FRIENDS OF GOSPORT MUSEUM

www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk

NEWSLETTER *May 2008*

Next Meeting & Talk
Monday 30th June 7:30pm
The Studio, Discovery Centre
Brenda Gilbert on
Vic Hutfield and His Life

Coach Visit to Russell-Cotes
Art Gallery and Museum
Saturday 13th 2008
£11 per seat
Book with Mary Duly
Please see the form enclosed.

Friends of Gosport Museum
Informal Coffee Morning
In the Discovery Centre 10:30am
Every 2nd Thursday of the month
Meetings before next Newsletter
Thursday 8th May 2008
Thursday 12th June 2008
Thursday 10th July 2008
For around 1 hour meet at the Wings Café
Informal meeting to discuss local heritage
and perhaps extras such as gallery visits
and opportunity to discover
what is available at the Discovery Centre.

Welcome to the New Chairman of the Friends of Gosport Museum

Dr Sidney Aynsworth has agreed and been elected to the position of Chairman at the AGM on the 22nd April in the Discovery Centre, more about that later. He gave an introduction to himself, including the following information. He have been a member of the Friends for about 9 years and joined the committee at the previous AGM. He have been a GP in Gosport and Fareham, with time as a doctor in a hospital in between. Since his retirement he has travelled when able to Australia and sites of historic interest. He is interested in encouraging education, access and research based on museum resources. I would like to offer my and I am sure for all members, best wishes for his first year as Chairman and for a new era for the Friends of Gosport Museum.

Friends Membership Subscription Renewal

This is a reminder that the membership subscription for the 2008/09 was due from 1st April. I am sorry the reminder is late, but thank you to those who have paid your subscription. I have enclosed a form to send in with your subscription. If you wish to pay by standing order, please contact David Moore telephone: 023 9258 6575 17 Northcroft Road, Gosport, Hants PO12 3DR, otherwise send the subscription direct to the Membership Secretary Linda Hedley address is on the form.

St Marks Church and Churchyard Talk

Mary Duly has advised that she has received thanks for the donation to the Friends of St Marks Church Alverstoke. Roy Harris reports how they benefited too by info they gained. One more grave was identified and a photograph acquired of its occupier. They also learned about the architect, James Adams.

The British Association of Friends of Museums

The British Association of Friends of Museums is an organisation to which belong most if not all of the museums in the U.K. It was founded in 1972 and since then has grown in strength and importance.

The Association publishes a magazine quarterly which contains articles about the activities organised by many flourishing museums around the country. It begins with descriptions of the many officials who run some of the better known museums and with a tribute to the bands of willing volunteers who assist them and who in many instances raise money to support new schemes.

In this magazine there are details of the many interesting collections housed in beautiful premises and locations, with accompanying photographs. There are some specialist displays such as art galleries, transport and railway collections, gardens and Scottish lighthouses. The magazine ends with a selection of international collections most notably in Germany and Cyprus.

It makes a fascinating read. By Mary Colyer.

If you would like to have chance to read the magazine as they come in (I only receive 5 copies) please let me know and I will try to work out a way to circulate them. The Friends of Gosport Museum also receive 5 copies of the, 'Local Studies News' so if you would like to have a chance to read that one, also let me know. Ian Jeffery

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Coach Visit to Russell-Cotes Saturday 13th September

Enclosed should be a form to book your seat/s for the coach to the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum in Bournemouth, on the 13th September, the pick-up is from 9:15am. The price is £11 per seat, to be booked with Mary Duly. Please send your cheques with the form to the address shown on the form.

A Grade II listed home with restored Victorian and Edwardian period rooms, once the home of the Russell-Cotes family, with art galleries and fascinating collections from their travels around the world.

AGM 22nd April 2008 Discovery Centre

This AGM was a bit different to the ones that I have been to in past years. Partly this was due to it covering a period of only around six months. It was held in are area near the coffee shop in the Discovery Centre about the area where the 2nd Thursday 10:30pm Coffee Meetings of the Friends of Gosport are held.

David Moore as Chairman started with the, Welcome and Apologies, the reading of the Minutes of the 17th AGM held on 31st October 2007 followed by Matters Arising, just a couple of more minor points.

The Secretary's/ Chairman's report was given by Joan Symonds, the membership is higher than any other year, but missed having a permanent Chairman, (now resolved). Details of the talks and other events given in particular the Christmas party and the 3 bags of gifts for patents at the War Memorial Hospital where the Mayor visited and thanks were given to the SEARCH team for their help. There was the talk about St Marks Church and Churchyard and a bit about the Coffee Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Some comments about the old Museum and the new items on the Museum on the Mezzanine, including the noticeboard and the photocopies from some of the Museums stock of photographs and access to other Museum items. The visit from Sue Hall of the British Association of Friends of Museums and the support given by Discovery Centre staff.

David Moore gave out copies of the accounts to 31st March 2008, showing an income of £612 and expenditure of £978.68 leaving a total amount in cash and in the bank of £1847.96. The comments being that care to be taken when working out what to charge for the annual visit which made a loss last year and Christmas party which made a small profit only due to a donation towards the cost.

Linda Hedley said the membership stood at 106, though this may need to be amended when the subscriptions have been received for the 2008/09 year.

