



FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

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

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2020

Gosport Gallery

Marvellous Mechanicals

4th to 19th December (subject to Covid rules)

An exhibition for all ages which features modern automata, or mechanical sculptures, with clever mechanisms and often humorous ideas!

The automata are on tour from Cabaret Mechanical Theatre.

Gosport Play Gallery

open 4th to 18th December (subject to Covid) in the Gosport Gallery

Gosport Gallery

Gosport Past and Present

8th January to 20th March

Scenes by very different artists
Neil Marshall and David Whitson

The Gallery is open 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 end of year newsletter. I'm hoping that all of you are safe and finding worthwhile things to do during this strange existence we are living through. The HCT has received a government grant to help pay for the extra expense required to ensure the safety of visitors and staff at the Trust's venues. The Fundraising Team, which applied for the grant, are to be heartily thanked for the successful bid which was one of the largest given nationally.

As you know, our volunteers were not needed for the museum's GHODs Pop-Up but Wendy will need help in the stores to find material, relevant to the history of Gosport, for an exhibition to open in the new year. Volunteers will be following the necessary training to work at the venue when needed. Meanwhile stay safe! Maggie Ventham.

Venue Manager's Report

The past couple of months have been very busy in the building. A new exhibition, Marvellous Mechanicals, opened in the gallery. This exhibition features automata from different makers. It is proving very popular with all ages attracting an average of 50 people a day during half term. Cam tot building workshops were run for families alongside it. Due to Government guidance the gallery closed to the public on Thursday 5 Nov and we are planning to reopen on Fri 4 Dec if allowed to do so.

School sessions have resumed in the building and it has been lovely to see the rooms full of children again. We have also delivered a live virtual session via Zoom from the 1950s house for a class of 6 year olds which was exciting. Through funding received Gemma, the Schools Manager, ran an online CPD session for teachers on teaching Evolution and Inheritance. There

were 84 participants from all over the country and it even attracted a couple of teachers from International Schools in Egypt. Following on from the success of this we are hoping to run more virtual sessions. SEARCH has been asked to take the lead in a project funded through a grant achieved by GBC from the HAZ. This project will focus on engaging young people in the Stokes Bay Conservation Area in Spring 2021. The schools loans box service will continue to operate throughout the current lockdown period.

The Gosport Cultural Consortium which is a group of heritage partners being lead by HCT was successful in receiving a grant for a pilot project for the High Street HAZ. The event to be funded included a Christmas Fair, showcasing local makers, an oral history booth, and street entertainment. Due to the second lockdown plans have been changed and there will now be a virtual Christmas Fair on 27 & 28 Nov via the gallery Facebook pages. The other activities planned for this project are being moved to early next year.

Over the next few weeks the team will be working on sourcing photos and objects from the collection for the next exhibition, Gosport Past and Present, which will feature the paintings of 2 local artists Neil Marshall and David Whitson. Neil paints Gosport past and David paints Gosport today. The exhibition will be supplemented with museum collections and photos. The exhibition opens on Jan 8 -March 20 2021. Wendy Redman

The Reverend Archdeacon Samuel Wilberforce and Gosport Schools

Like a lot of people, I've had a great deal of time on my hands during lockdown, but I've been trying to use the time productively. I have been researching 19th century elementary education in Gosport for some time and, while trying to find information about the British School established by the Nonconformists in Gosport I turned to a newspaper I hadn't looked at before, the Hampshire Independent. I was amazed to find the following, which is just an extract from an editorial of 26 March 1842. It relates to a sermon given by the Venerable Archdeacon Wilberforce (third son of William and from 1840 until 1845 rector of Alverstoke.) Wilberforce was wondering why the inhabitants of Gosport were not supporting the day schools of the town connected to the Church of England. The newspaper editor, I think Jacob Jacob, emphatically suggested why.

