

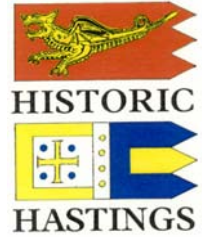


Old Hastings Preservation Society

Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

Newsletter January 2012

Wishing all our members a happy and healthy new year.



We have two talks left in our 2011/12 series - on 4th February I will be looking at our local coast and illustrating some changes on the front line by nature and man in the last 200 years. On 10th March Brion Purdey will be talking on Wellington and Hastings. Brion need no introduction to many of you, a renowned local historian with a particular interest in military matters, this will be a fascinating talk. We are grateful to all our speakers in 2011 – Frank Barraclough, Stephen Dine, Mike Hatchard, Marilyn Saklatvala, Christine Hayward, Brian Lawes, Dennis Collins, Heather Grief, Ken Brooks, Vanessa King, and John Hodges for their talks.

Dennis Collins has for the moment decided to retire from the History House due to a spell of ill health, we miss him greatly but know he is usually available for consultation at the end of the phone. We wish him a speedy return to good health and thank him for all he has done for the OHPS and History House.

Hastings Local History and the OHPS lost a good friend in 2011 when Ron Fellows died in 2011. A benefit event for the RNLi has been organised to celebrate Ron's life by Sue Fellows and Doris Haughton please give this your support. Ron was very keen on the idea of a History House for Hastings, we are still working towards our lift which I know Ron would have appreciated, but we are very grateful for his support over many years. We dedicated our Broderick and Blomfield exhibition to his memory.

*Celebrate the life of Ron Fellows and raise funds for
RNLi*

*An Evening with Louise Denny
Composer and Musician*

*Saturday 14th April 6.45pm
At The Royal Victoria Hotel*

*Tickets £8 [to include canapés] will be available
from the History House*

Help needed We need to increase our volunteer team this year if we are to maintain our current opening hours. Sundays are the day most in need of help. If you can offer half a days help please call in and sign up on the rota or contact us [Anne 427718 History House 424744].

As well as the weekly slots there are also the festival weeks when we try to open every day.

We have a very dedicated volunteer team and are always pleased to welcome new members.

next BOOK sale on Sat. and Sun. 3- 4th March from 11 - 4.

We are grateful for your support for our book sales and are please to take donations of good quality books. Please no Reader's Digest volumes, Encyclopedias, dictionaries or videos. Books may be dropped off at the History House when open. If you would like them collected please phone Ian on 812662 or Anne 427718. **Please come and buy as well**



LOTTERY FUNDED

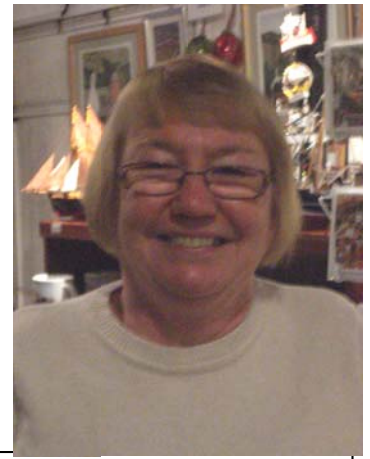
Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse Street,
Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 3AU Tel: 01424 424744



In October we said farewell to Phil Ornsby who has been at the helm of the Fishermen's Museum since 2002 and welcome to Jan Sellers who has taken up post as the Museums new Shipkeeper.

We say thank you to them both – Phill for all his years of dedicated work and Jan for taking on the job.

We wish her well.



A message from Erica Barrett

Last year was a busy year for the **Old Town Guided Walks** team. Not only guiding the traditional weekly afternoon walks during the summer and conducting walks for private groups, but also developing contacts with Language Schools and providing pre-booked guided walks for their students, aged from 14 to 18 and with a grasp of English ranging from basic to excellent.

These student walks are becoming increasingly popular and therefore we wish to recruit more volunteer guides to help us specifically with Language School groups, for which we will give comprehensive training. Some groups are of 60+ students, so 2 or 3 guides may be needed during the morning.

Students' teachers accompany each group and all walks, lasting about an hour, are conducted in English. Groups pay a donation when they book so this does not need to be collected. All you need is enthusiasm and (most important) to be available on occasional weekday mornings.

For more details, please phone Erica Barrett on 01424 420555.

Voices from the past and connections made today

We were very excited by the discovery of the bottle found at the **Bourne Hall** with a message in from the builders working there in 1939. This was publicised in the Observer and the families of all the bricklayers came forward but as yet none of the scaffolders.

The pencil written message on a page from a notebook was signed by scaffolders: **W J? Johnson** 5 Gordon Road or 186 Sedlescombe Road

G J Standen 37 Bembrook Road and bricklayers: **H Hodd** 160 Red Lake Road or 34 Winchelsea Road, **F Smith** 83 All Saints Street, **W Gadd** WC 149 Glen Road.

The message read:

This bottle was inserted on Oct 4th 1939

" We are at war with Hitler. We are having rough times getting materials,

By the time you read this we shall all be pushing the daisies up, if not our beards will be big enough to swing on.

"Seriously" Let's hope the outcome of this war will mean a happier & more peaceful world for you. The sacrifice will have been made worthwhile."



Left the crew who found the bottle - Del, Robbie, Neil and Ian

Right The daughter, granddaughter and great grandson of Fred Smith and the nephew of Bill Gadd.



Can I remind you that subscriptions are now due, you will find a notice enclosed which we would be grateful if you would complete and return when you send in your sub. You may like to give us your email address.