I gave the Newsletter Editors report. So far I had produced 3 issues with some problems but hope they are getting better, the next issue is May. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to the membership please send it in, short or long items, I feel it helps the balance with a mixture. I prefer by email but will also deal with items by post (details at the end of this Newsletter). Also feel free to offer any suggestions.

Joan Russell gave the Project Directors report, no projects at the moment but with the encouragement of the Discovery Staff, hope that new projects will begin. Also expanded some of the items given in the Secretary/ Chairman's report and the involvement by the Council in funding the museum work of the Discovery Centre.

Angela Gill took over the meeting to carry out the elections. All current officers and committee members agreed to stand in their present position, in addition Dr Sydney Aynsworth was nominated and agreed to stand as Chairman. All were elected.

This year we had in effect three Curator's reports.
The first by Oonagh Palmer, she explained about the Access Days, if you require a single item, these can be dealt as in the past, by contacting her and she will make arrangements for you to see them, she also prefers emails, her address is oonagh.palmer@hants.gov.uk or another way that seems to work is via the Hampshire Call Centre on 0845 603 5631 . The Access Days are for where someone requires access to a number of items or for an extended period of time. The days cannot be planned too much in advance as they depend on the availability of Discovery Centre staff. The days are in a trial period and if you would be interested, contact Oonagh. (In the future I would hope to be able to add the dates of the Access Days to the Newsletter.

Then Angela Gill took over, she explained her responsibilities in the Discovery Centre, which are wide and varied. The thoughts about the creation of a 'Friends of the Discovery Centre', it will take a while to consult with all the groups and individuals who use the Discovery Centre. Nothing will happen to the Friends of Gosport Museum without the opportunity for the membership to have their say.

Finally Laura Weston, who will be covering part of Alison Firth's work until the end of the year. At the same time carrying on with some of the 'outreach' work that she has been doing, including working with schools and the arts carnival group with Gosport Voluntary Action and SEARCH, encouraging young people to become involved with the Discovery Centre. She also works with the Gosport Gallery.

Sydney Aynesworth took over for the AoB, but apart from the usual thanks to parties who have assisted the Friends of Gosport Museum since the last AGM in particular the SEARCH and Discovery Centre Staff. He then introduced Steve Jordan and his talk “Able Seaman to Admiral” - our Maritime Heritage in Songs of the Times. Unusually this talk was not illustrated by Powerpoint, slides or props, but by a powerful rendition of the songs. Those present were also encouraged to join in in for some or the songs and the chorus in the rest.

Memories of Sue Twyman's Mother

She was born in 1912 and her Dad was in the Royal Garrison Artillery and lived and worked at the Forts before and after WW1 and he finally retired as Barrack Warden at Fort Brockhurst.

She worked for the well known Churcher family in Alverstoke as nanny. Married in 1934 at St Marys Alverstoke..Dad was a sailor in RN, then later became an officer. She narrowly missed being killed on 10th Jan' 1941 when the house in Sedgly Grove was bombed.

My Mum was talking about WW2 and came up with these memories. On the night of January 10th 1941 parachute mines were dropped on Gosport and no warning could be given. Mum lived at Sedgly Grove and her and my sister managed to survive their home being bombed. Mum said there was a new estate of bungalows near her and one of the roads was called Bournemouth Avenue. She knew a lady living in the avenue called Mrs BLAKE who was married to a sub-mariner and had a little boy. Mrs Blake got to the Anderson shelter so quickly she forgot to take some water with her and her little boy was thirsty so they went back to the house for some. They were both killed. Mum tells me there were about 450 houses on that estate that were damaged (dont know if that was correct number). Mr BLAKE was killed shortly afterwards. Another name was Mums neighbour in Sedgly grove called Mrs WEAVER who later moved to Horndean.The builder of Mums house in Sedgley Grove was a Mr SMITH. Note....The house costs 460 pounds and the rates were 10 shillings !!

She was telling me that Blake Hospital used to be the isolation hospital and she stayed there for quite a few months in 1937 when she caught scarlett fever after swimming at the pool in Gosport.She had just had my sister but wasnt allowed any contact with people outside, but talked to them through the glass window. She was the only adult there, the rest were children who she played with to cheer them up.
My Dad grew up in Beach St and went to Clarence Sq School. By Sue Twyman from www.gosport.info (2007)

Some Meetings and Other Events That May be of Interest to Members

If you feel this section should not be in the Newsletter please let me know, or otherwise, if you come across other meetings or events that you feel may be of interest to other member, again just let me know.

10th May/ 14th June Fort Brockhurst Open Day
14th May/ 11th June Family History Society Meeting
16th May/ 20th June Gosport Railway Society Meeting
17th May/ 19th June St Vincent History Club Lunch and Talk
21st May/ 18th June Gosport Society Talks

If you have any information or photos that you think may be of interest to member of the Friends of Gosport Museum or others , please let me have them I am happy to receive them by post or email, the details are below, by 12th June for the July Newsletter.

The Newsletters are also being put on the Friends of Gosport Museum web site after they have been delivered, so you will be able to look back at them. I also hope to be able to put the membership form on the site.

Friends of Gosport Museum web site at www.friendsofgosportmuseum.org.uk.

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Please send contributions for the Newsletter to
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If you use email and would be happy to receive this Newsletter by email, please let me know.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of The Hampshire CC Museums Service or its staff

Membership of the Friends of Gosport Museum is open to all - Please contact any Committee member.
Annual Subscription Individuals £5 Families £7.50

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