

Members of the Friends
may notice a new face
on the Museum

Reception Desk.

She is Denise Baggett
who joined the staff in
May as a full-time
Museum Assistant.

Heather Underwood
who has worked at the
museum on a casual
basis for some time
replaces Wendy Buxey
who has left us to work
in Portsmouth.

We welcome the new
staff members and
send our best wishes
to Wendy in her new
career.

CHAIRMAN'S AGM ADDRESS

"This is my third AGM as Chairman and I am giving this report from memory. The editorship of the Newsletter which had been Joan Russell's responsibility was given to me - and at present I hold this post as well as being your Chairman. Ian Edelman, as Curator of the Museum, is Editor-in-Chief and can veto any item of 'copy' (to use a newspaper term). At that time, the committee asked Joan Russell if she would be willing to become Project Director. Happily for us she agreed to do so.

With this in mind, you can see the List of Officers up for election today, with their respective proposers and seconders.

We are also looking for new committee members, and of course additional ones can be co-opted. New committee member, Mary Colyer, has proved to be one of life's 'calming influences', and for this alone is a great boon by her regular committee attendance.

Joan Russell's report to you today (as Project Director) sets our agenda for the Millennium booklet (publication date Easter 2000). It reminds me to press on with its research and agreeing a budget to cover printing and other expenditure."

Jennie Hall

Friends web pages success !

The Friends web pages were featured on Radio Solent in March.

If you have the internet look under <http://www.hants.org.uk/gosportmuseumfriends/>
See page 2 for an image of the Friends Homepage.

A version of this newsletter will also be published on the internet !

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



Chairman's Snippets

The Mayor's Parlour needs a copy of Philip Eley's monograph: God's Port - The Origins of Gosport*. I say this because the programme printed for guests at this year's mayor-making ceremony might lead newcomers to Gosport to believe the Henry of Blois story. Philip's monograph sets out new evidence to prove that the town was built at the time of Godfrey de Lucy, Bishop of Winchester in 1204. These newly-researched documents use the name of Gosport for the first time.

*
On sale at the Museum for 50p.

NEW MUSEUM GARDEN

As part of further improvements to the Museum's building including the provision of a new access ramp into the Gosport Gallery for wheelchair users, the Committee has decided to fund a new garden at the gable end of the gallery. This will cost in the region of £1,000, to include planting with mature plants.

Committee member Joan Symonds has advised on the choice of shrubs to be planted which will create a 'ready established' garden in time for the re-opening in July. Our first garden at the west end of the Museum flourishes, and we look forward to an equally successful second garden.

MIDSUMMER PARTY

New Friends of Gosport Museum - Brenda and Bob Whiteley - have kindly agreed to make their house and garden available for us to enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles on Thursday 24th June 1999. They live at Grange Farm and are restoring the fabric of the house and discovering its history. Dating back to Tudor times, might Will Shakespeare have pondered his next play, there? The farm also has links with Shakespeare's mentor, the Earl of Southampton. If the weather is kind, this will be a particularly enjoyable social event - and if it rains, our host and hostess will let us all into their home.

Names to the front desk at the Museum, £2 each, in advance. Numbers limited to 25. Travel arrangements and further details will be provided to each guest beforehand.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gosport Museum Friends HomePage - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by VNI". The browser's address bar shows "http://www.gosportmuseum.co.uk". The page content includes:

FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

● Homepage ●

The Friends of Gosport Museum are an active and enthusiastic group of people who support their local Museum.

The Friends was established in 1992 by a group of people who wanted to play an active part in the life of their local museum

There are usually three to four public lectures each year, a Summer expedition to a stately home, museum or other places of interest, a Christmas Tea Party and there is also the chance to work behind the scenes in the Museum Resources Room.

- [Friends Newsletter](#)
- [Friends Committee](#)
- [How to join the Friends](#)
- [Diary Dates 1999](#)
- [Gosport Museum](#)

at the 'How to join the Friends' web page !!!!!

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, Control Panel, Newsletter su..., and Gosport Mus... windows.

A VISIT TO EASTLEIGH

A good idea for a museum to visit out of town could be to Eastleigh's, in a former Salvation Army citadel. It's near the railway station and is now establishing its own Museum Friends. The curator, Sue Tapliss, would I'm sure, give a special welcome to visitors from Gosport. When I saw the museum, there was a splendid collection of patchwork quilts on display. For opening hours, telephone 01703-643026.

Secretary Mary Duly recommends the Beatrice Royal Contemporary Arts & Crafts Gallery also at Eastleigh. It is the largest-selling gallery for such material in the South. But you are welcome just to look rather than buy. At the moment the Gallery is exhibiting the work of 48 contemporary artists and crafts people, and includes examples of ceramics, glass, jewellery, furniture and textiles. The Gallery is sited in a rather unlikely place, in a redundant church on an Eastleigh housing estate some 5 minutes off Exit 5 of the M27.

