Gosport Museum



Friends of Gosport Museum

March 1999

1999 will be a new start for the Gosport Gallery as additional funding from Hampshire County Council will provide the opportunity for an adventurous exhibitions programme for this year and for the future. (see page 3 for details)

The Martin Snape exhibition will be a difficult act to follow, mowever museum staff hope you will enjoy the exhibitions that have been selected for the Gallery.

New entrance for Gosport Gallery

A scheme to improve the entrance to the Gosport Gallery will begin in early April.

In its original function as a school, the gallery elevation was the back of the building. However it now serves as the main entrance to the Gosport Gallery. The gallery entrance is not currently inviting or attractive nor is the ramp particularly 'wheelchair friendly'.

Following the pedestrianisation of the town centre Ordnance Road became a service road for the new supermarket and the museum, and lost what little distinction it possessed. As a result the entrance to the Gosport Gallery can be difficult for visitors to find.

The new scheme will combine an attractive and practical ramped access to

the gallery and enhance the visual aspect of both the elevation and the entrance. This will include a raised flower bed and a small garden area beneath the gallery's main window. New paving and resurfacing the car park will complete the project. At the same time, the exterior of the entire museum premises will also be undergoing repairs and redecoration.

The work has been funded by Hampshire County Council, however an application has also been made for additional support under the Railtrack grants for Museums and Galleries.

The Gosport Gallery will be closed during April and May whilst works are completed. The museum will be open as usual throughout the period.



Hampshire County Council

Contributions to: The Newsletter Editor Gosport Museum Walpole Road Gosport Hampshire PO12 1NS

This newsletter is also available on the World Wide Web

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http://www.hants.gov.uk/museum/gosport/Friends/index.html

Coffee Shop Gallery

Have you tried a cup of coffee at the Coffee Shop Gallery. It's said to be the best coffee in town!

Coffee Shop GalleryExhibition Programme

2 Feb - 13 Mar Hovercraft to the Rescue

16 Mar - 29 Mar Wildlife of Stokes Bay and Browndown

6th Apr - 29th May 40th Anniversary of the Twinning between Gosport and Royan

1 Jun - 10 Jul Local Artists

The Museum is keen to hear from anyone who would be interested in exhibiting in the Coffee Shop Gallery. Please contact a member of the museum staff for further information.

British Association of Friends of Museums

Joan Russell and Mary Duly attended the 1998 British Association of Friends of Museums Annual General Meeting at the Imperial War Museum on 14th November on our behalf. After a certain amount of trouble on the railway journey (problems with railway signals), a jolly good day was enjoyed by them both.

They decided not to attend the morning session (the theme being Friendly Museums - action zone for Volunteers and Friends) since this would have made the day too long. Synopses of the talks were provided, however.

The AGM was the best Mary had ever attended. The new Chairman of BAfM conducted proceedings with a light hand on the tiller, with many an excellent joke, but in no way trivialising the occasion and items were speedily dealt with.

After tea, the meeting split up into groups for separate tours round the Museum's 'goodies'. In Mary and Joan's case, their guide was from the Museum's Art Department and they found him - whether looking at pictures or artefacts - imaginatively opening eyes and understanding.

In the evening there was a tour of the Globe Theatre :this nearby fascinating; first, a reception in a lovely upper room looking out over the Thames to the floodlit St Paul's with delightful music, madrigals and a recorder ensemble provided by members of The Globe Friends in contemporary (to Shakespeare) Then came the tour of the costume theatrical museum and the Globe itself not only interesting but affording the emotional impact of viewing the building itself.

Schools Local History worksheet pack

Joan Russell, Mary Duly, Mary Colyer and Joan Symonds have now completed a 'Work Sheet pack to accompany the 'Look at Gosport Town' booklet. This is aimed at encouraging teachers and their students to hunt for the answers to a series of questions relating to each page in the booklet. For further information contact Joan Russell, c/o Gosport Museum. Copies of the booklet itself are still available (at £1 per copy). Enquiries, please, to Mary Duly, c/o Gosport Museum.

