



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk
or www.fogm.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2019

Informal Coffee Meeting

No Longer Take Place Each Month, maybe
reinstated in the future

Look out for changes and events in the old
Library/ Gosport Gallery/ SEARCH building.

Gosport Gallery

27th September to 31st December

I Grew Up in 80s Exhibition

FREE admission £3 suggested donation

Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Gosport Discovery Centre

25th November 7:30pm

Haslar's D-Day By Eric Birbrck

Admission £5

Elson Library

28th November 7pm £10

A Wreath of Festive Frights

By Resting Actor Alfred St John Merrimoon

Friends Christmas Party

12th December 10:30am

Enter by the Clarence Rd Entrance

Tea/ Coffee etc.

Followed by Tour of the Building with members
of the Hampshire Cultural Trust staff
responsible for the planning of and fundraising
for the Gosport Museum and Art Gallery.

'Find Out What's Going On'

No Charge.

Report from the Chair

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the winter. As you may know from newspapers and the radio, Gosport is one of 69 towns to be receiving a Heritage Action Zone Grant. In January, GBC will confirm the funding to transform the Former Grammar School building for community use. In future, this 1901 Art Nouveau influenced site will be known as "Gosport Museum and Art Gallery".

The new museum will be a priority but work on the building must be scheduled to make the job stay on budget, so we are looking into 2022 as a possible opening. President Bob Whiteley and the committee will be deciding how best to contribute to the new museum and to remember Margaret Roberts – the very first person to join the Friends when it began in 1991 – who left us a bequest in her Will.

On Thursday December 12th at 10.30 am there will be a 'Christmas Gathering' of "The Friends of the Museum" in the old building. Enter via Clarence Road. Coffee etc. will be available followed by a chance to tour the site with staff involved in the transformation of the building. Please come and join the party. Maggie Ventham

Jodrell Bank and Tests at Gosport by Mary Duly

This is an article with a wider remit than just Gosport itself but Gosport as part of a wider national scene. I recently noticed in the Press the exciting, for me, news that the ground-breaking Jodrell Bank Telescope had been nominated as a World Heritage site.

Why on earth should I find this exciting?

In the strange way that life has of taking one in unexpected directions, I had found myself as a student in London renting a room from a friend who turned out to have an incredibly interesting connection, with the very scientist, Bernard Lovell, later knighted, who took the risk of setting up Jodrell Bank in the first place. His wife was, in fact, my friend's cousin. To remind you, Sir Bernard was a key member of the famous Radar team at Bardsey Island in wartime. My friend went to visit the Lovells at Jodrell Bank & there met the establishment's No. 2, Robert Hanbury Brown, another Bardsey Island pioneer. They fell in love and married. We all owe a great debt to Hanbury, the name by which he was known. At Bardsey he was, with another member of the team, the inventor of the Radar machine which was in due course attached to aeroplanes and so helped to undermine the effectiveness of the deadly German submarine campaign in the approaches to Western ports.

And Gosport plays an important part in this! Hanbury himself told me how he carried out successful tests from a plane, flying from H.M.S. Sultan out over the Solent.

Hanbury was elected a Member of the prestigious Royal Society at a very young age, and went on to climb other scientific heights. He established the equivalent of Jodrell Bank in Australia and it was through this radio telescope that the words of the 1st Man on the Moon were relayed to us.

And, after his funeral near Andover, found myself talking to an old Fleet Air Arm pilot, a Lee neighbour, about the day's events: incredibly he could add that he had actually been the captain of the first flight into which radar was put! And then he even recalled that he had known Hanbury as a boy in his home town of Brighton.

Do you come across such amazing connections as in this story? It often happens to me.
By Mary Duly.

Venue Manager's Report

Over the past few months volunteers have been working in the stores to reorganise paperwork relating to donations and record new donations to improve access to items. There are now 4 volunteers working in the collection stores every Monday. We recently welcomed a student studying an OU in history and a former curator of Fort Brockhurst who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team. Dot has sorted all the material from the Margaret Roberts donation and that is now in boxes in the Research Room. Pam has been working through a large general donation of items within which we are discovering lots of interesting documents. This will all be recorded and added to the store inventory. Maggie and Charlotte have been resorting the maps from the Geoffrey Civil collection for an enquiry and looking through Council records to gather information for another enquiry.

In November Robin Iles, from the collections Team and Jenny Stevens will be visiting the stores to devise a plan to improve access to the collections in the stores to enable enquiries to be answered more efficiently and that items can be located as required, they will also be discussing training with the volunteers.

