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Hythe Civic Society NEWSLETTER

No. 223 April/May 2022



TALKS AND EVENTS

12 April

*The Master Masons:
The Men Who Built the Cathedrals*
by Imogen Corrigan



26 April

Fictional Folkestone
by Vince Williams



24 May (7pm Town Hall)
AGM TALK

Guy Sharrock and Callum Erskine will tell us about their project "Saltwood Speaks!". This new project records the experiences that individuals, families and local organisations have had during the Covid-19 pandemic and is a snapshot of Saltwood life in unusual circumstances – hopefully not to be repeated. Could Hythe do the same as Saltwood? Would you like to record your experiences?

Let us know at chairman.hcs@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at 7pm in the Town Hall, High Street. There will be the opportunity to socialise before the AGM with a glass of wine or fruit juice.

AGM AGENDA AND PAPERWORK

The agenda, minutes of the 2021 AGM, annual report, accounts and any other papers will be placed on the HCS website in early May (www.hythecivicsociety.org). Printed copies will be available at the AGM. If you would like copies sent to you before the AGM please contact chairman.hcs@gmail.com or telephone 07804 695828 with your name and address including postal code.

NOMINATIONS

At the AGM there will be elections for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary and up to an additional 12 members to serve on the Executive Committee. If you are interested in becoming a committee member in any capacity and want to know more about what is involved please contact the Chairman on 07804 695828 or use the email address in the paragraph above. *Your Society needs you!*

Nominations must be received by the Hon Secretary by Monday 16 May 2022. Contact details on the last page of the newsletter. Nominations must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the nominee must have been obtained.

GREY WALLS, ALBERT ROAD

The 2021 AGM agreed to present a Hythe Civic Award to the two pairs of semi-detached houses recently built in Albert Road, for their good design, improvement to the street scene and parking provision. How many new developments in central Hythe have a garage and room for three additional cars on the driveway? The picture (copyright of HCS Vice Chairman Betty Black) shows the occupants of two of the houses, the architect Marc Furminger (holding the Capon Shield), and the developer Nathan Leslie of Lodestar Investments.



HYPHE COMMUNITY HUB

The 2021 AGM agreed that The Hythe Community Hub should receive an Outstanding Service Award for its great assistance to the people of Hythe during the covid-19 pandemic. The presentation was delayed by the covid-19 pandemic and made recently, at the commencement of a trustees meeting of Age UK Hythe and Lyminge.

The picture (copyright of District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee) shows, from left to right, Penny Southern (Age UK H+L Chairman), Crispin Davies (HCS Chairman), Cleo Smith BEM (CEO of Age UK H+L) and District Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (Deputy Leader of FHDC and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities). The initial and main funding for the Community Hub came from Government via FHDC. Cleo Smith was awarded the BEM in the Queen's 2022 New Year's Honours list for her work in creating the Community Hub so effectively and efficiently.



2022 AWARDS

Nominations for the three categories of annual awards are invited to be sent by Sunday 17 April and will be presented at the HCS Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 24 May 2022 – subject to covid restrictions in place at the time. The three categories of award are:

Amenity Award – to an organisation or a facility that provides a new or significantly improved amenity for the community of Hythe.

Outstanding Service Award – to an individual who, or exceptionally an organisation that, has rendered outstanding service to the community of Hythe in line with the Society's charitable objectives. Such service will normally be unpaid and outside the individual's normal profession, occupation or elected office or additional to the organisation's normal remit. Such an award was made in 2020 to the Hythe Community Hub for its increased service to the community during the covid restrictions.

HCS Award – to a completed project in Hythe displaying an overall excellence of design and enhancing the visual quality of the neighbourhood.

Nominations, together with the rationale, should be made to the Society via chairman.hcs@gmail.com by Sunday 17 April.



NEWS FROM ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

[Rev Michael Darkins](#) was licensed by the Bishop of Dover as new Priest in Charge of the Parish of St Leonard at a joyful and memorable service in the church on Thursday 3 March. His wife, Rev Cat Darkins, was licensed at the same service as Spiritual Care Lead for the Pilgrims Hospice, Ashford. We warmly welcome them both to our community.

