



## HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

No 200 February - March 2018

### SOCIETY NEWS

#### IMPORTANT SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Dear Members you will be aware that the Annual membership subscription rises from £8 to £10 from 1st April 2018. The increase was approved at the AGM on 9th May 2017. For postal members the subscription will rise from £12 to £14, the additional £4 covering the newsletter postal charges.

The subscriptions for members paying by cheque or cash will be collected by the distributors when delivering the next newsletter at the end of March. Subscriptions can be paid at any time prior to the 1st April should members wish to do so. Cheques should be made payable to *Hythe Civic Society*, and sent to Alan Joyce, 6 London Road, Hythe, CT21 4DF.

Members who currently pay by standing order will receive a new standing order form with this newsletter, which should be completed and sent to their bank. The form advises your bank that any previous standing orders or direct debits should be cancelled so no other action is required by the member.

A few members already have standing orders for £10 or more, so no form will be required, and the distributor will be advised accordingly.

#### **Christmas Cards**

We are very pleased to inform you that all the cards were sold and your committee has decided that the surplus made, some £250.00, will be donated to the Hythe Festival organisation where it will benefit the town as a whole.

#### **Newsletter – 200<sup>th</sup> Edition!**

We couldn't let the 200th edition pass without looking back to some of the earlier ones bearing "significant" numbers.

**Number 1:** The earliest "No. 1" that we have found in the archives was edited by Mrs E. M. Fairhead and appeared in June 1976 as the first of several annual editions. At that time membership stood at 454 and meetings were held on the 4th Thursday in the month at the erstwhile Canon Newman Hall from September to April. The AGM had just passed a resolution condemning an Order which would ban parking in the High Street in order to speed up through traffic and we wrote to the Dept. for the Environment to protest the detrimental effect on local shops. The letter included a plea for a bypass linking the A20 to the A259 and reducing through

traffic in Sandgate, Hythe, Dymchurch and New Romney. This far-sighted proposal was officially adopted during the next couple decades but was finally turned down – how many of us, and not just in Hythe must now wish that it had been built!

**Number 1** in the present series of bi-monthly editions was edited by Lionel Osborne and was published in June 1984 "the beginning of the Society's 40th year".

**Number 100** edited by Mike Umbers, appeared in June 2001 – also with a report on the recent AGM when the retiring Chairman, Ronald Stokes, after 11 years at the helm passed on The Badge of Office to Brigadier John Holman. Membership had increased to almost 800 by this time and the meeting approved the merger with the Eaton Lands Preservation Society leading to two of their committee members, Bim Wilson and Ian Hill joining our committee. (Ian is still with us doing very valuable work!).

#### **OUR HYTHE**

##### **Dr. Berkeley Hill**

We are delighted to record our congratulations to Berkeley following the award of a British Empire Medal for services to music in Kent.

Berkeley has been well known in Hythe as Organist and Choirmaster at St Leonard's Church, Hythe since 1972 where he now runs three choirs.

He studied the organ with John Webster (University College, Oxford) and Allen Wickes (Canterbury Cathedral) and was a member of the National Youth Orchestra.

He joined Folkestone Choral Society as its accompanist in 1971, becoming its Musical Director in 1976 a post which he held for over 40 years

In 1976 he founded the Shepway Singers which continues under his baton to this day as a very successful chamber choir.

In his professional life he was Professor of Policy Analysis at Wye Agricultural College and Imperial College, London.

##### **Heat Loss Detection**

###### **THERMAL IMAGES OF YOUR HOME**

Hythe Environmental Community Group will be conducting free informal heat loss surveys of homes in Shepway District during evenings in February. If you would like your home to be included, please contact Roger Wood with a brief statement of your reasons for wanting a survey by email at [hytheecg.energy@gmail.com](mailto:hytheecg.energy@gmail.com) or by phone on 01303 263707."

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Princes Parade**

Your Executive Committee has lodged an objection to Shepway DC's planning application for the development of Princes Parade. By early January there had been over 760 public comments – some 590 opposing the development and some 170 in favour. Historic England is objecting as it considers the development will have a significant adverse effect upon the Royal Military Canal. Your Committee has asked Government to “call in” the application and take the decision as this will ensure and give confidence to the Society and many residents of Hythe, that the decision has been arrived at objectively and without bias – whatever the decision.

