

HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No 199 December 2017 - January 2018

SOCIETY NEWS

HCS CHRISTMAS CARDS

The competition to design an HCS Christmas card was won by entries from Janine Umbers and Jacqui Botwright. They depict very different but wonderful, views of Hythe.

The cards are available for collection from Sally Chesters – Call: 01303 266118 or email chestersnsl@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

Tuesday 12th December @ 7pm
South Road Sports Pavilion

Please note change of venue!

A chance for a relaxed get-together before the hustle and bustle of Christmas
Mince pies and mulled wine/coffee

PLUS

This year there will be a special seasonal talk by
GEOFF HUTCHINSON

(one of our favourite speakers) takes a light hearted look at Christmas Folklore and Traditions in verse and song. There's no charge for this occasion, Family and friends are welcome (especially potential new members)

At the Social Evening a number of framed prints of Hythe, formerly in the collection of the late John Baden Fuller, a long-time member of HCS, will be for sale on behalf of his Estate.. Prices from £5 to £45 (as valued by Patrick Marrin)

The Autumn Lunch

On Saturday 7th October sixty five members, family and friends gathered at Hythe Bowling Club for the Society's annual Autumn lunch and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

After a very enjoyable meal we were all entertained by John Schoner MBE who recounted some of his amusing, and sometimes almost unbelievable, memories of his time served as a Justice of the Peace.

Early that morning, a near catastrophe had been avoided. Our caterer, Evelyn Joyce had been taken ill during the night but her partner, Annette, said that she would be able to man the kitchen on her own. Well done Annette... what a trouper!

Everyone was impressed by the fantastic group of young people who waited at table. A very special 'thank you' to them and to the Bowling Club for making us so welcome.

New Website

In August last year your committee decided that our website needed modernising and that many of the pages could be improved to make it more informative and interesting to anyone wanting to know more about the Society.

A sub-committee of five was formed to work out a framework, decide on style and compose the pages. Our website provider was unable to work with us on the project but Ron Greenwood, who has set up the History Group's website, readily agreed to step in. Text and photographs have been provided by committee members with appropriate responsibilities or by a member of the sub-committee. Ron has provided enthusiastic support and advice. This team has worked steadily for over a year and the new website was "launched" on 20th October.

The website name is simply "Hythe Civic Society" and the web address remains as www.hythecivicsociety.org. We hope you find the new website easy to navigate. We will try to keep it up to date and will make improvements and changes from time to time. (Don't forget to refresh the pages on your monitor to ensure that it shows the latest version.)

So, when you are asked "What does Hythe Civic Society do?" you can reply "Visit their website and see!"

OUR HYTHE

Princes Parade

On November 1st there had been almost 685 public comments (164 or 24% in favour of the application and 520 or 76% against) made to Shepway DC on its planning application for the development of its land ownership at Princes Parade. The application is very unusual as it combines a detailed application for the leisure centre including associated parking, open spaces and children's play facility and an outline (in principle only) application for up to 150 dwellings, commercial uses (eg: hotel, retail and/or café/restaurant), soft and hard landscaped areas

(including children's play areas, car and cycle parking), alterations to existing vehicular and pedestrian access and highway layout within and around the site, and all necessary supporting infrastructure and services. These outline issues will require a detailed application in due course to allow this part of the scheme to proceed and the details could change from those provided at this early stage.

It is concerning to your Committee that a long awaited financial appraisal into the proposals has not yet been released by Shepway DC into the public domain.

Your Committee has continued to object to this development. The objections to this application can be found in summary on the Society's new website under the "Planning" heading.

Shepway Local Plan – next stage

It is quite likely that Shepway DC will publish the next stage of the Shepway Local Plan – The Submission Draft Places and Policies Local Plan by the end of 2017. A draft of this document was discussed by the Shepway DC Cabinet in July 2017 and is being revised with additional evidence being prepared to support the Plan. The Submission Draft consultation will be for 6 weeks. When the consultation has finished Shepway DC will submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate (an independent government body) that will arrange an 'Examination in Public'. This is likely to be in the first half of 2018.

Your Committee will wish to check that its comments on various issues are in accord with the majority of individual members and will be asking members to complete a short questionnaire in due course.

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.

This 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'.

The next Newsletter will include some pictures to remind you of the excellent displays in the Spring and Summer of 2017.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Mackeson's Brewery

A Civic Society member has found, among his late father's papers, a history of Mackeson's brewery, which operated in Hythe from the early nineteenth century until 1968. The first of several extracts from the research, which was compiled before the brewery closed, follows:

The Mackesons, who came from Deal, bought Hythe brewery in 1801. However they seem to have had links with it for some years before then, while records of previous brewery owners, despite many gaps, go back to 1669. In that year James Pashley mortgaged his brewhouse to Francis Wright, an Ashford merchant, for £50.

