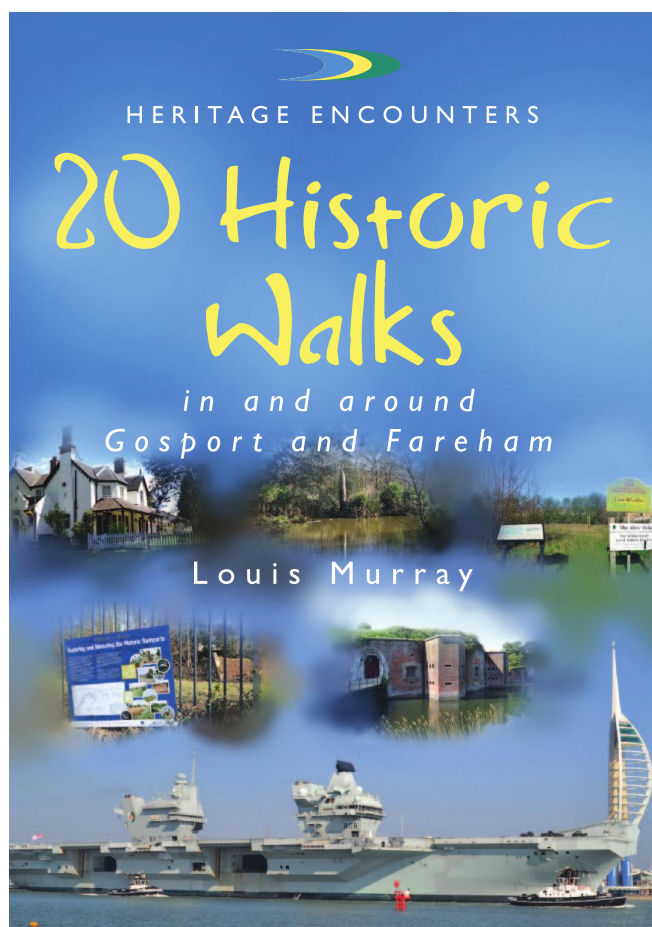


## Gosport Society – Autumn Newsletter 2021.

**Dear Members.**



### **Chairman's Notes.**

**Real Meetings for Real People.** The Gosport Society has (tentatively) returned to face-to-face meetings with the interested public. After about 18 months of virtual and Zoom-based meetings, actual 'contact' was re-established at the Lee Community Hub event on 31 July. That was followed up with our table at the Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre on 25 September. Sadly, the latter event was just about ruined by more than two hours of non-forecasted rain. It played havoc with our publications display. However, it was important to register a GS physical presence at both events and we move on to the sunlit uplands! Executive committee meetings resumed in person at the Stoke Road Conservative Party rooms on 12 October. We aspire to return to a full talks programme in 2022. And plans for member social events are under consideration. Watch this space.

**Executive Committee continuity.** The current make-up of the EC is likely to change significantly in the coming year. As you know, I will stand down as chairman at the AGM in June 2022 and retire from EC membership. Other current members may similarly stand down. The administration of the Society has been extremely demanding as a by-product of the Covid emergency and current members have worked hard to keep the Society in-being. But now it is time for others to step up to the plate. Committee continuity and new ideas are important for the health of the Society. So please give serious consideration to standing for election at the AGM

2022. If you wish to pursue the interim option of ‘co-opted committee membership’ at the current time – and there are vacancies – please speak informally either with me or with the Honorary Secretary.

**HODS Week 10-19 September 2021.** The Gosport Society contributed in a number of ways. Your Chairman and Sue Courtney led a fully subscribed (20 people on each outing) historic “Walk the Not-So-Hardway” around Priddy’s Hard ramparts. A visible feature of the HAZ development process at this site is the clearing of the ramparts of rubble and undergrowth in preparation for this to become a public, heritage park site. The two pubs, the Powder Monkey and The Taps, the former in a black powder magazine and the latter in the Camber-side stores and office block (where GS used to hold its talks), are practical indicators of progress in the overall restoration programme of Priddy’s Hard under the leadership of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust. Both pubs are worth a visit. The Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Mark Hook and his consort, participated in the Friday version of our walk. The MP for Gosport, Caroline Dineage, similarly attended the reprised version on the Monday. On the Wednesday of HODs week Gosport Society Trails Guides were offered free on a ‘first come, first served’ basis at the Tourist Information Centre. This was essentially a post-Covid civic gesture of good-will and a morale-raising initiative.