### **Aldi Relocation**

Aldi has submitted a planning application (Y17/1377/SH) to move its supermarket and redevelop the Kengate Industrial estate on Dymchurch Road. Representatives of your Executive Committee held an informal meeting with Aldi and its planning advisers to obtain the background to this proposal. Your Executive Committee is concerned with the after use of the existing town centre site but, of course, this is not part of the current planning application. Your Executive Committee is not against the proposal but is concerned about:

1. Traffic turning right into the site and turning right leaving the site.
2. The long term effects of the increase in traffic, and that from Martello Lakes when completed, upon Scanlons Bridge and the Hythe one-way system, and
3. Hours of opening adversely affecting the adjoining local residents.

Your comments are invited via the email address at the end of this Newsletter.

### **Otterpool Garden Town**

On 1 December 2017 Shepway DC launched “A Charter for Otterpool Park” – the Council's vision for the development. This is a non-binding vision but a clear indication of intent. The Charter can be viewed on the Shepway DC website at - [www.shepway.gov.uk/news/charter\\_otterpool\\_park](http://www.shepway.gov.uk/news/charter_otterpool_park) Your Executive Committee is considering its response – your comments are invited via the email address at the end of this Newsletter.

### **Revision to the Shepway Core Strategy**

At a meeting of the Shepway Cabinet in mid-January members are being asked to agree a revision to the Shepway Core Strategy for public consultation early in 2018. The revision will include the proposed major development at Otterpool. This is a case of the necessary policy catching up with what is actually happening. HCS members will already know that Government is part funding work by Shepway DC that will result in a planning application being submitted later this year – even though the strategic policy designation has not yet been through the statutory process! Details of the Cabinet report, and the proposed revisions to the 2013 Core Strategy can be found at <http://www.shepway.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/g3228/Public%20reports%20pack%2017th-Jan->

2018%2017.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10 It is probable that your Committee will ask members to respond to a short questionnaire to provide the evidence for an HCS response to the public consultation.

### **Submission Draft of the Shepway Places and Policies Local Plan**

Shepway DC is expected to launch a 6 week public consultation on the final draft of its Local Plan by the end of January 2018. Enclosed with this newsletter is a questionnaire which you are invited to complete and return. The results will provide the evidence for the HCS response to the public consultation and to the Inspector at the anticipated “Examination in Public”. The major issue is likely to be the proposed policy designation of Princes Parade for the development already applied for by Shepway DC as mentioned above. But, in addition, there will be other sites in Hythe designated for development and there will be policies that will help determine planning applications. To find out more please look at the (lengthy) document at <https://www.shepway.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/local-plan/places-and-policies> The Draft document is in 3 parts. Proposed sites for development in Hythe are in the first document and the policies to assist determine planning applications are in the third document. You are encouraged to respond on any issue to the return address on the questionnaire, to SDC Planning direct and to your SDC ward member – whatever your views.

## **TOWN AND AROUND**

### **Hythe Twinning Association**

Hythe Twinning Association continues very actively following the resignations, due to work commitments, of Chairman Kevin Howell and Secretary Amanda Parris. This results from the appointment of new members to the committee. Amanda Parris served HTA as chairman and secretary for 34 years in all and Kevin Howell had been chairman since 1997. Their direct involvement will be deeply missed.

Kevin formally handed over the chairman's badge of office to Ray Botwright (the new chairman) on the 11th November 2017 in Berck-sur-Mer, one of the association's twin towns, at their Annual Remembrance Day lunch. The other new officers of the Association are Pat Bell (secretary replacing Amanda Parris) and Patrick Jones (treasurer). Fred Kirkby continues as vice chairman.

Other new members to the committee are Dawn Butler, John Sinclair-Thomas and Stan Wallace.

The Association recently celebrated its 35th Anniversary by holding a formal lunch at the Sports Pavilion attended by representatives from both Berck-surMer and Poperinge.

### **HYTHE IN BLOOM**

Following the success of the colourful floral displays in the High Street and Prospect Road this summer, the Hythe in Bloom partnership is continuing the theme with new, multi-colour planting for the winter all along the High Street. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors – Gopak, Waitrose, Lawrence Estate Agent, Charlier Construction and Hythe Town Council, all the High

Street troughs have been stripped out and a wonderful selection of plants including pansies, polyanthus and crocuses have been planted.