Friday 15 April (Good Friday), 6.00pm: Shepway Singers perform Michael Lewis's *Requiem for a Pandemic* plus choral works by Ireland, SS Wesley and Parry, with Belinda Lewis (*soprano*), Floriane Peycelon (*violin*), Molly Oldland (*cello*), Tim Parsons (*organ*) conducted by Berkeley Hill [*Retiring collection*]

Sunday 1 May, 3.00pm: Narropera (narrated opera) performance of Weber's *Der Freischütz* "The Marksman" or "The Freeshooter" with Dorothee Jansen (*soprano*), Floriane Peycelon (*violin*), Haydn Rawstron (*piano/narrator*) [*Tickets £12*]

Friday 3 June, 7.30pm: Primavera Chamber Ensemble: Mozart *Divertimento in B flat K137*; Brahms *Clarinet Quintet*; Dvořák *String quintet Op97 (American)*

Tickets £16 and £22 available online through the Primavera website at www.primaveraensemble.co.uk/concerts.html

Crypt stewards: The crypt and ossuary will be open to visitors at Easter weekend and then from 1 May through until the end of September. If anyone would like to join our team of volunteer crypt stewards, please contact Brin Hughes by phone 01303 264470 or email to brin.hughes@btinternet.com.

101 High Street: Fitting out of the shop, information and meeting areas is taking somewhat longer than expected with the official launch of the St Leonard's 'Open Door' project now expected to take place after Easter.

ARCHIVE CORNER

'THE SMUGGLERS RETREAT'



This photo circa 1906 shows on the left side of the Smugglers Retreat building a newsagent, tobacconist and tea room and on the right George Wire's the fishmongers, previously 'Griggs'. The Smugglers Retreat started life as an Inn frequented by smugglers.

Hard to see, but the news placards publicise 'Kent's Huge Score and Splendid Batting'. During August 1906 Kent made two large scores. Firstly 409 v Lancashire at Canterbury Cricket Week and then 610 v Hampshire at the end of August at Bournemouth, making Kent County champions for the first time!

It is said a lantern was lit in the top window as a guide to assist the safe landing of booty. Next to it is the London and County Bank (LCB), on that site since 1887.

In 1920 it merged with the Westminster Bank, before becoming the National Westminster Bank in 1929. To the left of the bank, formerly Dr Fagge's house, was the drinking fountain which was relocated to Red Lion Square in 1911 when the bank was altered and refurbished.

The Smugglers Retreat was demolished in 1907 for being dilapidated and unsafe, and was replaced by 81, 83, and 85 High Street.

Shown right in a line drawing by Rufus Segar, the buildings which replaced it.

WHO WAS IN THE PICTURE?

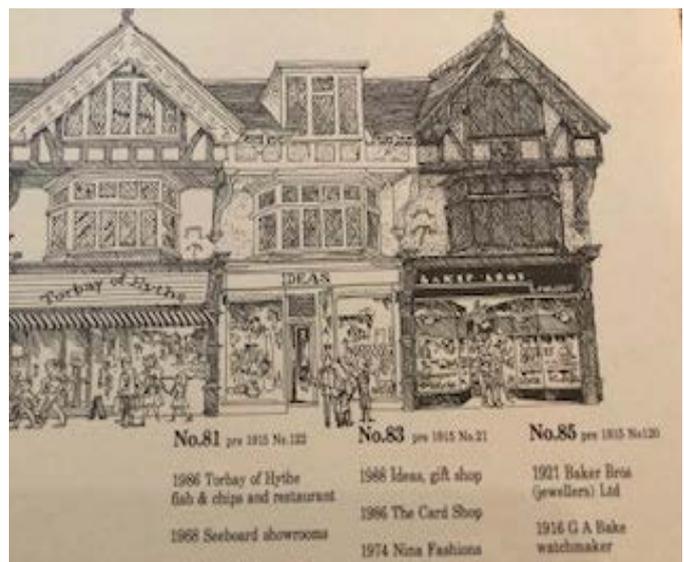
In our last newsletter we included an article about the South African gift distribution of the late 1940s. We showed two pictures and asked if anyone recognised the people shown. We had a reply from a member who said that the man and child picture is of John Gillett, and his granddaughter, Susan Underdown.