**Latest Publication.** Also released to public sale in HODS week was the new publication. Details are:

**Murray ,Louis (2021). 20 Historic Walks in Gosport and Fareham. LDJ Educational in Association with The Gosport Society. Limited Edition. ISBN: 978-0-9523500-3-3. 135 pages. RRP £6.50.**

Available for purchase at the Gosport Tourist Information Centre and the High Street Bookshop in Lee on Solent. Subscribed members of The Gosport Society may purchase the book at the discounted price of £5.00 per copy either by phone order (02392 551128) or via email at: [lms62@ymail.com](mailto:lms62@ymail.com)

The book is a glossy paperback in full colour. The walks, suitable for family rambles, offer simple to follow directions and are illustrated with original sketch maps and photographs. Historical data is included in a ‘By The Way’ section for each walk. The book is part of the contribution of The Gosport Society to Project 18 of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) programme of Historic England. The flyer above is taken from the cover of the book.

### **The Gosport Society – Towards New Futures.**

EC committee member Jude Feeney had proposed a ‘Time Out’ for committee members at the Alverbank Hotel on 21 October 2021. Unfortunately, Covid-related anxieties prevented the Time Out from taking place. It will now convene on an as yet undecided date in 2022. However ideas from the membership are sought under the general theme of ‘The Gosport Society – Towards New Futures’. These may then be incorporated into a fuller questionnaire and addressed at a widely representative civic forum. The last constitutional change for The Gosport Society was in 2010. Since then, the constitution has served us well but times and people have changed. New imperatives are thrusting themselves forward for Society consideration. So – please get your thinking caps on. Swap ideas with other members. Let us know what you would like The Gosport Society to do and look like in the future. And arguably

most important of all – tell us what you expect for your £12.00 annual membership fee.

**External Representation.** Committee members continue to participate in: GBC planning sub-committee liaison meetings; monthly meetings of the Place Board; scheduled Heritage Action Zone group meetings under the auspices of Historic England; Hampshire Archives Trust events; and the Gosport Ambassadors programme sponsored by GBC.

I do hope you will continue to support the Society as we strive to reposition ourselves post-Covid. Do share any ideas you have for the future with any member of the executive committee.

**Best Wishes.**

*Louis*

### **A note from Sue Courtney – Vice Chair.**

Dear Members,

I hope that you enjoyed the summer and were able to make the most of the warm weather. By the time you read this we will be back in GMT with British Summer Time just a memory. On the plus side there are snuggly evenings in front of fires, warming soups and stews and seasonal celebrations to look forward to. Each season has its benefits.

Volume two of my Coronavirus Diary is growing as I regularly add domestic, national and global developments. I really cannot believe that I have been writing it for 19 months.

I have been incredibly busy working since the very beginning of September teaching classes for teachers who have had a positive test result and so have to stay home. Days off have been rare and so I have really appreciated the half term break to catch up with mundane household jobs. My days have been so full that I think I need a holiday to recover from the holiday!

However, I haven't been too busy to spend time at weekends enjoying some of the interesting and unusual walks included in "20 Historic Walks in and around Gosport & Fareham" (see above). It contains some real gems which will keep me happily occupied for many months to come.

I am really looking forward to resuming an in-person talks programme as soon as possible. We are social beings and need interaction with other people. Zoom meetings have been really useful but they can't replace proper human contact. So my fingers are crossed that 2022 brings wonderful news and we can all meet up again really soon.

