



## AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

After the AGM in June, the Executive Committee's first meeting was in July when we reviewed the plans for the forthcoming year.

We hope the obvious changes that have taken place in the following months are an improvement to the services we are offering.

- Regular Meetings, now at the Lower Hall, Bay House School.



Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

- Regular updates for improved communication with members.
- Social Events relating to our local area and Heritage
  - Stroll around Priddy's Hard.
  - Visit to HMS Nelson Wardroom.
  - Picnic at Tragedy Bank at Baston No1. (Now being organised for Spring 2023)



Tragedy Bank (Baston No1)

Christmas Lunch at Hornet Services Sailing Club. 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022

(Reservations – contact Sue our Membership/Social Sec.)

Celebrating Gosport Society at 50 + 2 years old & New Publication pre-Book Launch.



Hornet Clubhouse

- Promotion of Gosport Society at The Michaelmas Fayre, with improved displays and the investment in a Gazebo

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- Gosport Society Talks Programme, we need to thank the late Malcolm Stevens the Hon. Secretary for arranging the list of speakers this year. After two years of not being able to meet as a group, it is good to get back to monthly meetings once again. We also hope you enjoy our competitively priced coffee and tea facility, at 50pence a cup!
- Displays at our regular meetings. Showing examples of Planning Application consultations, social events, publications and exhibits.

The Executive Committee is mindful of the Gosport Society's financial situation, we are fortunate to have a sound financial base, however, we are very cost conscious to maintain our competitive membership fee, which has been at the same rate for a number of years.

Fortunately, most of our communications with members is via E:mail at no cost to members, those members locally who do not have this facility have mail delivered by hand, wherever possible, saving postage costs.

It was clear that our membership dropped during the pandemic and income dropped therefore, having spoken to other societies and clubs this is a common predicament. For instance, Portsmouth Society's membership dropped from over 200 to 67 members!

It has been reassuring to have new members, who have joined us in the last few months, our current membership is now over 100 members.

### **Publicity & Promotion of Gosport Society.**

Our publications help promote the Society, our new Publication 'Conservation & Heritage in Gosport' will be available very soon, It is a great achievement and part of the Heritage Action Zone' projects, of which Gosport Society is a Partner. Appreciation must be given to our former Chairman, Louis Murray for leading this project.

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Gosport Society's actions in professionally responding to Listed Building and Conservation planning applications within the Borough, are respected seriously by Gosport Borough Council. Our experienced planning team consider every application, impartially and on architectural design and planning law merit. You may or may not be aware, this is very time consuming, our planning team are to be applauded for their dedication and time.

Please take the time to log into Gosport Borough Councils Web page by entering –‘ View and Comment on Gosport Planning Applications’, you will need to enter the specific address or planning application number to read Gosport Society's responses. You will be amazed at the detail in some of our response. i.e., Check out application No 22/00333/FUL at 108 High Street Gosport for example.

Our list of planning application responses each month are listed on our web page, together with planning application numbers and addresses.

### **Gosport Heritage Action Zone and Gosport Heritage Zone High Street projects**

Despite the problems of the Covid pandemic, progress has continued at a pace, the fruits of the Partners labours are beginning to take shape.

### **Gosport Lines. Gosport HAZ Project 8**

The refurbishment works at Bastion No1 have been completed, it is our intention to hold a Picnic at ‘Tragedy Bank’ in the Spring 2023 to view the harbour and new public open space.

Gosport Society as a ‘Partner’ in HAZ, has been invited to participate in Gosport New Conservation Areas Appraisals.

The planning team have attended the first meeting with the consultants Alan Baxter Associates, who have been appointed by GBC. The Planning Team was given a resume of the consultant's appointment, the areas under consideration extend from Bastion No1, along the lines of the former ramparts adjacent the town centre, the rear of Weevil Lane where the ramparts are still in existence, right up to Priddy's Hard and into Hardway.

The Meeting was held by Zoom, a truly international affair as Richard Harrison attended whilst on holiday.

