

About the artists...

THE three artists whose works form the major element of the inaugural exhibition at the Gosport Community Gallery include an award-winning amateur photographer living in the town centre and two painters who spent their last years in Lee-on-the Solent.

CHRIS RENDLE, had battled against ill health for many years before his death in 2004, was a gifted watercolourist with a love of sailing, landscapes and rural life — all reflected in the subject matter of his tasteful, finely crafted paintings.

His partner and art collection custodian is Kim Bristow who, several years after Chris had died met, cared for and subsequently married another noted artist.

PETER HAMMOND was a proud Yorkshireman from the West Ridings whose county's flag could often be seen fluttering in the breeze above the back garden of the bungalow he shared with Kim in a quiet Lee-on-the-Solent cul-de-sac.

His colourful and intricately detailed images resemble Lancashire legend Lowry in that Victorian mills and architecture are common features but the execution is subtly different through the mixed medium of vibrant watercolours, pen and ink, and pencil.

PETER MAGUIRE, born in what was North Street, grew up in the town area of Gosport. He developed a life-long passion for photography after being given a Kodak Brownie 127 and honed his skills behind the lens while travelling to far-flung corners of the globe.

His principal interests remain photography and local history. And Peter is constantly adding to an extensive archive of historical and contemporary images.

In 2019, Peter was voted Photographer of the Year by the American Photographic Society for his picture of Spinnaker Tower shrouded in red clouds. The following year he received an award for Most Inspirational Photograph of 2020 — a line of Clipper yachts — from ViewBug, the international photographic magazine. That same year ViewBug gave him the Photographer of the Year accolade for his shot of the Round Tower and in-line landmarks in Portsmouth Harbour. And in 2023 ViewBug readers voted Peter Most Inspirational Photographer of the Year for a stunning fireworks display above Gosport.

THE PICTURES SHOW... Peter Maguire's seascapes; Trinity Church; across the Solent to Osborne House; fireworks over Portsmouth Harbour; Spinnaker Tower and Manfreds veterans Paul Jones, Mike Hugg and Zoot Money, old friends of Peter dating back to his days playing bass guitar at Thorngate with the Dynachords in the 1960s.

Prints on canvas can be ordered by emailing South630@aim.com.

Yorkshire memories by Peter Hammond, featuring those satanic mills of the industrial north, seaside hotels and life along the canals.

All along the backwaters with Chris Rendle's evocative watercolours of boats and buildings across Hampshire and beyond.

Paintings and prints from Kim Bristow: kim.dreamhaven@btopenworld.com.