



Gosport Society

Registered as Charity No 289942

Chairman: Mr. Roger Mawby, 25 Anglesey Road, Alverstoke, Gosport, PO12 2EG – Tel; (023) 9250 2855
Vice Chairman: Mr. Adrian Knight, The White Cottage, Ewer Common, Gosport, PO12 2HR – Tel (023) 9258 2528

Hon. Secretary: Vacant

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Sue Blower, Police Lodge, 4 Flagstaff Green, Gosport PO12 1GG – Tel (023) 9250179

www.gosportsociety.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2012

Chairman's Report

You will have received in the last week or so a personal letter from me, either by post or by E mail asking for a volunteer to take on the job of Society Secretary and also one as the Social Secretary. For the Secretary the situation is now extremely serious as without a Secretary the Society cannot function. This is a repeat of the plea I made last year when Sue Reed decided that after being the Secretary for 5 years the time had come to hand on to a successor. At the last hour Julia Massey agreed to take on the job. Regrettably Julia has, for personal reasons, resigned as our Secretary.

This resignation part way through the year presents major problems for the Society hence my letter to all the members.

If a volunteer does not come forward in the next few weeks your Committee will have to decide if the Society, in its current form can continue. The Society has been in existence for over 40 years and it will be a very sad day if it has to greatly restrict its activities or even close for the lack of a volunteer to take over from Julia.

The job of Secretary is not an onerous one and surely someone out there, be they a member or not, has the skill and interest in the town to come forward.

On a more cheerful note. An aim of this year's Heritage Open Days was to involve the young in the heritage of the Town and the Committee decided that rather than give money to help in funding the Gosport HODs we would instead run a photographic competition for the young of the town. The competition was open to three age groups 10-12, 13-15 and 16-18 and entitled cash prizes for the first 3 in each age group and an overall "Best in Show" award. I wrote to the Headmasters of all the schools in the town with pupils in these age brackets, some 21 schools in total. The Art Department in Bay House School helped by designing a poster for the competition which was also sent to all the Schools for pinning on their Notice Boards. Unfortunately entries numbers were very low but the quality of the entrants was high. I organised that the judging would be carried out by an experienced judge from the Gosport Camera Club who was impressed by the quality of the entrants. The prize giving was held in at the Discovery Centre on the 6th September and all the entries were on display during the following the week.

The prize winners were:-

Age 10-12	
First	Laurya Irvine
Second	Nicola Vince
Third	Laurya Irvine
Age 13-15	
First	Lewis Stock
Second	Megan Gratten
Third	Lewis Stock
Age 16-18	
First	Adam Dodds
Second	Emily Bernice
Third	Adam Dodds
Best in show	Adam Dodds

The Society now has an updated Web Site. David Moore, a member of the Society, volunteered to build the new site and to act as its Web Master. To see this brilliant and informative new web site you should look at www.gosportsociety.co.uk. The aim of the new web site is to keep Society members and the public at large up to date on Society activities. We also want to encourage members to add to the web site and this can easily be done. So if you have any interesting pictures of Gosport or information on the history of the town contact the Web Master. Contact details for David are shown on the site.

I personally want to give David a great vote of thanks, firstly, for volunteering to update the design of our web site and secondly for the enthusiastic way he is managing it. Also I would like to thank Howard for all the work he has done in sorting through the multitude of photographs the Society owns and then with David's help adding them to the Society Web Site.

I want to thank Louis for taking on the job of Marketing Manager and applying a fresh look at how to sell Gosport Society Publications. The sales of publications are a major source of income for the Society and helps maintain the current annual subscription at their current level.

May Bumford and Lesley Burton have planned, what I expect to be, an interesting Wednesday evening lecture programme for the remainder of the year and for 2013. We hope will be able to continue to hold them subject, of course, to finding a new Society Secretary. Details of forthcoming talks will be in your programme and also advertised on the Web site, the web site will also include a short note of the background of the speaker and an introduction to the subject of the talk.

The Planning Sub Committee of Adrian, May and Howard continue to review Planning Application, paying particular attention to those applicable to Listed buildings, and changes to properties in Conservation Areas in the town. Applications that effect Trees that are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders are also carefully examined. The Town has many fine trees and the Sub Committee's aim is to protect them from unnecessary felling.

We continue to hold 6 weekly Liaison Meetings with the Building Control Department in the Town Hall. This provides an excellent forum to discuss issues relating to protecting the Heritage of the Town. It was through this Meeting that the Society led by Howard has managed to persuade English Heritage to list the remains of Number 1 Battery at Stokes Bay as an Ancient Monument.

The Society is also supporting the Town's Heritage Officer in a campaign to convince English Heritage to List the Cavitation Tunnel Facility in the QinetiQ Site at

Haslar that QinetiQ want to knock down. This Cavitation Tunnel was built for the German Navy to test the performance of warship propellers, particularly important in the case of submarine propellers. It was brought from Hamburg to Haslar as part of the reparations after World War 2 and re-established as test facility for Royal Naval warship propellers and remained in use until computer modelling took the place of experimental testing. A much smaller version of the Tunnel exists in Newcastle but the one at Haslar is considered to be of more importance and worthy of protecting its future by having it listed.

Finally I want to thank Members for their support at the Wednesday Evening Talks. I realise that perhaps the location may be difficult for some Members. If anyone would like to come on a Wednesday evening but is put off by getting to the Explosion Museum a phone call to a Committee member will ensure a car will pick you up and take you home at the end of the evening.