Further consultations will take place with a public consultation expected in January 2023.

### **Haslar Barracks Gosport HAZ Project 21**

The latest news is that The Ministry of Justice who own the site, have announced they are considering to reopen the site again as an Immigration Centre.

It is somewhat disappointing as GBC considered the site as so important that it was accepted as a conservation area, despite the recently retired conservation officer Rob Harpers efforts, GBC were not able to gain Listed Building status for England's only brick built 19<sup>th</sup> Century Barrack Block. It had been hoped to bring back this area into local community use.

Gosport Society is therefore closely awaiting further news of any proposed developments.

### **Haslar Gatehouse Gosport HAZ Project (at Entrance to former Gun Boat Yard Haslar Rd)**

Restoration works are continuing at a pace to bring the building back into community use.

**Stoke Bay Conservation Area – Gosport HAZ Project.** We are pleased to report that the hard work by GBC (& the community) resulted in planning permission being granted and Stokes Bay is safely designated as a Conservation Area.



Stokes Bay – view from the Historic Diving Museum

**Informed Publication – HAZ Project 18** – The Project has been completed by Gosport Society and is awaiting publication, ‘Heritage and Conservation in Gosport’ - lead by Former Chairman, Louis Murray.

**Historic Diving Museum – Gosport HAZ Project 12**



Due to the dedication of the Trustees and Management Team, led by Kevin Casey Museum Director, their hard work has paid off by obtaining MEND and CIP grants, during this winter, whilst the Museum is closed, building works will be to improve access (disabled) and to carry out works to reduce this internal condensation, by installing an air sourced heat pump heating system to the museum. Not resting on ‘Their Laurels’ a National Lottery Grant (Part 1) was applied for to make further improvements to the Museum, Development funding has been awarded (£74814.00), at a later date a Full National Lottery Grant will be applied for.

**High Street HAZ projects**

**Stoke Road projects including The Royal Arms, Blitz Photography, and Properties in North Cross Street.** Refurbishment works are being completed to enhance our environment as below.



The Royal Arms



Blitz Photography



Stoke Road

**Former 'Old Grammar School' High Street Gosport – HAZ High Street Project**



Grade Listed 2 - 'Old Grammar School'

Refurbishment works continue (although promised for an October 2022 completion), with connecting walkway to Gosport Gallery, landscaped courtyard & café, reinstatement of Gosport Museum. Gosport Society had hoped to hold the monthly meeting here, however the facilities offered are not large enough to accommodate us.

**Gosport Society - Photo Archive**

We are almost a quarter of a century into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Food for thought? Where are the photos for the current century? Perhaps we have already started collecting, as the HAZ photos?

So with all those Digital phone camera's out there, please forward any photos for consideration to archive.

**The following Articles have been provided by our Gosport Society Members**

**Population Pressure – Author, Brian Mansbridge**

Last year was EU Conservation year, that in fact got rather drowned out by Brexit, Covid and latterly a war in Europe.

One of the conservation observations was that the population of the UK increased by almost 300,00 in 2021 and is expected to continue to grow numerically year on year, this puts a lot of pressure to build new housing. It is very difficult to get reliable statistics on how much more open space is lost to urban development each year, unsurprisingly it varies immensely from region to region.

The only statistic that reoccurs enough to quote is the greenfield land lost in England is increasing about 20% each year. Housing growths puts southern England's natural resources under increasing pressure.

War and drought this year have made it very clear we are not self-sustaining. Further afield world resource balances are even more critical and driving up costs, Add that to the rapidly rising energy and food costs we all face massive inflationary pressures.

What has this gloomy outlook to do with Gosport?

The prime local pressure is to build more housing and the jobs to go with them, particularly in our region. Surprisingly the area imbalance is being driven by national government housing dictates.

Less surprisingly developers are keen to build in the most profitable housing stock regions of the South.

The irreversible impact is on natural resources and open space. These are the resources that are most difficult to manage, water supply, clean air, foul water treatment and the impact of nitrate water pollution from surface water run-off. More house mean more people, cars and the greater use of open space for leisure while at the same time as we are reducing the green lung that lets us, our flora and fauna survive.

