

COUNTDOWN TO GOSPORT HODs 2016

Newsletter 21 - Winter 2015

RECORD BREAKING VISITOR FIGURES IN 2015!

We are pleased to tell you that 2015 has been a bumper year for Gosport Heritage Open Days with both the number of sites/events participating and the numbers of people visiting showing huge increases over earlier years. Here are some key points:-

- Participating Sites/Events : 66 (32% increase on previous best in 2014)
- Overall Visitor Numbers: 12,534 (66% increase on previous best in 2014)
- New Events: 21 (24% of our total events in 2015)
- Over 350 local people helped to run these events (82% were volunteers)
- Gosport Tourist Information Centre dealt with 4,427 enquiries in month before HODs
- Visitors from near and far (Gosport 66% / Fareham 8% / other Hants & East Sussex 11% / Further away 15%)

Note: A full breakdown of visitor statistics is available on request.

Post GHODs Party

It was great to see a big turnout for our party at The Bakery in Royal Clarence Yard on 22 Oct. Many thanks to Philippa Dickenson for arranging the venue and the buffet/refreshments. Also thanks to Terry Hinkley for the grog and ship's biscuit, which went down very well on arrival, and for finishing the evening with a talk about The Bakery and Slaughterhouse.

Katja Condy, Manager of national HODs team, asked us to pass on thanks to ALL of the Gosport event organisers and helpers. To recognise the value of your involvement, a 'Certificate of Appreciation' was given to organisers who were present that night. This printed version could be displayed for your team and/or digitally added to your website. We've attached a copy of this for other organisers. Please fill in the blank for your event name before printing.

We've inserted some photos from the party at the end of this mail. Do let us know if you need a high res image.

Planning for next year, 8th to 11th Sept 2016, has already started and we would welcome hearing if you:-

- Have ideas for possible new events you or someone you know could organise
- Know someone who might like to train as a 'Heritage Guide' or volunteer in a variety of other ways (social media, website development, admin etc)
- Know someone who might like to take up a Management Committee position from March 2016 (we will be looking for a Treasurer, Vice-Chair and others). People are welcome to drop in as guests on our monthly meetings (contact us for dates) just to get a feel for what we do.

Keep up to date

- Website www.gosportheritage.co.uk - View local heritage news and features regularly added here all year around

- 'Like' us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Gosport-Heritage-Open-Days-190020821125292/?ref=ts&fref=ts>
 - Follow us on Twitter **@gosportheritage**
- Please contact us with any heritage tales or events which you'd like us to promote.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online this Christmas you could be raising a free donation for Gosport Heritage Open Days?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. **Join** - Head to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gosportheritage> and sign up for free .
2. **Shop** - Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
3. **Raise** - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

Any donations received will help us to fund future events.

Merry Christmas!

It may seem a bit early but, if we don't speak to you before then, we wish you all best wishes for the festive season ahead.

2015 turned out to be a great year for Gosport HODs - but one we hope to surpass in 2016 with all your support.

Kind regards from your
Gosport Heritage Open Days Management Team 😊

