



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

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

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2021



Gosport Planning Draft Consultation
I've been contacted by GBC Planning Policy Team re the Public Consultation draft. We get a chance to comment because we are a local organisation! You can access the website www.gosport.gov.uk/gblp2038consultation

You can comment via the response form provided on the website. If you would like me to do a response from the FoGMs you'll have to email me your comments!

Looks like a lot of development but Sultan Field is to be a green space for the Brent geese! Reply to Council by 3rd December.

Maggie Ventham

Report from Chair

Welcome to the autumn newsletter, I hope you are all getting back to some sort of normality after the last year and a half. Heritage Open Days events were arranged at 'Gosport Museum and Art Gallery' as works to redevelop the old building will not begin until the new year. Some architectural details and estimates have yet to be decided. The delay will give more time to organise the move to rented premises in the High Street.

A rented shop chosen with space for meetings, merchandise, displays, with an old-fashioned style of shop using museum objects will be used when required. This will help to maintain contact with the public and visitors to the Art and Play Galleries. Search school visits are moving temporarily this month to the Submarine Museum and will be delivered there in the learning spaces currently not in use. The Xmas 'Makers Market' will take place at Fort Brockhurst with the help of English Heritage. The redevelopment remains planned to be finished in 2022 with the final fit-out being done as building work and decoration are completed in each space.

I asked the committee to come to an impromptu meeting on September 9th to discuss the future. Wendy Redman gave us a good hour of her time to explain the planned layout of the new museum. As you know, the public were asked to give memories of past life and events in Gosport. From these and the recent exhibition 'Gosport Past and Present' eight themes have been chosen to show the work and social life in the town. Thank you for sending subscriptions for the current year which pay for the newsletter and have kept the Friends of the Museum going in these difficult days. Maggie Ventham September 13th 2021

Newsletters

I thought that I should put something here about the September/ October Newsletter. You haven't missed it. I did not produce one, I am sorry if you were waiting for one. The items that were sent in for that one have been added here. Ian Jeffery

'Tag-a-Tile'

This campaign will give individuals the opportunity to give a minimum donation of £30 and in return they will have a tile inscribed and placed in the new outdoor courtyard as part of the redevelopment. Once building works are completed they will be invited to Private View to see their tile and the building before it re-opens to the public. All monies donated through this campaign will go towards the refurbishment of the building. The donations for tiles can be made online and in person. There is also information on the Hampshire Cultural Trust website. They will be similar to the ones along the Millennium walkway at the ferry. I have been advised that it has already raised £5,500.

Here is the link for the Tag-a-Tile campaign should the Friends members wish to donate for an inscribed tile <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/tag-a-tile> .

Designing Gosport's New Museum

Following public consultation, the themes chosen for the museum will reflect life as it developed in Gosport with collections and stories selected by the community. For those of you who were unable to attend the tour of the old building at our Xmas meeting in 2019, here is a brief outline of the changes and important recent information from Wendy.

All users of the building will enter through the double green doors under the portico in the High St. The doors will open outwards allowing people to see into the entrance through an inner glass doorway. Visitors will be encouraged to see what's happening inside and come into the building. The partition walls in the front spaces are part of the Grade 2 Listing but can be detached and replaced in different positions. The space on the left will become a licenced café and shop, the opening to the Museum will be on the right. A corridor will continue on into the Art Gallery. The inner wall of this corridor will be glass with access to a paved garden where the carpark is now. The Geology Gallery is being dismantled, the contents and model mammoth will be transferred to Search-Hands-On Educational Centre on the first floor where a display case in the Kemp Room (named in memory of David Kemp who started the original gallery with his collection of local material) will contain the geology specimens.

Visitors will follow a route through the Museum, via a re-opened doorway at the back, leading into the ground floor corridor to give access to new toilets, the Play Gallery, a Meeting Room for hire and an Activities Room. Search will only occupy the upper floor, so the Victorian and Mid 2th Century Rooms Sets are being taken away to provide for study of Natural Sciences required by schools. The public will be separated from the visiting school children.

If further funds are acquired the false wall at the back of the Art Gallery will be opened up to form an archway leading into the new Play Gallery. This would be advantageous, volunteers and staff would be enabled to steward and see more easily into the play area. The vacated space next to the Art Gallery will be available as an exhibition space for local organisations and makers to hire. The Museum Research Room, on the floor above the Museum, will be refurbished and modernised. The room will be available to visit by appointment – volunteers will be needed to steward this area. Access will be through the double doors at the bottom of the turret staircase, a keypad will be used to prevent access to Search. The museum stores remain but need much sorting and tidying!

The Design of the New Museum

An octagonal structure will occupy the centre space. The inner part will be four sided, the outer eight sided. Relevant objects and material stored in the museum will be used to create displays which can be changed, not static displays, you may see stored donations you made in the past. The cabinets in the Discovery Centre will be emptied and removed, adding to the objects available to be used. From meetings with the public, Wendy and Jenny Stevens (Collections Team) have finally put together 8 THEMES which will feature around the outer sides of the octagonal structure. The inner 4 sides will contain permanent material including the collection of glass bottles from the local manufacturers of drinks and tools used for sailmaking.

Themes

Life on the Water and Transport

Industrious Minds - inventions, innovations and manufacturing operations originating in Gosport

Our Caring Community – institutions and initiatives that supported civilians and military families through education, healthcare and social care

Are You Being Served? – The changing face of the High St and Gosport's iconic traders past and present, from store owners to market stall holders

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 air and diving training grounds 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

More Information

The display introducing the Museum will feature 'Our Natural World', a brief history of Gosport, and a seating area in the bay window will have a 'Sound' experience - probably on a phone app to avoid headphones. There will also be a few touch-screens.

A tall glass display cabinet on the back wall of the café will feature museum objects with the idea of changing a shelf display each month – more help may be needed.

Other topics of interest will be shown on the walls and in window niches throughout the building - including maps, posters, pictures, photographs and objects showing the history of the town, connections and referrals to other heritage and historic offerings in Gosport, the local lingo you only hear in Gosport, the history of the old building itself as it developed from the Free library and Technical Institute founded in 1901 to become the former Gosport County Grammar School.

The Friends of Gosport Museum have great hopes for the huge effort being made by the staff at Hampshire Cultural Trust. Their efforts to save, regenerate and make the old building of value for everyone in Gosport will not be forgotten. By Maggie Ventham

STOP PRESS

We have been contacted by the Hampshire Cultural Trust.
The old building will be closed from the end of November.
At the time of going to press we do not know when the shop
in the High Street will be available.

<https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/> Tel: 023 9250 1957

Enjoy the 'Festive Fair at the Fort' for Xmas shopping! (20th November see page 1)

President

Bob Whiteley

Committee Chairman

Margaret Venham
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
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 2020 your subscription lasts to 1st April 2022.

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 as Katie Andrews is part-time please allow her time to get back to you as she is not in every day. New Schools Manager Alex Bogard Alex.Bogard@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk Thank you.

If you have information, articles, events or photos that may be of interest to Friends of Gosport Museum for the January 2022 by the 18th December 2021 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.