The property was described as bounded 'on the east by the King's High Street', on the south by the common watercourse running under the west bridge, and on the north by a lane. The malthouse and 'one other garden' were separated from the brewery by the back lane. These details fit today's brewery site. Further, the 'hospital map' of 1685 shows 3 oast-shaped buildings - presumably the malthouse - and the words 'Mr. J. Pashley' near the site of today's brewery.

Was James Pashley the first owner of the brewery? Research has so far revealed nothing about the property before his day, though as far as public houses go the earliest record is a title deed for the Ship Inn, Dymchurch, dated 1618. This does not mean, however, that it then belonged to the brewery. Pashley is an uncommon name, and Hythe Assembly books mention him, though not in connection with beer (though drinks were ordered for some assembly meetings) but with accounts for timber.

In 1670 James Pashley's will, made two days after signing the mortgage, was proved. He left all to his son - also called James - who died seventeen years later. The brewhouse, with The Three Mariners (now The Red Lion) and Ramb Alley Garden - passed to his wife and eventually to his stepson, who in 1706 sold it to a local grocer, Daniel Forman. Three times mayor - but an undignified fellow who sang impertinent songs, to judge from complaints of the day - Forman did not long enjoy his acquisition. By his will, proved the next year, he left it to Mary his wife who afterwards sold it for £442 to her brother, David Boughton. He probably got into difficulties for in 1718, after his death, mention is made of Richard Lawrence, principal creditor. Though the circumstances are confused, it seems brewery ownership then passed to Boughton's niece, Margaret.

By 1741 she was thinking of selling out to an Ashford maltster, John Friend, though sale date and details are lost - and his family owned the brewery for over half a century. That same year also saw the origins of the Mackeson story, for Friend's great-niece, Elizabeth, signed marriage articles with William Bean, whose father was a maltster of Great Mongeham, near Deal. Their great-grandsons were Henry and William Mackeson, who took over Hythe Brewery in 1801.

Friend's will was proved in 1757. This refers to maltings in Ashford, land near Deal and other land at Kennington, Boughton Aluph, Wye and Hinxhill.

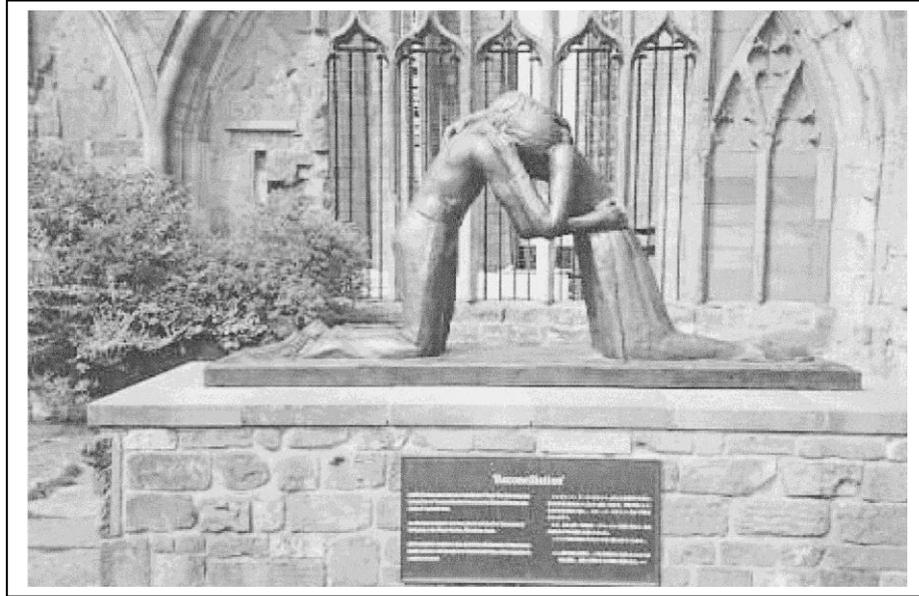
We have some inkling of what Hythe brewery then comprised for the document lists coppers, barrels, tuns, tubs, brewing vessels, mills, horses, drays, carts, carriages and stock of beer, barley and malt. The next owner was Friend's son, also called John. Letters show that he had customers as far afield as the Sussex border, in the villages of Rolvenden and Sandhurst, and he was offered one or two houses, notably in 1789 the Botolph's Bridge Inn, just outside Hythe, for five hundred guineas. Today it is a Mackeson house.

By 1792 The Kentish Herald of Canterbury ('a Free and Independent News Paper, on Genuine but

moderate Whig Principles') asked him to advertise in its columns. Another correspondent was a Mr. Silk of Maidstone, who the following year – as though they had been partridges - offered him a 'Brace of Stilton Cheeses.' He added that he recommends a little of them and No. 6 to be very good in the evening. Was the enigmatic No. 6 a Hythe beer?

