

# FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

January 2007

### ILLUSTRATED TALK

### *“HMS Warrior”*

by Maurice Huddy

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2007

at 7.30 pm

in The Discovery Centre

*Admission Free All Welcome*

*Welcome to our new  
Community Curator*

*Alison Marsh who*

*tells us about herself  
on the next page !!*

## Friends Christmas Party

Our visit to the SEARCH building for our pre Christmas tea party is one of the highlights of the year for many of us. Looking at the wide range of interesting objects on view in several rooms furnished as they would have been in different eras brought back many happy memories of childhood as I remembered many items on display which were familiar items present in my parent's or grandparent's homes.

Members of the Committee had prepared a superb range of food - far more than we were able to consume.

However what makes this such a memorable afternoon is the very warm welcome and endless trouble to look after all our needs by Janet Wildman, the Manager of SEARCH, and all her staff. To all of them we owe an enormous THANK YOU !

## Christmas presents for the War Memorial Hospital

Once again, thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to take two large boxes full of presents to be given to those patients who would be in Hospital over Christmas. We received an appreciative letter of thanks from the Hospital's Support Services Manager and a big thank you card signed by all those who had received presents. Sally Simes who had organised this says the presents really were appreciated especially so by a number of patients who have no close relatives and nobody to remember them at Christmas.

## Gosport's New Community Curator



My name is Alison Marsh and I am Gosport's new Community Curator. I have been in post since 2 January.

I was born in West Yorkshire but grew up in a small market town in East Yorkshire. I went to university in Scotland reading Economic History -History at Aberdeen before completing a postgraduate diploma in Museum & Gallery Studies at St Andrews. I have since completed the Museum Association's AMA scheme.

I began my museum career working as a Museum Assistant (Documentation) at the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth. My work there was primarily concerned with cataloguing and re-housing the photographic collection.

From the Royal Naval Museum, I then moved to work as an Assistant Keeper of Science & Industry (Maritime) with Tyne & Wear Museums based at Newcastle's Discovery Museum. Whilst in Newcastle, I worked on both temporary and permanent exhibitions including ones using multi media interactives and promoted the maritime collection by giving talks to local groups and interviews to the local media. I was also involved in improving the standards of the documentation and storage facilities for the maritime collection and in answering enquiries from the public regarding maritime history and the museum's collection.

I spent seven and a half years until last December working as the Curator of The Historic Dockyard Chatham where I was employed by the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, an independent charitable trust. At Chatham the majority of my time was spent on organising both temporary and permanent exhibitions. I was also responsible for managing and upgrading the documentation and storage of a number of very diverse collections. This work included attaining full Accreditation status for the Trust in October 2005. I also oversaw the selection and implementation of a new collections management system. I worked with a number of voluntary groups including those working on the Trust's three historic ships (*Cavalier*, *Ocelot* and *Gannet*) and the Dockyard's Historical Society who mainly assisted in the manning of the Museum of the Royal Dockyard gallery and the Royal Dockyard Library.

My role as Community Curator in the borough of Gosport is to ensure the museum, within the Discovery Centre and Gallery, is as accessible as possible to the public. This will include the development of museum interpretation, displays, activities and events. I will be working with colleagues, in developing museum related training for the Discovery Centre staff, facilitating access to the stored collections plus being responsible for day to day management of collections on display. In the coming months this work will include organising a programme of school holiday events.

**Alison Marsh**

## Congratulations to Mary Tyrell, M.B.E.

Everybody who knows her will have been delighted to hear that Mary was awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List for over forty years of service to the Friends of Gosport War Memorial Hospital. What a wonderful friend she has been - not only to the Hospital but to everyone including the Friends of Gosport Museum.

**Bob Whiteley**

# Available in the Discovery Centre

## A letter from Sue Smith Team Librarian Gosport Discovery Centre

Dear Mr Whiteley

Friends of Gosport Museum

I am writing to all the history groups in our area to bring your attention to the new access arrangements for useful databases. Hampshire County Library pays a subscription fee for our users to have access to the *Times Digital Archive (1785 -1985)* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* from all Hampshire Libraries and from home. The *Times Digital Archive* allows you to use keyword or date searching to read and print from the *Times* newspaper. You will be able to get access to contemporary accounts of events and to print facsimile copies of an article or page from your chosen paper. *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* has 50,000 authoritative biographical articles and a host of other features. Anyone interested in history will be absorbed by both of these resources.