The work was carried out by a team of volunteers keen to ensure that Hythe looks its colourful best throughout the year.

Sally Chesters, one of the Hythe in Bloom organisers, said: 'The floral displays in the High Street this summer really enhanced the appearance of our beautiful town and it is important to keep the colour going throughout the winter for the benefit of both residents and visitors. The generosity of our sponsors allows us to do this and we are most grateful for their contribution'.

## **SOCIAL HISTORY**

### **Mackeson's Brewery**

*A Civic Society member has found, among his late father's papers a history of the brewery, This is the second of several extracts from the research, which was compiled before the brewery shut in 1968.*

The Mackesons who bought the brewery next – Henry and William - were from Deal. A letter still exists from 1804, when their father, another Henry, was toying with the idea – subsequently turned down – of buying The New Inn, New Romney. One letter of that year enclosed accounts showing that old Henry Mackeson was a wine merchant at Deal. He had been supplying John Friend, the owner of the Hythe brewery with wine since 1792, including sherry at only two shillings a bottle!

Mackeson had not always dealt in wine, however, though little is known of his family's early history. The name in that spelling first occurs in the parish registers of St. Leonard's, Deal, in 1723. Later these registers, which contain the signature of William Pitt as a reminder of the town's eighteenth century connection with the great and famous, show the names of Henry Mackeson senior, his second wife Elizabeth and some of their children. He married three times. His first wife (another Elizabeth) was the widow of a Deal mariner and she died in about 1768, when Henry was also described as a mariner. In 1771 he married Elizabeth Bean, great-niece of John Friend senior, Ashford maltster and Hythe brewer. Their eldest son Henry was baptised the following year and their second boy William two years after that. They had other children: John, Thomas and Mary Ann, who married Peter Fisher. In 1773 the elder Henry was a pilot and six years later, letters of marque and reprisal appointed him

fourth lieutenant on board the privateer 'Kent' and authorised reprisals on Spanish goods and subjects. Commanded by James Boxer and owned by two Folkestone men, she was of ninety-five tons, had a single mast, sixteen guns and a crew of sixty.

The second Mrs. Mackeson died in 1783 and was buried in a large altar tomb now lichen-encrusted, in Great Mongeham churchyard. She had returned to the parish where her grandfather William Bean lived and had his malthouse. Within two years her widower married again and in due course had three more children. By 1787 his sea days were over, a document then describing him as a gentleman. From 1792 to 1794 invoices show that he was a wine merchant, and he died in 1800 since early in the following year his will was proved. Six pages long, it mentions wine vaults, a yard and other ground, but their whereabouts in Deal is unknown. Young Henry helped his wine merchant father but after the latter's death the business is not mentioned again - presumably it was sold.

It is interesting to note at this point that Deal was then a very busy place. Kent's best-known historian, Hasted, described it as:

*Very populous, consisting of near 3000 souls; the inhabitants being, for the most part, either sea-faring, concerned in the business of shipping, or the respective offices under government; and in the time of war, when the fleets of the Royal Navy and the East and West India fleets lie in the Downs, this place is remarkably full of bustle and trade*

However, local wealth had been much greater a few years previously on account of smuggling (had Henry Mackeson, one-time mariner and pilot, built up his wine business thus?) but legislation had squeezed much of that out. Yet the place was still lively and prosperous for Hasted goes on:

*Besides the private yards here for the building of vessels and boats, there is a King's Naval Officer, with storehouses and a quantity of stores, for the supply of the Navy; and here are agents for the East India Company and Dutch Admiralty constantly evident. Here is an office of the Customs, under a Collector, Comptroller, Surveyor and other inferior offices; an hospital for the use of the navy and army; and here are waiting constantly a number of skilful Pilots ....'*

Not only was Pitt a visitor - even a resident - but Nelson, too, came this way and stayed at the Royal Hotel.

*To be continued.....*

**THE EDITOR AND YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS**

**A HAPPY and PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!**

## Events in Hythe

### CIVIC SOCIETY

**Town Walks** - The ever-popular Guided take place from June to September starting at 10.30am outside the Town Hall, Parties of 10 or more may come at any time by arrangement. Please call (01303) 266118 for more details.