To be continued.....

RECONCILIATION



This powerful depiction of a couple embracing and called "*Reunion*" was inspired by a story of the post-War period – a wife's search for her husband, and their meeting; it was presented in 1977 to the University of Bradford by its creator, the late Josefina de Vasconcellos, who had been moved by the story. In 1994 its name was changed to Reconciliation at the University's request: it had come to be seen as not only about the reunion of two people but hopefully a reunion of nations which had been fighting. In 1995 (to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II) a bronze cast, donated by Richard Branson, was significantly placed in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral, and another was donated by the people of Coventry to the Hiroshima Peace Park in Japan. Now it can also be found in the grounds of Stormont Castle in Belfast, at the rebuilt German Reichstag and as part of the Berlin Wall memorial. What began as a personal story has become an international symbol and clearly fills a need.

In 1978 Hythe invited the French and Belgian Towns of Berck-sur-Mer and Poperinge to 'twin' with us. The aims of 'twinning' are to foster educational, cultural, sporting, and youth links and over the years members have forged some long-lasting friendships. 'Twinning is part of the healing process, where friendships blossom, and hearing each other's life experiences leads to fresh understanding and to the Reconciliation we all want.' These are the words of Dorothea Wheeler who has lived in Hythe intermittently for ten years but previously was active in Leamington Twinning Association which was twinned with a French, a German, and a Dutch town through whom members also met people from Greece and Poland. 'Far from being a clash of cultures it was a memorable and enriching experience,' she says. So the obvious question follows: 'What chance Hythe might also twin with a German Town?'

It would be of interest to know how public opinion stands on this. As it happens the Twinning Association already has a "friendship link" with Bad Honnef, Berck's German twin, but a lot of work would be required to establish a full twinning link, and the unfortunate fact is that like any other society, the Twinning Association can continue to function only if it has an organising committee. Sittingbourne (with a population of 62,500!) has simply had to close down the social side of its work, and Hythe's present hard-working long-serving members – especially Kevin Howell and Amanda Parris and David Hill – are looking for volunteers to carry the torch. You can reach Kevin 07552 386039 and Amanda on 01303 268375.

Mike Umbers

Events in Hythe

CIVIC SOCIETY

Town Walks - The ever-popular Guided Walks 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:

12th December **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING AT SOUTH ROAD SPORTS CENTRE AT 7.00pm.**

9th January **Wilf Lower** **Lost Empires**
The last days of Music Hall & Variety

23rd January **Betty Black** **Skyways at Lympne**

FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH – CONCERTS:

Saturday 2 December, 7.00pm: The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and Military Wives Choir, Shorncliffe perform a fund-raising concert in support of *Hythe Festival 2018*.
[Suggested donation £10 on entry.]

Saturday 16 December at 7.30pm: The last concert to be held in St Leonard's Church this year will be the traditional *Carols for All* featuring the Shepway Singers, Church Choirs and Hythe Girls Choir – followed by a retiring collection, mince pies and mulled wine.

Planning for the **2018 programme of concerts** in St Leonard's Church is well advanced, with the aim (and hope!) of including much for everyone to enjoy. The historic Harrison & Harrison organ will be undergoing restoration work during the first few weeks of next year but is expected to be back in full magnificent working order by Easter weekend (at the end of March). The first concerts currently scheduled at St Leonard's Church will be the Folkestone Choral Society performing *Requiems* by John Rutter and Philip Ledger on 24 March followed by Shepway Singers performing Easter music on Good Friday. The **Friends' 2018 concert brochure** will be published in January (and copies distributed with the next issue of the HCS Newsletter). A major highlight will be a concert by the BBC Singers on 7 July at the opening weekend of the concurrent biennial *Hythe Festival 2018* 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, contact Brinley Hughes on 01303 264470 or e-mail 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 or phone 01303 264914)*

6th DECEMBER 2016 **WHALE RIDER** (2003) • New Zealand 101 mins - Drama • Rating: PG

A contemporary story of love, rejection and triumph as a young Maori girl fights to fulfil a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognise. Winner of World Cinema award at Sundance Film Festival.

3rd JANUARY 2017 **MANON DES SOURCES** - (1988) • France • 113 mins - Drama • Rating: PG

A follow up to last season's 'Jean de Florette'. The story continues with the daughter seeking vengeance on those that caused her father's death

7th FEBRUARY 2017 **PRIDE** - (2014) • UK • 119 mins - Comedy drama • Rating: 15

What happens when lesbian and gay activists take their donations towards the miners' strike to a small mining village in Wales? An ultimately uplifting clash of cultures, inspired by an extraordinary true story. Nominated for three BAFTAs, winning one.

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Annual subscription for **HCS membership** is still only £8 per household.

We are on the Web: Website: www.hythecivicsociety.org You can e-mail us at: enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org