## **From Sue Cook – Membership Secretary**

Hello Members

I do hope you enjoy reading the Autumn 2021 Newsletter. I am also looking forward to meeting members in person in 2022. I must confess I didn't foresee that meeting in person would be affected by Covid 19 for what seems like an eternity. Yet looking forward I am surprised that Christmas is soon to be upon us - the flipside of the coin. I do hope you and yours have all been keeping well.

As soon as Nicola, First Minister for Scotland, advised grandparents were able to carry out childcare, Richard and I travelled to Scotland. Our youngest daughter lives in Rhu, near Helensburgh and has a part time position at a theatre school. She needs help to collect her youngest from school, so we eagerly went to help. Scotland is so beautiful, the family home overlooks Loch Gere, a very pleasant place to be, and of course our only grandchildren are there too, which makes it extra special. Although we are always pleased to be back in warmer climes, to walk along Stokes Bay, or the Country Park, no one could deny it's great here too.

Unfortunately, we heard to-day our youngest daughter now has Covid, our son has had it too, our eldest is keeping her fingers crossed! One in Greenwich, one in Scotland, they couldn't be further apart. Still, happy days. Our son recovered with no ill effects, so I am positive that our daughter will too. She's always out walking the hills and mountains, so I am staying positive.

Take care, stay safe.



## **Archive service meets national 'gold standard' in heritage protection**

13 September 2021

Hampshire County Council's Archives and Local Studies service has met a national accreditation standard which recognises high levels of performance, including in its care of its unique collections. The UK quality standard was first awarded to Hampshire Archives in 2018 and has now been renewed for a further three years.

Councillor Edward Heron, Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs, said: "Hampshire's Archives and Local Studies service has demonstrated once again that it meets the UK national standard for its important work as guardians of our county's heritage. This means that the unique and fascinating collections in its care are in safe and skilled hands. Gaining this prestigious accreditation is also a recognition of the high quality of customer service that the team at Hampshire Record Office offers, whether you are delving into your family tree, pursuing academic research, or depositing items for preservation."

National accreditation status is awarded by The National Archives to organisations that can meet their eligibility criteria. The accreditation scheme is designed to offer a benchmark of quality recognising both excellence and innovation.

Hampshire Record Office – including the Archives and Local Studies service – is the home of 1,000 years of Hampshire history. The award-winning landmark building in Winchester was opened by HM The Queen in 1993 providing purpose-built archival accommodation with eight miles of shelving. The service is open to anyone - whether undertaking research into their family tree or local history or pursuing academic work.

The collections include letters from Florence Nightingale and Jane Austen, war diary entries from the Western Front recording the 1914 Christmas Truce, and the Winchester Pipe Rolls, the most complete set of medieval manorial accounts in the country, recording the minutiae of farming life on dozens of Hampshire manors from 1208/9 onwards, down to the last lamb and piglet.

New collections are still regularly received from organisations and individuals across the county, in a wide range of formats – from parchment and paper to film, audio tape and digital files – and include for example diaries, photographs and other records of life in Hampshire during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is a digital catalogue available online that details what is held at Hampshire Record Office – some items are digitally available, and others need to be seen on site.

### **GHOD WEEK. “Walk the Not-So-Hardway” . By Sue Courtney**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September, Louis led capacity groups of interested individuals on a walking tour of the Hardway area. On Friday the Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Mark Hook and his consort joined us, and on Monday we were joined by Caroline Dineage, the MP for Gosport.

Happily the weather on both days was dry if a little cool.

I have to admit to being in awe of the tremendous breadth and depth of knowledge that Louis brings to his walks. He really brought the subject to life and imparted such a lot of information. I attended both walks and learned something new on each occasion.