All you need to access these resources is a Hampshire Library card and Internet access, if you do not have the Internet at home access is available free of charge from all our service points. I enclose a leaflet which details some of the other resources available to you. If you feel that you would like any guidance on the use of these resources please contact me by 'phone or any member of staff on your next visit to a Hampshire Library. I can arrange to demonstrate the sites to small groups if you wish.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

## What's available ? Some information from the leaflet mentioned above

### Art and music

**Bridgeman Art Library Archive** - images from museums, art galleries and collections around the world.

**Grove Art** - all aspects of the visual arts worldwide, from prehistory to the present day, with articles, biographies, images and more.

**Grove Music Online** - information on instruments, musicians, compositions, techniques and musical styles. With sounds, images and articles.

### Biography

**Oxford Dictionary of National Biography** - see Sue Smith's letter above

**Who's Who and Who Was Who 1897-2006** - influential people past and present.

### Dictionaries, encyclopaedias and general information

**Encyclopaedia Britannica Online** - over 118,000 up-to-date articles, and 14,000 images.

**Xreferplus** - online access to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, thesauri, books of quotations

**Oxford Reference Online** - extensive reference works, including science, literature, medicine, history, performing arts, languages and much more.

### Local and family history

**Ancestry** - access to England and Wales Censuses from 1841-1901, England and Wales civil registration index from 1837 onwards, US and other census data and much more

There is a small charge for this service. Please ask staff for details.

## Some events at the Discovery Centre - January to March 2007

**Family History Advice Clinic** - every Wednesday: 10.30 - 12.30 in the Local Studies Centre

**The Life and Writings of Anne Frank** - Thursday 25 January: 7.30 pm in the Studio Tickets £5-00

**Discover Family History** - Tuesday 6 February: 10 - 12 in the Learning Suite Book a free place

**The History of the Submarine** - Thursday 15 February: 7.30 pm Illustrated talk in the Studio by  
Commander Jeff Tall OBE, RN Tickets £5-00

**Living History** - Saturday 24 February: 10 - 3 pm in the Studio Volunteers from the C17<sup>th</sup> Village talks  
and demonstrations. Free - drop in at any time.

### **Friends of Gosport Museum Committee**

Chairman

*Bob Whiteley*

Vice-Chairman

*Bill Mansfield*

Hon. Secretary

*Mary Payne*

Assistant Hon. Sec.

*Mary Colyer*

Hon. Treasurer

*David Moore*

Membership Secretary

*Linda Hedley*

Committee Members

*Jo Adams*

*Michael Adams*

*Mary Duly*

*Joan Russell*

*Joan Symonds*

*Brenda Whiteley*

Ex-Officio

*Museum Curator*

*Chairman Gosport Society*

**Haslar** - Saturday 3 March - Saturday 31 March: Displays and exhibitions  
giving an illustrated history of Haslar Naval and Military Hospital

**Recollections of Haslar** - Thursday 8 March: 7.30 pm in the Studio by  
the people who were there. Tickets £5-00 including refreshments.

**Mother Courage and her children** - Thursday 15 March: 7.30 pm in  
the Studio. Solent Peoples Theatre and the story of Mother Courage following  
armies with her travelling canteen. Tickets £5-00

**Hospitals around the Harbour** - Thursday 22 March: 7.30 pm in the  
Studio. Illustrated talk by Lt. Col. Phil Ward RAMC covering 200 years of  
military medicine around Portsmouth Harbour. Tickets £5-00 including  
refreshments

**Ancient Greeks** - Saturday 31 March - Saturday 30 June: A British  
Museum Exhibition in the Gosport Gallery including pots, armour and statues  
(But not the Elgin Marbles !) of the ancient Greeks.

**Please send contributions for the Newsletter  
to Bob Whiteley, FGM Newsletter Editor  
5 Grange Farm, Little Woodham Lane,  
Gosport PO13 8 AB**

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 - Ask at the Discovery  
Centre for an Application form or contact  
Linda Hedley at 7 Fairhome Close, Elson,  
Gosport PO12 4HZ**

**This Newsletter was printed and produced with  
the help of the Museum**