The newly created research space has been utilised. Enquiries received this period have included one relating to the old bank notes kept in the Gosport collections, the Geoffrey Civil

Collection , and Gosport Councillors. Research has also been undertaken by a student on work experience with the Thorngate Trust who was gathering information for a booklet on behalf of the Trust.

The collections volunteers have supported the Friends in creating a Pop-up Museum for Heritage Open Days. Items, some of which have not been displayed before, were cleaned and displayed to create a mini museum in the space at the front of the building. Items included the scales and trays from Withers the Butchers, maps of the town from different eras, photos of Gosport past, items from the Grove Estate, and items from the Mumby collection. Through support from the Friends new display cases and Secol to protect paper items were purchased. A large screen interactive touchscreen, Samsung Flip, on a trolley was also purchased through a grant the Friends had received. This screen showed photos of Gosport past on a PowerPoint for visitors to view. The museum was open for 3 days and received 277 visitors. Many positive comments were made about the displays and the opportunity was used to consult with the community on their views of what form a new museum in the building should take and what the visitor experience should be. The museum was manned by volunteers who talked enthusiastically to visitors about the collections. Visitors were also encouraged to leave memories of the building in a Memory Box. A few visitors made return visits to share with us photos linked to the building or collections on display. Wendy Redman HCT Venue Manager

New Members

At the pop-up museum over the Heritage Open Days, there were Friends of Gosport Museum membership forms and from those forms we have three new members. There was a membership campaign run by Maggie a few years ago, that brought in a number of new members but as things such as the FoGM sponsored talks in the Discovery Centre had stopped most of those new members only stayed for a year. With the concentration of effort and support now directed to the Hampshire Cultural Trust – Gosport Museum and Art Gallery (the museum part) I would hope more people will see that there is something that they can be involved with. Ian Jeffery

History Information Request Emails Received

Can give me some direction please , I have the voters list for 1930/31 for Fareham Road , I am tracing Alfred Jenkins and Fanny Tucker who lived at Penlee, Fareham Road Gosport in 1939 . Looking on Goole maps currently the road has changed so much so to the photos of houses that I have of the period 1920/30s . Have or could you please point me to where there are photos / maps of 1939 period of Fareham Road please. Regards P. Tucker.

I advised about the photos in the Museum, but as he lives away from the area, he is looking for online photos. Ian

Greg Williams asked if there is anyone who has information about the Commonwealth War Graves in Anns Hill Cemetery?

I just wondered whether these two web pages will be of any interest to your site visitors.

www.godfreydykes.info/PORTSMOUTH_WHEN_SAILORS_LIVED_IN_HULKS_PORTSEA_OS_MAP_1898.html - mainly about Gosport and Queen Victoria's death and State Funeral!

www.godfreydykes.info/Gosport_versus_Portsmouth_as_the_hosts_to_%20naval_establishments_and_individual_%20commands_or_addresses.html - a very different look on history?
Godfrey [Jeff] Dykes

(Seems that you will need to copy the whole address in to browser Ian)

The Friends of Gosport Museum Website

The Friends website can be reached at friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk or fogm.org.uk.

If you go on to the site and find something doesn't work such as a link to another page or site, please let me know so I can fix it.

If you feel something should be changed for example to make the site easier to use or would like to see one or more items to be added or removed, again please let me know.

All the Friends of Gosport Museum Newsletters produced since the beginning of the Friends (with the possible exception of one that may be missing from the early days) are included on the website.
Ian Jeffery

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Subscription for Membership

Subscriptions for Friends of Gosport Museum due from 1st April each year at £6 single £9 joint please send the Payments (cheques made to: Friends of Gosport Museum) to Linda Hedley, 7 Fairhome Close, Elson, Gosport, Hants PO12 4HZ. Tel: 023 9258 6130

Joined since 1st November 2018 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2020.

Would You Like to Volunteer?

If you would like to volunteer for SEARCH it would be Wendy at wendy.redman@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk or for the Museum and Gallery Katie Andrews VSA katie.andrews@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

New Education Officer Gemma Walters, as both new staff are part-time please allow them time to get back to you as not in every day. Thank you

If you have information, articles, events or photos that may be of interest to Friends of Gosport Museum, please let me have them by post or email. If for the January Newsletter by 20th December or as soon as you can to: Ian Jeffery 11 Harcourt Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 3NR ian@gosport.info

The Newsletter can be received by email (Adobe Reader .pdf) let me know if you would be happy to receive it this way. This will help save FoGM cost, keeping the subscription down. Thank you Ian

Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
Ian Jeffery, FoGM Newsletter Editor
11 Harcourt Road, PO12 3NR ian@gosport.info
If you would be happy to receive this Newsletter
by email in .PDF, please let me know.
The views expressed are not necessarily those of
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