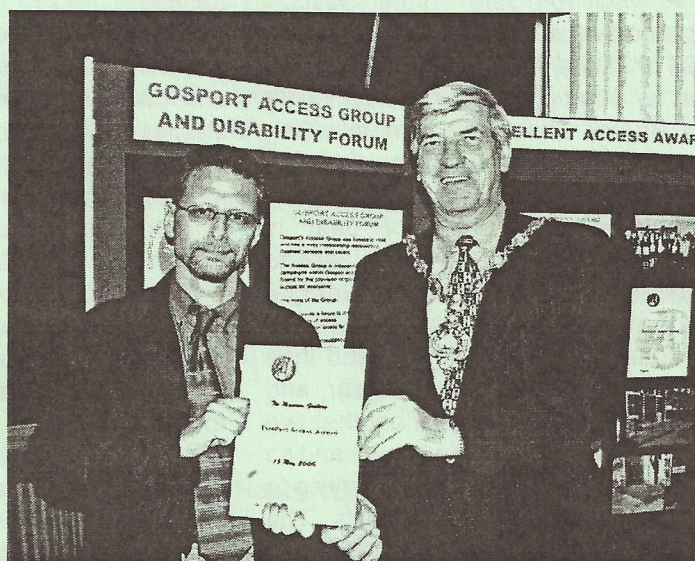
Curator, Ian Edelman received a certificate from the former Mayor Ken Searle at an award ceremony in the Town Hall.

Building works on the museum have continued throughout the summer, going on longer than

expected. The copper covered dome on the eastern corner of the museum has proved particularly difficult to restore as there are very few craftsmen who can work with copper.

The dome itself is constructed on timber, rather like a barrel and unfortunately part of that needed replacing as well. So the scaffolding will remain on part of the building for a few more weeks.

The entire exterior of the building has been painted, much of the woodwork repaired or replaced and the new leaded windows are exactly as were originally installed when the 'old library' was built in 1901. Hopefully the building's first facelift in 100 years will soon be complete!



Contributions to

The Newsletter
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Those who attended our AGM last May had the chance to purchase, ahead of the official launch, Bob Whiteley's book on the history of Grange Farm in the Parish of Rowner.

His research has thrown up a fascinating link between that land and the country east of Dorchester, Dorset. Rosemarie Gibaud

with other Gosport residents made a recent visit to Athelhampton House. As many of you know, Rosemarie is an enthusiast for 17th century history, in particular the time of the war between the Roundheads and the Royalists. Reference to peat-cutting at Grange Farm for transport to, or sale on the

way, to Athelhampton was revealed in a document dated 1626 and reminds us of the extreme importance of adequate supplies of fuel for heating and cooking in the days long before gas and electricity had been discovered.

The guide-book which Rosemarie brought home from Dorset lists the

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owners of Athelhampton, beginning with Sir William Martyn. He built the Great Hall in 1483 and was both Member of Parliament for Dorsetshire (turn to any handy copy of John Speed's county maps to find that the county was thus named) and, in 1482, the local Justice of the Peace until his death in 1504.

His son Christopher succeeded him to ownership of Athelhampton and two more generations of Martyns followed until the estate was split in equal shares to four daughters. It is at that time that the name Brune appears in Athelhampton's history. If you now reach for your copy of *Stepping Stones of Time (1290 - 2000)* at Grange Farm, Rowner (on sale at the Gosport Museum and other outlets), you'll find on page 27 that the Manor of Rowner was granted by King Edward I jointly to Sir William Brune, Chamberlain to the King and his wife, Isolde, Lady of the Queen's Household. This transaction is dated 1277.

The cutting and supply of peat is recorded in the year 1626 when a lease to one Robert Lock (of Rowner Grange) included the condition that "he should accommodate and feed six men and their horses for three nights, twice a year, and three men and their horses for another two nights, also twice a year". And so on and so on. This discovery has sent me scurrying to my bookshelves for J.E. Neale's *The Elizabethan House of Commons* (Fontana paperback).

Earlier this year Rosemarie Gibaud enjoyed the summer expedition to Chichester and on to Petworth House on the joint visit by Gosport Society and the Friends. The stop in Chichester brought the pleasures of a visit to the Cathedral and its stained glass, especially the colours of Chagall's window. In the Seafarers Chapel, they found an early 19th century painting of Gosport & Old Portsmouth about the time of the Battle of Trafalgar. On to Petworth House, near Pulborough: entry by the Church Lodge leads along a corridor lined with 16th and 17th century iron firebacks. Bob Whiteley fancied these for his restored

fireplace at Grange Farm ! The Oak Hall was restored in 1997 with hand-blocked blue and white wallpaper in an original 18th century design from a scrap discovered during restoration work.