Two new museum publications

The museum has just published two fascinating local history booklets: 'The Origins of Gosport' by Philip Eley, and 'The architecture of the Gosport Free Library and Technical Institute' by Ian Edelman. Both booklets are available for 50p each from the museum.

Volunteer Corner

It was with real interest and total ignorance that I offered to have a go when David Kemp wanted some help with the Geology collection. I had visions of fossils with impossible names and enormous tomes of scientific data. These, I've discovered, certainly do exist but my small contribution has been much easier, and also fun!

Over the last year or so, I've gradually abelled, sorted and filed into acid free Secol pockets some hundreds (or thousands) or photographs and negatives which David has taken over the years of all Hampshire and neighbouring sites where changes have occurred, either through natural erosion or local development. In most cases, there's a before, during and after

view which is a fascinating record of environmental change and, possibly, progress. The M27, the Newbury by-pass, Twyford Down, the Peel Common Sewage works, Southampton Docks, Brackelsham Bay, Hordle, Barton Cliffs and Testwood Lakes are all shown. There is a most thorough on-going record of the controversial Lee-on-Solent coastline protection programme. There are also many photographs of fossils and geological museum specimens.

At all stages, David has made it easy, with his good humour, thoroughness and detailed knowledge. A really enjoyable project!

Joan Symonds

Gosport Gallery
Exhibition
Programme
1999/2000

July - Sept
RISK
A hands-on
interactive exhibition
which will look at
many of the risks
associated with
modern life.

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

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Memories and Experiences of Civilian Women in Gosport during World War II

"You were all facing the same thing - it didn't matter whether you had a penny or a pound"
"The war took five years from my life"

"You wouldn't recognise the High Street - it's a shambles"

"They de-loused the German prisoners in a field just over there - we had more fleas than that!"

"Women got the sack very often because the men were coming back"

These quotations come from oral history interviews recorded by Jenny Bartlett, who is currently gathering the memories and experiences of civilian women in Gosport during World War II. Her aim is to establish whether the experience of Gosport women was similar to, or different from, the experience of women across Britain.

If you are willing to share your WWII memories, Jenny can be contacted on 01705-528448 (32 Foster Road, Gosport, P012 2JJ).

DATES FOR YOUR 1999 DIARY

3pm 9th March 1999 The Forton Reds - Colin Bowden Slide Lecture with Music and some Exhibits Tickets available from Gosport Museum.

7.30pm 11th May 1999

Annual General Meeting followed by a Lecture on Archaeology with HM Royal Navy by Christopher Currie.

15th May 1999

Summer Outing (with the Gosport Society and the St Vincent's Local History Groups) to Furzey Gardens, Minstead and Breamore House including its Country Museum.(Details from Mary Duly, c/o Gosport Museum.)

3pm 14th July 1999 The Early Days of Haslar Hospital -lecture by Margaret Roberts

12th October 1999
The Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology by Brian Sharp.
Lecture with slides.

Out and About at The Balfour Museum of Hampshire Red Cross History

This column will appear regularly, suggesting museums you might like to visit.

The Balfour Museum of Hampshire Red Cross History is run by volunteers, and is well worth a visit. You will find it at Weeke, Winchester, next to Red Cross House in Dean Lane, just off the A.272 Winchester to Stockbridge Road.

Wheelchair access is provided and a coffee shop. The exhibition gives a neat history of the organisation since it was

founded by Henry Dunant in the middle of the last century, resulting from the sight of wounded soldiers dying alone, in terrible pain, at the battle of Solferino. The signing of the First Geneva Convention in 1864 led to the establishment of Red Cross Societies throughout the world.

Volunteer attendants are not on duty every day so a telephone call before you set out to visit the Museum is advised.

For further information: tel. 01962 865174.

Chairman's Message

The Committee is hoping that the Friends' membership could include a wider representation of the Borough's schools. At present only one school subscribes: Leesland Infant School. If you have any close contact with other Gosport schools, please try to persuade them that membership of Friends of Gosport Museum would be well worth their while.

This year we have arranged four lectures (in March, in May following the AGM, in July and in October) and shall begin on preparing our Millenium booklet on the town: its growth since Borough status was granted in 1922.

Jennie Hall