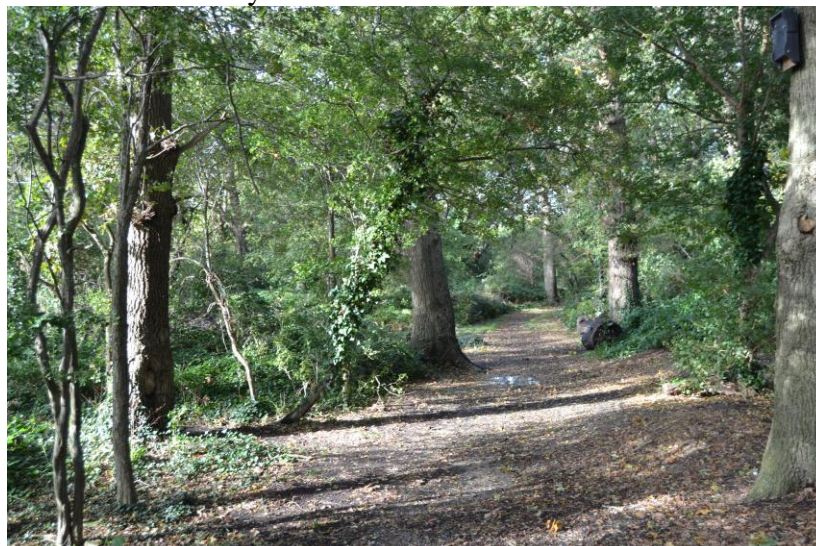
As well as the Hardway D Day embarkation site, the route took in the upper reaches of Forton Lake, Priddy's Hard Coastal Common Nature Reserve (I had no idea about

this delightful ‘secret’) and the newly cleared ramparts area of Priddy’s Hard which is destined to become a public heritage park site.  
Thank you Louis.

**And Still on Visitations: Oakdene Wood – a ‘go to’ gem hidden away in Bridgemarky.**



Gosport needs all the public open space it can get. Huge political pressure for new house building\* and urban re-development mean ever tighter squeezes on land available for nature conservation and recreation. All the more important then for The Gosport Society and like-minded groups to highlight and, where possible, protect public open spaces no matter how vestigial. And sadly these days, ‘vestigiality’ is the common characteristic of many local nature reserves in urban areas.



Every day hundreds of people travel back and forth between Fareham and Gosport on E1 and E2 Eclipse buses. The route is along the dedicated bus and cycle way, on the former railway line, that starts at the bottom of Redland Lane in Fareham and exits via the newly extended southern section on to Rowner Road, just short of Brockhurst roundabout. How many people on these buses know of Oakdene Wood, the local nature reserve (LNR) sandwiched as it is between Tichborne Lane, the busway, and the housing estate on Forest Way? How many people ever cast a glance in the

direction of this ancient oak woodland as the bus sweeps fast by its edge? Indeed, one might even ask the question: How many people in Gosport even know of the existence of this oasis of nature in their midst?



Why not discover Oakdene Wood? The E1 bus drops you at the entrance gate.\*\*Take a stroll in it. Savour landscape as it was and is. Hampshire County Council maintains the copse both for nature conservation and recreation. You will find lots of stately old oak trees here, plus a hawthorn and hazel understory. In spring the ground is carpeted with bluebells, cow parsley, celandine, buttercups, daisies and many other lovely English wildflowers. Deep in the heart of this copse are badger setts and fox dens. Pipistrelle bats swoop at dusk. And all the much-loved birds of the English woodland can be found here – finches, blue tits, robins, blackbirds, and even the Great Spotted Woodpecker, all going about birdy business bothered not one iota by all the Gosporters living hereabouts.

\*LOST – one UK-wide, coherent, rational, integrated house building policy. If found return to recalcitrant owner at 10 Downing Street, London SW1.

\*\*Whilst riding the E1 and E2 look up to the cabin coves and read the vignettes on Gosport and Fareham history. Along with a London design agency, The Gosport Society helped to compile them.

### **The Last Duel? Sleuthing Needed. By Mary Duly.**

Mary has been doing some sleuthing about a local ‘sport’!....

I’ve come across something in local history that I felt needed researching. So this is what I found out and have written up, just the bare bones! There is a great deal of information to be found on Wikipedia if anyone wishes to delve deeper.

‘We’ have always claimed that the last duel in England was fought on Browndown between two Army Officers from Portsmouth. It was a nasty surprise to read an article in “The Oldie” by Lucinda Lambton who writes a regular feature under the title,



“Overlooked Britain”.