There is a fine walnut long case clock by Thomas Tompion. The Somerset Room and Dining Room display many fine paintings, rare old Dutch masters, antiques, tables, porcelain and an illuminated 15th century Manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and Elizabethan embroidery. The Dining Table was set with fine porcelain, silver cutlery and glass and there are fine wood carvings on the pelmets by the Estate's wood carvers.

The Marble Hall was the main entrance to the House until the 17th century. Its floor and pale green walls set off the Roman statues and urns. Lord and Lady Egremont opened the upper floor to the public in 1987, and the bedrooms have original William Morris curtains. The Dowager Lady Egremont used to bring her pet owl to stay and it roosted happily on a gold tree on the top of her four-poster bed. The other bedrooms are cosier, with books and pictures, compared with the ground floor rooms.

There is much to see including the famous Carved Room with portraits framed by Grinling Gibbons carving in three-dimensional detail.

The kitchens, now restored with many original features - copper pans used for entertaining guests, family and forty servants; the Chef's room, Larder, Pantry and Still rooms. There was just time for a cup of tea in the restaurant which serves lunches of traditional recipes before a quick visit to the Church and village where there is a Cottage Museum, before boarding the coach to return home.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday, 17th October 2000

The Mayor of Gosport will launch "Stepping Stones of Time" (3 pm - 4.30 pm)

Sunday, 22nd October

Apple Day at The Hermitage (1 pm - 4 pm)

Wednesday, 25th October

Autumn Lecture - Colin Bowden: "Hearts of Oak - Nelson's Navy" (2.30 pm) Refreshments following the Lecture.

Tuesday, 31st October: (1.15 - 2 pm) Lunchtime Lecture - David Rymill of the Hampshire Record Office "Meet the Archivist" followed by question-time.

Saturday & Sunday, 25th & 26th November:

BAFM Annual General Meeting, Dulwich, SE London. (Dulwich's Picture Gallery was re-opened on 25th May this year, and the keynote speaker at the AGM will be Matthew Evans, Chairman of the newly-created Museums, Libraries and Archives Council which replaced the Museum and Galleries Commission last April. Mr Evans is also Chairman of the publishers, Faber & Faber and was a member of the successful Libraries Information Commission. West Dulwich is the nearest railway station for those travelling by train.)

To be arranged: December: Christmas Party

Tuesday, 21st March, 2001

Tony Cross - Curator of Alton Museum - "Inns and Pub Signs". (Time to be confirmed).

Saturday 30th June 2001

Summer Expedition to Broadlands, Romsey.

To be arranged: July 2001

Roger Hart's lecture on local aspects of the Napoleonic Wars.

Friday 7th September 2001: Outing to Athelhampton, Dorset.

To be arranged: October 2001: (7 pm)

Dr Stephen Brooks "D-Day Embroidery".

Please remember to give your name in advance of each Museum event if you intend to attend. Fire regulations and the space limitation of 60 people in the Lecture Room means that the Museum Staff are obliged to know exactly who has entered the building. Please, please let the Museum know in good time so that we are not anxiously ringing round each of you to check the numbers beforehand.

VOLUNTEERS are mustering during the month of November on Wednesdays in the Resources Room at the Museum to complete the labelling of microfiche sleeves of our Parish Records of Baptisms and Marriages. Please contact Jennie Hall at the Museum if you would like to take part in this work. It entails one hour of work only and is a simple task but is something that the Front Desk staff cannot include in their weekly duties. Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Those unable to attend the AGM are reminded that their subs fell due on 1st April 2000 (£4 per member or £6 for family. It helps to keep our running costs down if we can avoid sending out reminders individually. Your next opportunity to pay is either by sending your cheque or postal order to Margaret Roberts, Membership Secretary, c/o the Museum or when you attend the Autumn Lecture on the afternoon of Wednesday 25th October.

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published mid January 2001. Contributions of articles or news items are most welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Gosport Museum not later than Tuesday 2nd January.

DISCOVER Hampshire 2000 - 35 pages of Tourist information of the County, including its Museums and Literary and Historic homes. Free - in the Coffee Shop. Look out, also, for the leaflet announcing the opening of the Priddy's Hard Museum - scheduled for March 2001. Its name is Explosion, the Museum of Naval Firepower.

Chairman Jennie Hall wrote to Buckingham Palace to find out more about the history of Haslar's hospital as a Royal hospital. Reply came from the Defence Secondary Care Agency's headquarters:

"The emblem at Royal Hospital Haslar is using the George II Royal Cypher." HM The Queen approved the use of this cypher in 1977, when the hospital became a Joint Services establishment in 1996, the newly formed Defence Secondary Care Agency. Royal assent was then granted to revert to the formal title of the Royal Hospital Haslar.

This newsletter was printed and produced at Gosport Museum.

The views expressed are not those of the Hampshire County Council Museums Service or its officers.



Hampshire County Council

MUSEUMS SERVICE