Don't forget the 12th January New Year Social Evening at the Alverstoke Parish Centre. Tickets are available from Graham and Juliette Hewitt. I know it will be a good evening to celebrate the New Year. Book early as there is always a rush for the tickets as the numbers that can be accommodated in the Centre are limited

Roger Mawby

Hon. Treasurer

Managing the accounts continues to keep me busy with the Society's business, particularly when events and trips are happening. There is also regular income from the sale of publications plus various expenses, such as marketing to record regularly and bank statements to reconcile monthly. The work has enabled me to get to know more members of society which I enjoy.

The 2012 Gift Aid reimbursement has been completed and submitted to the Inland Revenue. The rebate we are claiming is £304 and we thank members for their support. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we urge you to gift aid your subscriptions to the Society if you have not already done so. Approximately 50% of members elected to Gift Aid in 2012. Providing you are a tax payer, the only thing you have to do is complete a form, available at the Society's meetings and return it to the Membership Secretary (my husband, George) or to me. We do the rest and the Society benefits from an increased rebate from the Inland Revenue.

To date, this financial year, the Society's Project Fund has funded the cost of the photographic competition. This represented the Society's contribution to Gosport 2012 heritage Days. A substantial amount remains in the Project Fund this will enable the Society to support further initiatives as we move on.

Susan Blower

Membership Secretary

Our membership currently stands at 198. We currently **have** e-mail addresses for 80 members, and would ask those who are not listed to supply their details, as this is a quick, easy way to keep you up to date and save on postage costs. Please note that individual e-mail addresses are not shown on bulk e-mails. We would also ask members who have changed their e-mail addresses in the last 12 months to advise the changes to:- gosportsociety@gmail.com

We are currently undertaking a membership recruitment campaign, so if you have any friends or family who are interested in the history and future development of Gosport, please refer them to our new website, or ask them to contact us on the above e-mail address.

George Blower

Society Archive

Thanks to the response to my appeal in the last Newsletter we are now only short of 3 Society publications for the archive: Gosport Records No.16 (St Luke's), "People & Places", and "The Earlier Fortifications of Gosport". If you have any of these please consider donating them.

We are most grateful to David Moore, our new webmaster, for enabling our collection of photographs to be displayed in Albums within Categories. I have so far put a selection of about 100 images on the website "Gallery" which can be varied and added to as time goes by. Click on an image to show it in strip form and then click on it again to enlarge. Please will you let me know if you have any suggestions regarding subjects to be included or if you can provide any more information about the photos exhibited. There is also a facility, under each image, for comments to be typed in. Rude ones not permitted!

The full list of pictures in our original photo library may be accessed by clicking on "Image Library" and copies are available upon request as are any of those in the Gallery. I think you will agree that pictures form the most interesting and accurate record of the past appearance of our town. Once again therefore may I appeal for more really old ones to add to our collection especially those which have not already been published. All will be stored in digital form so you will not lose your original prints.

It is time to start thinking about our Green Plaque Award for 2013 in respect of restorations completed by the end of this year. It would be nice to recognise some good work further afield in the Borough than we have to date. Please look hard and send in nominations. Information and forms are on the website under the heading "Society"

Howard Bennett

Planning Sub-Committee

The Planning Sub-Committee continues to monitor current applications for Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings, as well as the general weekly list of applications. Since the last newsletter in May we have inspected about sixty applications. Some important applications are outlined below:-

Rowner Cottages. The latest application is a proposal to convert the cottages into a single unit of accommodation, together with extensions and alterations,

of including a single storey rear extension. A front door with porch is to be added plus replacement windows and new windows, and a new garage. We have not objected to this much improved planning application, and hope permission will be granted as soon as possible, so that work to restore the cottages can go ahead.

Slaughter House, Royal Clarence Yard. Unfortunately the application for permission to use the building as a Church, has been withdrawn, however we believe the developers are still looking for a suitable use for the building.

Redcliffe House, The Avenue The application to restore this large Victorian House to a single residential property has now been withdrawn. We will keep you informed as soon as any other application is received.

Qinetic, Haslar Road Demolition of buildings 46 and 47- these buildings were specifically built to house a cavitation tunnel after it was brought from Germany as part of war reparations at the end of WW2. The cavitation tunnel was used to design propellers for naval vessels in the 1950's, and ceased being used a few years ago. We objected to this application because we believe the buildings and the cavitation tunnel are an important part of the industrial and technological development of the former Admiralty Experimental Works.

Public Houses The Royal Arms, Railway Inn, The White Swan and The Wheatsheaf are all being restored for other uses and appear to be progressing well. We will continue to monitor the progress of these buildings.

Planning applications inspected by the planning sub-committee are now shown in the 'News' section on our new website :- www.gosportociety.co.uk and updated after each committee meeting.

Liaison Meetings with Officers from Gosport Borough Council

We continue our quarterly meetings with Development Control and the Conservation Department. A number of items are reported below:-

Haslar - no planning application has been submitted yet, but Our Enterprise has now updated their website :-

www.royalhaslar.com/RH_planning_document.pdf where you can inspect the latest proposals.

Gilkicker The developers currently in the process of tendering for builders etc, are looking to be on site by December 2012. Conservation and Development Control Officers from GBC are involved in discussions with the developers, and meetings arranged with English Heritage.

Priddy's Hard We have been informed that the buildings in the Heritage area have been made safe, and visitor numbers to the Explosion Museum have **increased**. No planning applications have been submitted yet.

Daedalus Outline Planning was granted to the Homes and Communities Agency at the end of March 2012. We now look forward to receiving applications for the future use of the Listed Buildings, and buildings in the Conservation Area.

Old photos of Gosport can be found on the following website:-

<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections> or Google 'Royal Museum Greenwich' and insert 'portsmouth and gosport'.

May Bumford

**New Year Social Evening
12th January 2013
Alverstoke Parish Centre
7 pm
Tickets are £9 from Graham and Juliette Hewitt
11 Beech Grove Alverstoke
Telephone 92581406**