That is why Gosport Council and Gosport Society look very closely to every proposal that would reduce the Fareham/Gosport/Lee Strategic Gap, rising objections to development when relevant. Currently while the housing building proposals of the Fareham's Local Plan has been declared unsound (primarily as Welborn development is not yet delivering housing) it allows developers to submit speculative proposals, unsurprisingly land grabbing where building would be easy and most profitable in the strategic gap.

Notall the speculative proposals have been disallowed. **Cont,**

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A Planning Inspectorate ruling has allowed a development off Brookers Lane that will put flats into the narrowest part of the Strategic Gap. The Strategic Gap has also lost ground in the south of Croften Cemetery and seems certain to lose a significantly in the north as the Planning Inspectorate is proposing, through amendments to Fareham's new Local Plan. For ribbon development South of Longfield Avenue. Part of the pressure is because the development of Welborn 'new town' north of the M27 is not delivering to central government's housing requirements soon enough.

I have not forgotten the coincident pressure on transport, health, social services and schools, these are additional problems that local government already has a mandate to address in proportion to the population growth. It is a pressure on the environment that is neither being managed nor is reversible. No, I did not mention 'Climate change' either....

## **The Mabinogion – Author, Mary Duly.**

The story begins back in the 1980's!! Having a drink with friends in the Old Lodge in Alverstoke, one friend unexpectedly said to me, 'Have you heard of the Mabinogion? I hadn't, said so (What a strange question), I thought) and my friend replied, Well, my grandmother translated it', and left it at that. How I wished she had enlarged on this as recently I have learnt that it is a subject on which I would have been only too happy to have learnt more. I have never forgotten her strange question.

A few weeks ago, there was a major T.V. programme called, 'Welsh Art', part 1 of which covered the early years of Welsh cultural life – and the Mabinogion was a key element of this long ago time. Apparently it is an early (pre-Norman times) medieval collection of Welsh stories which the Welsh regard as a key feature of their national culture, something akin to the Lindisfarne Gospel to the English, and a product of the same time.

How the storey hacks back to the Old Lodge of nearly 40 years ago, is the fact that the T.V. programme told us that the person who translated the Mabinogion, my friend's grandmother was unexpectedly, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> C, Lady Guest, the wife of one of the iron masters who were making fortunes out of Henry Cort's patent to produce wrought iron by a much cheaper, more efficient method than formerly, and which Henry had perfected at his experimental blast furnace at the western end of the car park at the bottom end of the now A32, as was, in fact, one of the major improvements helping to bring in the Industrial Revolution.

The iron masters had obtained the patent cheaply from the Admiralty who had sat on their possession of the key patent ever since Henry had had to pass it over to them years before, and passed it to the iron masters. The area of S. Wales possessed the natural resources of coal and iron ore and Henry's process had come into it's own, though not for the Cort family unfortunately.

You will remember that Henry had made his key advance here in Gosport at the forge which when we came to Gosport in 1956, still existed at the western end of the car park that still exists at the bottom end of the A32. An unsympathetic Council at the time (maybe 1960's) sadly cleared this key example of National Industrial Archaeology off the face of history. You will probably know too that the Ferry Gardens area was the spot where Henry, after his experiments (in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century) deposited the detritus from the blast furnace, just up the road, and was in trouble with the then authorities too!

Now I knew who my friend's grandmother was, Lady Guest, one of the opposition you may say, wife of one of the iron masters who were 'making hay' in South Wales area around Merthyr Tydfil out of Henry's patent: they lived in luxury, the workers in abysmal conditions.

But the situation is not as it seemed. Lady Quest adopted what seems to her English friends and relations a most odd, intense interest in the Welsh language and culture, it was regarded as an aberration even.

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But it was Lady Quest who we, and the Welsh, have to thank for saving the ancient collection of stories by her translation, for remember the English at this time were trying to stamp out the Welsh culture, it was clearly sadly though the correct thing to do.

