



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

Supporting Gosport Museum & Art Gallery
www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk
or www.fogm.org.uk

NEWSLETTER MARCH/ APRIL 2021

BaFM

Though FoGM is not currently a member the British Association of Friends of Museums continue sending their emails.

They have advised that the region now has a Coordinator – Tim Craven, he has sent an email introducing himself, which I will hope to add to the next newsletter.

They also advised while Libraries and community spaces can open from 12th April Museums will not be able to until 17th May.

Gosport Gallery

Gosport Past and Present
Scenes by very different artists
Neil Marshall and David Whitson
The Gallery is open when it is able to be.
Museums and so on classed as
entertainment spaces so not before 17th May
between the dates Tuesday to Saturday
10am to 4pm

Free admission, but Booking is now required
www.hampshireculture.org.uk or
Tel: 023 9387 7840

Report from Chair

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter hoping that you are well and looking forward to 'freedom' plus some better weather. No doubt the majority of you have been vaccinated for the first time. The season is changing, days are longer and my camellia is starting to bloom a month early. As I'm writing this report, the application should have been sent to Planning Authority, to make necessary changes to the old Grammar School for re-purposing as 'Gosport Museum and Art Gallery'.

Wendy Redman and Jenny Stevens, our museum collections overseer, have been creating an **on-line 'Public Consultation' - 'The Suggested Plan and Contents of the New Museum'** a Link will be given for access. Many other groups, clubs, associations and interested parties are taking part so we need to be active and positive. Due to the shortage of time available, this consultation will have to be done on-line. The proposed Exhibition 'Gosport Past and Present' will take place when lockdown allows. Unfortunately, the date to wrap up the plans for the new museum is June! **Therefore, I urge all members to take part in the Public Consultation, involve friends and family, and visit the Exhibition.** When the building re-opens, I will ask Wendy, to book a Friends Meeting and speak to us.

Link to online survey : <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RNSVTS>

Stay safe, and think about the Gosport Museum you would wish for! Maggie Ventham 17/02/21

Subscription Reminder 2021/22

I have enclosed a subscription reminder form for if you wish to pay your subscription for the 2021/22 year it is still £6 for an individual and £9 for a couple at the same address. If you joined after 1st November 2020 your subscription will last until until 31st March 2022.

Again this year, if you do not pay your subscription by the 1st November 2021, you will not be removed from the membership list and will continue to receive newsletters and other correspondence from the Friends of Gosport Museum. If you wish to cancel your membership, please contact Ian Jeffery ian@gosport.info the address and telephone number is on page 4.

Venue Manager's Report

We will be opening with the Past and Present exhibition planned for the start of this year as soon as we can. This does mean we have had to cancel the Open Art exhibition planned for April 2021. We are still working towards closure to the public at the beginning of June with works beginning in July/August. Plans are being made to continue to deliver our services from a different location, possibly a shop unit on the High Street, and outreach for our school service.

Plans for the redevelopment are picking up pace. We are in the process of appointing a Creative practitioner or team to develop the concepts for the new museum. We are also beginning to engage the community in the process of creating the museum. We are asking the general community and our partners within it to contribute by sharing with us memories and information linked to the themes we are planning to cover within the displays. I do have a link to the survey to send to FOGM members <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2RNSVTS> As it is only a two page (one double sided) survey, I have attached a copy to all newsletters. The collection of memories will continue once we reopen and be incorporated in the gallery exhibition. Only one memory that fits into the themes below can be put on each form.

The project funded by the Gosport HAZ and Historic England to engage secondary aged pupils in the Stokes Bay Conservation Area being planned and run by Gemma, the Schools Manager, has been moved from February to April.

Jenny Stevens is continuing to work on the museum collections remotely through Modes, the digital collection system used by HCT in preparation for the new displays. Our opening exhibition for Spring 2022 is 100 stories of Gosport to commemorate 100 years of Gosport becoming a borough. Tata Marinus, the Exhibition Officer, is working on the plans for this. Wendy Redman

Gosport Museum - Exhibition themes for memories (one memory on each for please)

- Our natural world – the natural environment of the region, from its flora and fauna and coastal context through to contemporary concerns such as erosion and rising sea levels.
- Life on the water – how Gosport’s most notable natural feature, the sea, has nurtured industries and lifestyles oriented around the water.
- Names you know – featuring the influential families who have shaped Gosport’s industry and community, and individuals who have received national and international prominence. – –
- Industrious minds – highlighting the many inventions, innovations and manufacturing operations that have their origins in Gosport.
- Our caring community – the institutions and initiatives that supported civilians and military families, through education, healthcare and social care.
- A broad church – places of worship and expressions of faith, exploring notable buildings, events and names, from Handel to the wife of King Charles V of Spain.
- Are you being served? – the changing face of the high street and Gosport’s iconic traders past and present, from store owners to market stall holders.
- Getting around – modes of transport in a peninsular town, from trams and buses to crossing the harbour on the iconic ferry.
- Sporting life – the plethora of individual and team sporting activities and facilities that have kept residents active, and the memories and achievements of those who have participated.
- A night on the town – from Gosport’s infamous pubs to its cinemas and theatres, exploring

how leisure and entertainment has looked over the years.