This month she wrote about Kensal Green Cemetery, the last resting place of many famous Victorians. About one, the Hon. George Strangford (later the 7th Viscount) famous in the political world of 1852, as a close colleague of Disraeli), she stated that he was involved in THE LAST DUEL fought in England!!in1852!! This came as a shock!

So is Gosport right or wrong?

We know the full date of the Browndown duel. Twentieth of May in 1845, but only the year 1852 for the Smythe duel. The year makes it clear anyway!

It does seem, however, that we can at least claim, that OUR duel was, in fact, the last one in which a BRITISH citizen was KILLED. Not something to be particularly proud of, but there it is. (There was another duel, with a death, in the summer of 1852, but between two refugee Frenchmen from the Napoleon III regime in France. We can discount that when we are looking for a British death!

### **Of Wells – Springs – Spas – Healing Waters.**

GS member Marianna Perry-Zoupanou continues to act as a de facto society recorder of the fascinating work of PixyLedPublications. This online blogging group carefully researches and logs the details of wells, springs, and holy healing water sites all over the United Kingdom. The records are geographically located and photographically illustrated. Historically unique, the stories and legends surrounding these mysterious waters are part of our national folklore. It is impossible not to be challenged by them. Go to the online website at: [PixyLedPublications](http://PixyLedPublications). There you will find the latest offering entitled: Ten Year Anniversary: My Top Ten Holy and Healing Well Sites from 10 Years of Blogging. Big thanks to Marianna for recording this work for the Gosport Society. Perhaps we should all compile our own ‘top ten’ of healing wells and chalybeate springs. There are a surprising number of them in Hampshire, Sussex and Kent. Waggoners Wells just off the A3 near Hindhead is a good example. Bit further afield. Anyone fancy taking a dip in the ‘hot waters’ in Bath?

## From your Treasurer

The accounts presented at the AGM held on Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 7pm.

### Gosport Society Accounts 2020 - 2021

Annex A. Treasurer's AGM Report:

06-Apr-21

Receipts & Payments Account for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021			
	Current Financial Year		Last Year
	Unrestricted Fund	Total	
All figures are rounded to the nearest GBP			
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£	£	£
Subscriptions	1,263	1,263	1,140
Advance Subscriptions (Advance Payments 2020-21 year)	120	120	84
Sales Of Publications & Anniversary Publications	513	513	347
Social events and Trips (see Note1)	0	0	1,659
Donations	1	1	9
Gift Aid	182	182	168
Interest	17	17	44
Other (see Note 2)	40	40	21
Other Publications Income (The 2019-20 'Last Year' figure was 50 Anniversary income)	29	29	124
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>3,596</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	£	£	£
Affiliations (Hampshire Archives & Buildings Trust)	65	65	50
<b>Charitable Activities</b>			
Project Funds / 50 Anniversary Costs (Photographic Competition)	700	700	263
Printing Costs Anniversary material & Publications	1,570	1,570	0
Speakers for Society Lectures via Sec's Petty Cash Account (note 1 also applies)	0	0	285
Room hire for Committee Meetings and Lectures (note 1 also applies)	0	0	450
Storage hire for Publications, stock, records & archives ended in July 2019 (see note 5)	0	0	146
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>1,194</b>
<b>Support Costs</b>			
Membership subscription refunds	0	0	22
Membership Expenses	0	0	0
Officers and Committee expenses	11	11	44
Insurance	99	99	99
Postage, Printing & Covid Lockdown Newsletters	340	340	255
Website & Internet services	68	68	68
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>488</b>
<b>Other Activities</b>			
Social events and trips (note 1 also applies)	0		1,681
Book Purchases & Miscellaneous (note 5)	110		0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110</b>		<b>1,681</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>2,963</b>		<b>3,363</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS-PAYMENTS</b>	<b>-798</b>		<b>233</b>

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021			
Opening Balance 1 April 2020	12,477	Expenditure	2,963
Receipts	2,165	Yr End Balance	11,679
Closing Balance	14,642		14,642