John Christopher Charles Gillett was born in 1875 in Hythe, where he lived all his life. He was a fisherman and head launcher for the lifeboat. During WW2 he was a lookout from the top of the old Lifeboat station.



Here is a picture of him, on the far left, with four of the other brave members of the lookout team. Three other members are L. Blackman, Mr Powell and Harry Shields. We cannot identify the fifth member – does anyone know who he is?

Another interesting fact is that Mr. Gillett was born and brought up in The Smugglers Retreat - an historic building dating from the 16th century - that was in the High Street for nearly 400 years.



Ye Olde Smugglers Retreat was demolished to build Nos 81, 83 and 85 High Street

Dear Members

Annual Membership Subscriptions 2022/2023

A reminder that subscriptions are due by the 1st April 2022.

They remain at £10 per household.

Members who pay by standing order will have their subscription paid on the date the standing order was set up. It would be helpful if Members who currently do not have a standing order take up this option. The standing order form can be obtained from the Treasurer Alan Joyce, Tel No: 01303 267085, E-mail: treasurer@hythecivicsociety.org.

Members who pay by cash or cheque will have a reminder note, including methods of payment, posted with the April newsletter. This will include details for payment by bank transfer.

If anyone has any queries please do not hesitate to contact Alan as above.

Once again thank you for your continuing support of the Society

Calling everyone who enjoys the summer floral displays in the High Street...Hythe in Bloom needs your help...

If you have a car and a few hours to spare over the course of one week, please volunteer to be a waterer. It is not an onerous task but is hugely satisfying and you will be invited to the Society's Christmas helpers' party as a thank you.

Please call Sally on 01303 266118, who will be delighted to hear from you



Registered Charity No 283177

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Crispin Davies

Secretary: Mrs Mary Hunter
(01303 268423)

Treasurer & Membership:
Alan Joyce

Newsletter Editors: Jill Ayling and
Kim Murton

Newsletter Distribution:
Michael Tubman (01303 267373)

Patron:

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Boyce
KG GCB OBE DL

PLANNING

EX-ALDI SUPERMARKET

At last there is a proposal to redevelop the ex-Aldi site in the middle of the Conservation Area. In mid-March the prospective developers undertook a public consultation of a limited nature. Information was posted through some letterboxes. There was a front page article in the Kentish Express and KentOnline posted the article on the internet which, in turn, was copied several times to Facebook. The Society welcomes the principle of a mixed-use development of seven shops, 35 residential units and the upgrading of Town Square. However, the design leaves a lot to be desired! It does not sit well in the midst of the Conservation Area. HCS has made these points in detail and more to the public consultation.

The real test of the scheme and its design will come when the developers formally apply for planning permission which is expected to be in April 2022. This is the critical time for all to make comments to FHDC on the planning application. You will be kept informed as this proposed scheme progresses.

LOCAL HISTORY

Some of our older members may recall this incident, and may have even participated in this somewhat unusual event!!

From the Hythe Reporter 1st April 1997:

HISTORIANS CAUSE TRAFFIC CHAOS

Six hundred members of Hythe Civic Society brought traffic on the busy A259 to a standstill when they attempted to crowd into the United Reformed Church for last week's meeting of the Local History Group. A further 80 members had sent messages of apology for their absence from this popular event.

Hythe's Police Force (both of them) were able to restore order only after loudspeaker equipment was hastily installed in the adjacent car park. The proceedings were relayed to enthusiastic historians. Further disturbances were threatened when Archivist Maurice Young could not be found to present his report on research activities. It was later revealed that he had retreated into the 19th Century by way of the tunnel leading from the Old Mill to the Royal Military Canal. At one time it was feared that Group Secretary Denise Rayner had been crushed in the crowd. However, an extended search found her photographing the event from the roof of Hythe Court, from which vantage point she eventually had to be rescued by Hythe (reprieved) Fire Brigade.

Several Executive Committee members escaped by taking refuge in the Bell Inn, where they were later found suffering from a combination of shock and over-indulgence. The report of a suspicious character on the roof of the Bell diverted half of the Police Force, but he was able to bring the reassuring news that it was only artist Rufus Segar, who had roped himself to a chimney stack while he immortalized the scene on paper.

(Note the date)