



Gosport Society

Registered as Charity No. 289942

GOSPORT SOCIETY SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

Dated 17th March 2023



Photograph of Fort Blockhouse Sub Mariners Chapel 2022.

Dear Gosport Society Members,

As mentioned in our last News Update 17th February, the Executive Committee met 14th March to decide the way forward for the organisation of the Gosport Society's, new year June 2023!

For Gosport Society to continue representing our members (and local residents) we must regenerate the society by members joining the Executive Committee.

Currently, we are the only Gosport organisation that has a privileged access, via our Planning Sub Committee and Liaison Meetings with our Local Authority on matters concerning Heritage and Conservation.

We do not wish to lose this important arrangement.

At our meeting, the appointment of Executive posts was discussed, the AGM in June, our existing Executive Members, with the exception of our Treasurer, will stand for another year, 2023-2024.

However, our current vacancies still remain –
Requirement for two replacement Trustees.
Vice Chairman
Hon. Secretary
Publishing Supervisor
Archive Supervisor

If you are able to support Gosport Society by applying for any of the above Executive Committee posts, it would be very much appreciated, please complete the enclosed nomination form and return by 22nd May to e: secretary@gosportsociety.co.uk or Gosport Society c/o 40 Gomer Lane Gosport P012 2SA.

If you wish to discuss the contribution you may be able to offer or have any comments or suggestions, please contact Richard on 07542-515014 or any of the Executive Committee members.

Member ship Renewal Fee for 2023/24.

Remains the same as previous years - £12.00 per annum commencing **1st April 2023.**
A renewal form is enclosed.

Gosport Society Business.

SEA DEFENCE Sub Committee.

Our Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) representatives, have been voicing Gosport Society's concerns regarding Gosport's Sea Defences at the quarterly HAZ Partners meetings at GBC.

This was a result of Chris Donnithorne's presentation to Gosport Society (June 2022) and his research and report, 'The Threat to Portsmouth Harbour'.

We regarded the threat so urgent, that we approached GBC (August 2022) for Chris Donnithorne to present his report to a full Council meeting, this was agreed by the Leader of GBC, but unfortunately due to other Council business this is yet to happen.

At February Executive meeting, we decided to form a Sea Defence Sub Committee (SDC), who have continued raising our concerns with our MP, Caroline Dineage, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), Historic England and GBC.

Our SDC have produced a 'Statement on Portsmouth Harbour Sea Defences' which was presented at the HAZ meeting 13th March, 2023. It was extremely disappointing to be told that our 'Statement' could not be considered at this meeting? This is despite Fort Blockhouse being on the Agenda as HAZ Project No 3 – Ft. Blockhouse Masterplan.

Our ‘Statement ‘ was suggested to be referred to DIO (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) Property Disposal Office.

At our Executive meeting this week, we agreed that our approach of addressing this matter should be through GBC.

Gosport Society’s Sea Defence Sub Committee continue to address this serious matter. Further information will follow.

Gosport Society Publications

As reported in the previous News Update, our point-of-sale outlet at Gosport Tourist Information Office is closing at the end of April.

Copies of all our publications are, therefore, available from
e: secretary @gosportsociety.co.uk. or telephone 07762 481117.

The organisation of a future publication sales outlet for the general public is yet to be organised. (See vacancy list page 2).

Gosport Society Planning Sub Committee

I have taken this opportunity to enclose a copy of this monthly report by our Sub-Committee, it indicates the volume of work the Planning Team carry out every month, on our behalf, with concerns of local heritage. This month’s planning application includes Daedalus Waterfront Developments, a vastly important development for the future of Gosport.

Financial Report.

Our Treasurer and Auditor are preparing details of Gosport Society’s financial statement, which will be issued prior to the AGM in June, 2023.

Membership.

We currently have 110 Gosport Society Members.

Social

The following is a provisional list of visits being investigated for next season.

QinetiQ – Haslar Road – viewing of the famous WW2 German test tanks.

Institute of Naval Medicine.

Royal Navy Cemetery. Clayhall Road.

Victoria Quay, UK Docks (Queen Victoria former private station site)

Bastion No 1 – new Gosport public open space, (site still undergoing refurbishment).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May I on behalf of the Gosport Society take this opportunity to wish our Hon. Vice President, Joyce Upperton a very happy 99th birthday for 26th March 2023.

Joyce has been a very active member for many years, giving exceptional service to our Society, and it was only last week Joyce joined us at our speakers meeting.

I can’t wait until next year to see Joyce’s birthday card from The King!