**Talks Evenings** - The Society arranges talks at fortnightly intervals on Tuesdays during the months of October to April at Hythe Bay C of E Primary School, Cinque Ports Ave. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. The next talks are:

**13TH FEBRUARY** Dr Geoff Doel Outsiders : Outlaws, Poachers, Smugglers and Highwaymen

**27TH FEBRUARY** Imogen Corrigan FRSA The Cathars  
*In the 12th & 13th century the Cathars were a very forward looking religious cult in the south of France, near Carcassonne. They were so successful that they incurred the wrath of the Pope and King of France, resulting in the introduction of the first inquisitions.*

**13TH MARCH** Dr Jimmy Carter Moon Mapping and UK Space Science  
*This talk will give some of the highlights of the last few years of planetary exploration and examine the UK's contribution to contemporary space science*

**27TH MARCH** Mrs Toni Mount MA The Medieval Housewife  
*A look at ordinary folk in the middle ages with anecdotes about cooking, child care, food and fashion and the instructions given by an elderly husband to his new young wife.*

### FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH – CONCERTS:

**SATURDAY 24 MARCH, 7.30pm: Folkestone Choral Society [Tickets £12]**  
Requiems by John Rutter and Philip Ledger

**FRIDAY 30 MARCH, 6.30pm: Readings and music for Good Friday [retiring collection]**  
with Shepway Singers: Allegri – *Miserere*; Lotti – *Crucifixus*; (at 7.30pm) Joubert – *St Mark Passion*

**THURSDAY 5 APRIL, 12 noon: Fours Company [Tickets £7]**  
Zoe Peate (soprano), Gary Prior (piano), Bryony Prior (horn), Paul Newton (trumpet)  
Works by Johann Strauss, Richard Strauss, Purcell, Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart – followed by light lunches in the church

**SATURDAY 7 APRIL, 7.30pm: James Short (Organ Scholar, Exeter College, University of Oxford) [Tickets £12]**  
Bach – *Prelude and Fugue in B minor, BWV 544*; Mendelssohn – *Sonata No 5 in D major, Op 65 No 5*;  
Perry – *Chorale Prelude on Rockingham*; Vierne – *Symphony No 2 in E minor, Op 20*

Copies of the **Friends' 2018 concert brochure** are distributed with this issue of the HCS Newsletter. A major highlight will be a concert by the BBC Singers on 7 July at the opening week of both the **Hythe Festival** and the **JAM on the Marsh** multi-arts festival.

*Ticket price reductions are offered to Friends of St Leonard's Church and free admission to those under 18. For more information about the Friends of St Leonard's Church, including how to become an Annual or Life Member and to be added to our email distribution list for advance information about concerts throughout the area, visit our website at [www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk), contact Brinley Hughes on 01303 264470 or e-mail [brin.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:brin.hughes@btinternet.com).*

**HYTHE COMMUNITY CINEMA:** meets on the first Tuesday of the month from October to July at The Tin Tabernacle, Portland Road, Hythe CT21 6FL at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Entry £5 on the door, or £3 for Hythe Cinema Card holders. (for more details: [www.hythecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.hythecommunitycinema.co.uk) or phone 01303 264914)

**6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY** **MUSCLE SHOALS** (2013) • US • 111 mins - Music documentary • Rating: PG  
*In Muscle Shoals, Alabama, music runs through the hills, the river, and the spirit of the people. This film offers a compelling, warts-and-all glimpse of one of the most fascinating stories in modern American music.*

**6<sup>th</sup> MARCH** **HUNT FOR THE WILDER PEOPLE** (2016) • New Zealand • 101 mins - Comedy drama • Rating: 12A  
*A national manhunt is ordered for a rebellious kid and his foster uncle who go missing in the wild New Zealand bush. The bright, light comic mood of this film won it the Audience Award at the Edinburgh International Film Festival.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL** **I, DANIEL BLAKE** - (2016) • UK • 100 mins Drama • Rating: 15  
*This heartfelt and emotional film follows a 59 year old carpenter, who, after a heart attack, befriends a single mother and her children as they navigate their way through the benefits system. Won a BAFTA for Outstanding British Film of the Year, a César for Best Foreign Film and the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.*

We are on the Web: Website: [www.hythecivicsociety.org](http://www.hythecivicsociety.org) You can e-mail us at: [enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org](mailto:enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org)

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