“Formerly these schools were supported by the inhabitants of the town generally. At that time the children of dissenters were admitted, and of course contributed their support to so laudable an institution. But since then the foundation has been so far altered, that no children are now admitted who do not attend at church, on the Sabbath in the Sunday Schools. The children of dissenters being thus cruelly excluded from the benefits of education, it was found, not only expedient but necessary to form a school for the benefit of the poor, on the principles of the British and Foreign School Society. This school has been established only a twelvemonth. It is supported by men of every sect and creed, and its doors are open to the children of parents, of whatever name or denomination. It is a proud thing to say, but so it is, this school has now nearly double the number of children that is to be found in any other in the parish, and, we confidently expect that the number will go on continually increasing. Well may Archdeacon Wilberforce mourn over the declining energies of the national school – well may he grieve to see so scanty a number of children within its walls; whilst there is one hard by where Christians of every denomination are admitted, flourishing upon those free and liberal principles, to which he is so bitter an enemy. Surely, he must see that the spirit of the people is against him – that the good sense of the country is against him – against his narrow, selfish, chilling views and principles – against his exclusive systems and intolerant bigotry. And with such plain and palpable demonstrations of the public feeling, little honor does it reflect upon his understanding or his heart, still to stand up to that hateful scheme by which the poor and ignorant are cruelly deprived of the blessings of education. That the Archdeacon will use his utmost efforts to secure the advancement of the National Schools in the parish of Alverstoke, we cannot doubt. He is a

staunch, aye, and a bitter churchman, and we are sorry to have to record it, yet we should be guilty of a gross neglect of our duty were we to omit to do so, he will not scruple to employ the most objectionable means to attain this object. Christian charity is preached on the Sunday but little heeded during the week:- "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord" may be his text, and yet he deprives the poor of that which is of right their own. Mercy and love are inculcated from the pulpit on the Sabbath, but the morrow witnesses his hatred and lights on his oppression."

Well, that's saying what you think!!

By the time of the passing of the 1870 Elementary Education Act, the British School had closed, and the Church of England (National) Schools were flourishing. But that's another story.

There is plenty of information about the Rev. Samuel Wilberforce online, but I have yet to uncover more about Jacob Jacob. By Dot Bedenham

Information Requests

Godenzi & Son, was based at 105 High Street Gosport. Aristide Luminati lived there in 1911 and the Cafe appears in Kelly's Directory. Aristide Luminati then stayed in Gosport till about 1926 and at some point ran The Swiss Cafe. I'm keen to find the address for this café and if there are any photos. I'm interested in any relevant information linked to these cafes and what Gosport was like from the 1880s to 1920s. Aristide had previously worked in Marseille and I'm keen to find out why he would travel to Gosport. Louise Johncox

I was searching for a great uncle of mine who owned sunbeam cleaners and saw it mentioned on you website comparing the high street in 1958? With today. Do you know anything about the man, Harold Geoffrey Lee who was my uncle, or when the cleaners shut too? As I was told he moved to Canada to open some cleaners there but I can not find him over there or if he came back to the uk. Lorraine Moore

I live at Suffolk Cottages and wondered why they came to be called that. There are only 2 cottages left of what I believe would have been a terrace of cottages with English county names spreading into Alver Road. In fact I think my address would have been Alver Road at one time. These cottages are old fishermans' cottages dating to 1850. Our gardens would have reached the creek (Workhouse Lake) wall. Lesley Tinman

My name is Caroline Cleeve, daughter-in-law of Margaret Cleeve(nee Windebank). Margaret is the Grandaughter of Alderman John Windebank of Alverstoke. It will be Margaret's 90th birthday at the end of October and she has often spoken of her Grandfather John and other family members. I have been researching on ancestry.com with a fair bit of success, however, there are some photographs of his time in office that I can not track down. As a child she remembers a portrait of John in his Pointed hat and robes. Her framed copy got lost in time with one of him opening the ferry gardens. I tried Discovery Centre, but the microfilm machine is not accessible at this time. If you could help in any way, I would be extremely grateful. Caroline Cleeve

These are email requests for information about Gosport sent via the fogm.org.uk website. If you have any information that you wish to share with the people requesting, please could you send it to me and I will send it on to them. I also received a request for and supplying information about Worthing Avenue, Elson circular bus route, Rydal Stores and Elson in general from Robert Wheeler. I may look at adding an article from the couple of emails received in a future Newsletter hope that you are all well. Ian Jeffery

Hampshire Archive Trust Online Events

How to find out more about local war memorials, 12 November, 6pm to 7pm (see www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/archives/events/local-war-memorials-121120 for details)

Events planned so far listed below, plans for more talks to follow, so keep an eye on the website.

Tickets (£5 for each event) must be booked in advance; for further details, go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=513> . <https://www.hants.gov.uk/archives> .

- How to trace the History of your Hampshire House 25th November 6-7pm
- An Introduction to Reading Old Handwriting 30th November 11am -12noon
- Sources for Family History at Hampshire Records Office 8th December 6-7pm

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
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 January/ February Newsletter please send them by 19th December 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.