- Playing our part – Gosport's contribution to nationally significant moments, from its earlier role in national defence to an air and diving training ground and even a film set.
- Port of call – residents' experiences of Gosport as a place of cultural exchange, fuelled by the global reach of naval operations.

For exploration outside formal museum displays:

- Connections and referrals to other heritage and historic offerings in Gosport
- Local lingo – words you'll only find in Gosport
- The Old Grammar School building and its own history

Can anyone help Sue Forrest, do you know what 21 Queens Road, (Bourton House) was before the new properties were built. Her grandfather was living at that address at the time of his marriage. He was lost on the HMS Hood when her mother was 4 years old. Thank you Ian.

Items from Venue Managers Report to Joint Management Committee

The Gosport Team continued to work throughout the November closure to ensure projects were delivered and the Schools Loans Box service could continue. Team members, excluding the Venue Manager, have been placed on flexible furlough leave from 23 December. Throughout this period the team have continued to explore new ways of working to deliver more aspects of the usual service in a Covid safe way. This has included greater digital engagement, reduced booking availability for school groups to ensure handling collections can be used safely, and introducing ticketed time slots for the Play Gallery. We have welcomed 6 new volunteers to the team. In total the volunteers worked 526 hours in the gallery and stores.

The Gallery has hosted 2 exhibitions during this period, Microsculpture (ending September 27) and Marvellous Mechanicals. The Play Gallery reopened in October with timed booked slots for one social bubble at a time ensuring it remained a safe place to use. The slots were fully booked through to December within a few days of being made available in September. Due to the high demand an additional slot was added on weekdays and 2 on a Saturday.

'Thank you so much Gosport Gallery for putting so much effort to reopen the Play Gallery and keep everyone safe. It's a lot of work for something that is free to the community and it means a lot to us locals' Comment made on social media on the re-opening of the Play Gallery.

SEARCH has continued to engage with schools through both onsite visits and virtual activities.

During lockdown lead was stolen from the roof. This was replaced with a lead substitute. The floor damaged by water when a tap was accidentally left on was levelled and new carpet tiles laid.

The number of followers on our social media accounts continues to grow. The gallery Facebook page now has over 1000 followers and the SEARCH one has just under 600. In addition to this we have over 400 followers on Instagram. Short films of the exhibitions have been added to the Hampshire Cultural Trust blog 'Culture on Call'.

A new payment system, Vend, has been installed in the gallery. This will enable payments for merchandise, activities, and services including the Loans Boxes to be taken and recorded more easily. Monetary donations through the contactless reader and the traditional cash box in the gallery have been higher than in previous periods. Purchases made of items linked to the exhibitions are also up compared to past years.

MP Caroline Dineage visited the Microsculpture exhibition and commented at how impressed she was at the presentation and calibre of exhibitions on display in the space. She also praised the teams work in getting the gallery re-open in a safe way.

Maritime Archaeology Trust New Website
maritimearchaeologytrust.org including interactive of lost WW1 Wrecks also Portsmouth Harbour.

Hampshire Archive Trust Online Events

Census returns for local and family history – Tuesday 16 March 2021, 6pm-7pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/product.php?productid=56802&cat=513&page=1>. The census returns for 1841-1911 are a way of discovering more about the people who lived in your street, town or village, or gaining insights into the lives of your ancestors. In this census year, as we start to think about completing our own returns, this talk will explore some of the possibilities and pitfalls in using the census returns for local or family history research. Using examples from Hampshire.

President

Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman

Margaret Ventham
023 9252 5229

Vice Chairman

Hon. Treasurer

David Moore
023 9258 6575

Hon. Secretary

Ian Jeffery
023 9252 3358

Committee Secretary

Dot Bedenham

Membership Secretary

Linda Hedley
023 9258 6130

Project Director

Committee Members

Sydney Aynsworth
Mary Duly
David Taylor

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 2019 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2021.

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 for the May/ June Newsletter please send them by 23rd April or earlier if 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
Hampshire Cultural Trust, or its staff.

Membership of Friends of Gosport Museum is
open to all - Please contact any Committee
member. Annual Subscription Individuals £6
Families £9.00. Due 1st April Each Year.
This Newsletter was printed and produced
with the help of Hampshire Cultural Trust.