There is an intriguing connection between the Beatrice Royal and the well-known DIY store B&Q. The previous owner of B&Q had always wanted to be an artist. He saw his chance to be involved in the artistic world when his business was bought out. This provided him with the capital and time to establish the Gallery as 'a showplace to promote the wider appreciation and ownership of contemporary art. Incidentally, Beatrice was his mother's name. The Gallery's address is Nightingale Avenue, Eastleigh. Telephone 01703-610592, and open Tuesday to Sunday and on public holidays.

THE FORTON REDS by Colin Bowden

Our March lecture was a lively occasion. Colin has a particular interest in military music and had already given the lecture (illustrated with slides and taped music) to the Gosport Society but sought a repeat performance with us because our Museum staff had given him a great deal of help towards preparing the talk. The audience gave generously to the collection taken for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. We are hoping to invite Colin during 2000, for his presentation of the Battle of Trafalgar, another of his music and pictures presentations.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

David Maber has published an account of World War II air-raids on Alverstoke, "Blitz - Bombs over Alverstoke", available from the Gosport Bookshop at £9.99. For those of us who were living in or near the village at that time, it is a "must-buy" acquisition. David asks at the foot of his preface for any further information that residents might be able to provide on any bombs, exploded or unexploded, that have not so far been recorded, so that he can amend any future edition of his book.

Gosport Gallery

Exhibition

Programme

1999/2000

1 July - Oct 2

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

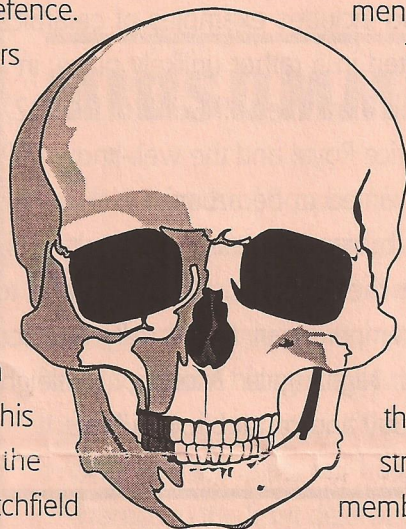
AGM LECTURE

The highlight of the Friends Annual General Meeting was an illustrated slide lecture given by Hampshire archaeologist Chris Currie. His talk entitled 'Archaeology with the Royal Navy' proved to be an idiosyncratic insight into his archaeological excavations on property owned by the Ministry of Defence.

Chris Currie told members that he is the best paid archaeologist in the country. He explained how his archaeological involvement with the Royal Navy was entirely fortuitous following a newspaper article about his excavation work on the fishponds adjacent to Titchfield Abbey. This led to him being contracted to undertake excavations at Southwick House on the site of the former priory. His good fortune in not offending a high ranking naval officer whilst he was working at Southwick House resulted in further archaeological employment on a variety of navy property including Fort Rowner.

The surprise find of two skeletons during an excavation allowed him to

explain his theory regarding the differences between the thickness of the skulls of male and female skeletons. It was a singular and strange hypothesis of neo-Darwinian thinking which rested on the premise that the survivors of historic battles were more likely to be those men with the thickest skulls.



These men were more likely to have been able to withstand the blows from ancient weapons and so pass on the thick skull genes for thick skulls to future generations! This theory of natural selection struck a number of members of the audience as somewhat eccentric and bizarre, based on the idea that procreational activities must never have occurred before battles. It was hard to believe that it wasn't stated with his tongue very firmly stuck in his cheek.

It was, however, an enjoyable and unusual lecture, continuing the Friends tradition of arranging a stimulating lecture programme for members and guests.

The AGM voted in the following officers and committee to serve through 1999/2000.

Chairman
Jennie Hall

Secretary
Mary Duly

Treasurer
David Moore

Project Director
Joan Russell

Assistant Secretary
Rosemary Gibaud

Membership Sec
Margaret Roberts

Newsletter Editor
Jennie Hall

Committee Members
Joan Symonds
Jo Adams
Mary Colyer.

Lesley Burton attends meetings on behalf of the Gosport Society

Rosemary Gibaud also represents the Living History Society.

Future Lectures

Wednesday, 14th July 1999: 3 pm
Margaret Roberts - Early Days at Haslar Hospital.
(Please give in names at the front desk of the Museum).

Tuesday, 12th October 1999: 7.30 pm
Brian Sharp - Hampshire and Wight Marine Archaeology Unit.