Funds Assets and Liabilities for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2021			
<b>Cash at Bank &amp; in Hand</b>	31 Mar 21	Petty Cash	Last Year
Brought Forward from 2019 to Secretary's Petty Cash account		65	
Returned Secretary's Petty Cash account (No Lecture Payments)		65	
Petty Cash	0	0	65
Bank, Savings Account	11,525		12,371
Bank, Current Account	154		41
	11,679		12,477
Investment, Assets or Liabilities (see note 6)		Nil	Nil
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>11,679</b>		<b>12,477</b>

#### Notes:

1. Due to the Covid Pandemic no Social or Lecture events could be held during the whole financial year.
2. This was repayment due to the GS for a book purchase.
3. Book purchases (part refunded) & Sea Cadets Drill Hall retainer
4. Assets/Stock would be shown in the expenditure at the purchase price but are devalued to zero on receipt (eg publications)
5. There was no requirement for Petty Cash so the sum carried forward from 2019-2020 was returned
6. Assets/Stock would be shown in the expenditure at the purchase price but are devalued to zero on receipt (eg publications)

*Signed in original*

**B J Mansbridge MBE, Honorary Treasurer, Gosport Society**

#### Independent Examiners Report

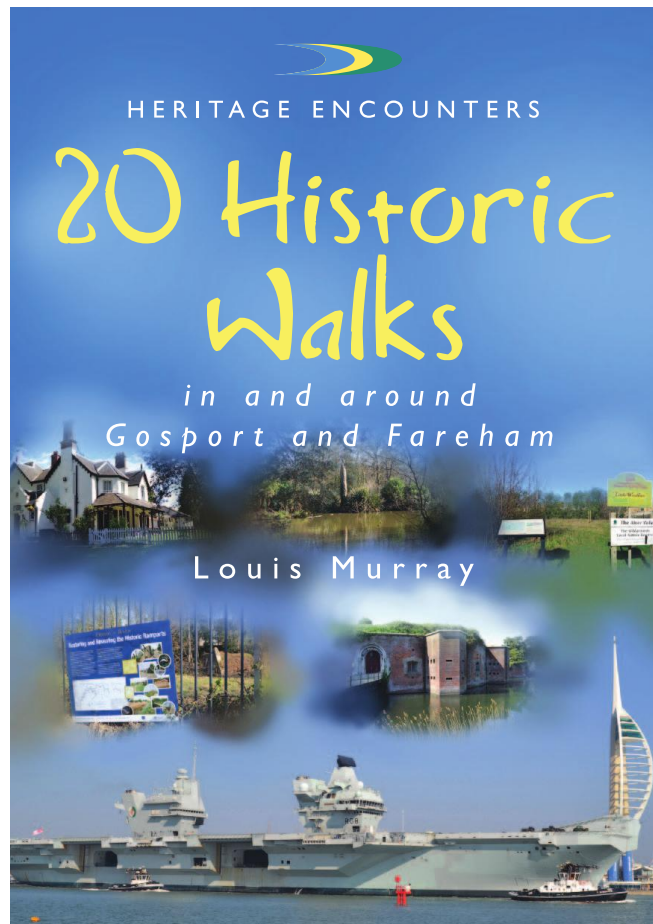
##### Accounts certificate

I have compared the books and records of the Gosport Society for the year ended 31 March 2021 with the attached accounts and I have found them to be in accordance therewith.  
I have not carried out an audit on the accounts.

*Signed in original*

**J White, Independent Examiner**

Dated: 12 April 2021



**Latest Publication.**

Details are:

**Murray, Louis (2021).**  
**20 Historic Walks in Gosport and Fareham.**  
**LDJ Educational in Association with The Gosport Society.**  
**Limited Edition.**  
**ISBN: 978-0-9523500-3-3.**  
**135 pages. RRP £6.50.**

Available for purchase at the Gosport Tourist Information Centre and the High Street Bookshop in Lee on Solent. Subscribed members of The Gosport Society may purchase the book at the discounted price of £5.00 per copy either by phone order (02392 551128) or via email at: [lms62@ymail.com](mailto:lms62@ymail.com)

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