### Son of Hardway, Gosport – Peter Callaghan 1854 - ? Author - John Hoar

Peter was born on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1854 in Hardway, Gosport to Peter and Sylvestry (nee Barnett) Callaghan, the youngest of six children, The family had moved to Under Shore Clarence Square, Gosport at the time of the 1861 Census. In 1870 Peter went to sea as a 'boy' with the War Department Fleet, supplying ships of the Royal Navy with armaments and equipment. By the time of the 1871 Census, the family was now living in Spring Street Portsea, albeit a smaller family since most of his older siblings left home.

In 1878 he obtained his Second Mate Certificate of Competency and embarked on a career in sailing ships, mostly in Australia. His first ship as Third Mate was a three masted iron hull square-rig ship called 'Old Kensington' to Melbourne.



Over the next twenty years he rose to become mate and master on square-rig sailing ships, including the 'Mermerous' (to Melbourne in 1880) and 'Star of Russia' (to San Francisco, via Cape Horn in 1887). His last ship was the four-masted ship 'Port Jackson' to Australia in 1898. Although there is no evidence of them meeting, Peter was a contemporary of Joseph Conrad, who was at sea on sailing ships during the same period.



Peter Callaghan

By the turn of the Century, the transition of merchant shipping from sail to steam power was well underway and Peter moved to bulk oil tankers, first as mate, then as master. His first tanker was the 'Caucasian' managed by Lane and MacAndrew. During the next seven years he served with the same company on voyages to the Black Sea and the USA, where refineries were producing kerosene from local oil fields.

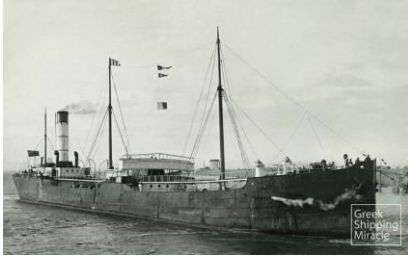
In March 1906 he joined the tanker 'Terek' first as mate, then as master for a series of round voyages to Batoum (Russia), Port Arther and Philadelphia (USA). The ship's Agreement and Account of Crew (Crew List) records his last voyage as master on 'Terek' on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1907 from London, giving his home address as Luton Road, Chatham. The 'Terek' made a round voyage to Kustendje (Constanta, Romania), returning to Hamburg on 31<sup>st</sup> August, when he was relieved by Capt. Davies on 6<sup>th</sup> September in what was recorded as a routine handover. Cont,

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Unfortunately, that is where Peter's record ends. Presumably he returned home to Chatham, near where his married brother Charles Callaghan also lived and who was a master with the War Dept. Fleet. At the age of 53, presumably Peter had a few years of service left. Having been with the same company for 7 years, there would have been little incentive for him to change company or career.

There is no record of him ever marrying, nor a death certificate. However, there was a seemingly unrelated event – his brother Charles, now retired, tragically committed suicide at home a few months later on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1908.



## SITUATIONS VACANT

Applications are invited from enthusiastic Members to assist in the successful running of the Gosport

Society. Why not discard your old CV, take on something challenging and out of your comfort zone, and

join the dedicated team!

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Assist the Executive Committee and Chairman in the successful running of Gosport Society.

**HON. SECRETARY** An important role to ensure the smooth running of Gosport Society. Receiving and distribution of communications by E:mail or posts to relevant Executive members.

Organise arrangements for visiting speakers for our regular meetings.

Participate at Executive meetings and contributing to the organisation of the running of Gosport Society

**ARCHIVE MONITOR** An important role to catalogue our Archives and provide a spreadsheet of contents. It is not an exhaustive task, but needs a logical mind to put in date order with description of content. Maintain records as future archive materials received.

**PUBLICATION SUPERVISOR** Arrange for distribution of our publications and maintain stock records, keeping records of sales and working with Treasurer to bank publication receipts.

**We need help in assisting the current team in organising and running of our Gosport Society, please speak to any member of your Executive Committee for further details.**