This year the **Old Hastings Preservation Society celebrates its 60th birthday**. Our archive collection has a notice of a meeting called on Wednesday 23rd April 1952 in All Saints Hall by Mr Manwaring Baines and Mr P W Cole the subject of which was " The Old Town and its future prospects". The meeting was chaired by Rev. Sankey, Mr Baines described something of life in Hastings four hundred years ago and Mr Philip Cole the value of the old town setting and streetscape to the artist and visitor, paying particular value to the net huts. Following this meeting a further one was arranged to form an Old Town Protection Society. By November they were ready for the inaugural meeting of the Old Hastings Preservation Society at the Old Town Library [now the Old Town Hall Museum] at which the Mayor Cllr Rymill presided. So the OHPS was born and flourished. The founder members were wise in not limiting the scope of the society to the Old Town but included all the Borough, regrettably we do not have active members in every corner of the Borough but we can comment and protest if poor developments are proposed. I do not propose to go through the history of the society here as I will be giving a talk on that during the year, suffice it to say that had this society not formed then undoubtedly the town would have lost some architectural treasures. We are also celebrating is that of **Old Town Week's 50th birthday**. Since 1962, with the addition of the Old Town Carnival first held in August 1969, now a major event in the town's calendar.

A bid has gone in to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project on Hastings Cemetery, please contact Anne if you are interested in more details and would like to get involved.

The picture on the right we believe was in the Old Town Week exhibition the Society held in 1968 in our then HQ at 39 b High Street, over the Old Hastings Club. This picture was taken by David Dine's father showing his grandfather's hairdressers/barbers in East Beach Street. If you have this picture or know its whereabouts David would very much appreciate the opportunity to get a good copy, so perhaps you would contact the History House and we will let him know.



Old Town Week 2012 28th July – 5th August all offers of help needed, If you can help in any way please come along to a meeting on 22nd March at 4pm or email or phone us.

Thank you for helping OHPS play its part in this great event as we go into the next 50 years.

History House visitors in 2011 totalled 6882 with volunteers helping with 238 recorded enquiries. Thanks to Janet Lawrenson who keeps the stats and who is understudying the treasurers role with Carol.

Thank you Janet and Carol.

Future exhibitions:

If you have any photos and memories of **Alexandra Park** we would like to hear from you, part of this exhibition will focus on people's memories so your contribution is welcome. Steve Peak has suggested an exhibition on **Hastings in 1952** – we hope this will be ready for the summer and again if you have any photos from that year you are happy for us to copy and memories that you are happy to share please let us know. We are also planning to look at the villages of Hastings - Ore and Hollington and Jubilees and Anniversaries, all help and contributions welcome.

Diary of Events at Hastings History House all events at the History House unless stated

Dates	Time	Group	Event
Daily 11-4 to Apr.	then	10 -5	Hastings Fishermen's Museum, Rock-a-Nore Road "
Weekly Weds	10.30–12	HAARG	Discussion group
Weekly Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun.	11 - 4	OHPS and others	History House Open- exhibitions, enquiries, book sales "Unseen Hastings" and "Loving the Fishing?" till 11 th March then "Alexandra Park" to 29 th April, 3 rd May – 14 th Jack-in-the-Green . From 21 st June "Old St Helens Church" and "Celebrating 60 Years of the OHPS" .
From 1 st May weekly	Tues 2.30	OHPS	Old Town Guided Walks meet at the top station of the West Hill Lift donations welcome
Sat 4 th Feb	5.30	OHPS	"Aspects of Local Coastal Change" talk by Anne Scott £2
Tues 7 th Feb	7.30	HLHG	Hastings 1912 -1921, recovery?
Weds 8 th Feb	7.30pm	HAARG	AGM followed by Town Unearthed Project –Folkestone Roman Villa
Weds 8 th Feb	7.30pm	H &RFHS	At Ore Centre Megan family in Ireland -James Cruttenden
Tues 21 ^h Feb	7.30	HLHG	At Calvert – Demolished buildings on Hastings Seafront
3 rd /4 th March	11-4	OHPS	Book Sale
Tues 6 th March	7.30	HLHG	The Hastings Chronicle, Steve Peak's web site
Weds 7 th Mar	7.30pm	HAARG	tbc
Weds 7 th Mar	7.30pm	H &RFHS	At Ore Centre Annie Lady Brassey – Julian Porter
Sat 10 th March	5.30	OHPS	Brion Purdey talk on Wellington and Hastings £2
Tues 20 th Mar	7.30	HLHG	At Calvert The life and death of Harold Godwinson H Grief
Tues 3 rd April	7.30	HLHG	Hastings and 1066 –unsolved issues
Weds 11 th Apr	7.30	HAARG	tbc
Weds 11 th Apr	7.30	H &RFHS	At Ore Centre tbc
Sat 14 th Apr	6.45	Royal Vic	Celebration and evening with Louise Denny
Tues 17 th April	7.30	HLHG	At Calvert The Hastings Area in the Bayeux Tapestry/Domesday book
Sat 21 st April	5.30	OHPS	Alexandra Park and its trees Owen Johnson £3
1 st May	7.30	HLHG	May Day customs & Hastings Castle connections
Weds 9 th May	7.30	HAARG	tbc
Weds 9 th May	7.30	H &RFHS	At Ore Centre
Tues 15 th May	7.30	HLHG	At Calvert Local railways / the railways locally
tbc	11-4	HRFHS	Family History Weekend at Hastings History House

Contact details:

OHPS -Old Hastings Preservation Society Anne Scott 427718, Ian Porter 812662, History House 424744 email annescott56@aol.com. or ohps@ohps.org.uk website www.ohps.org.uk, **Fishermen's Museum** tel: 461446

HAARG - Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group, prospective members welcome - contact Barbara 422370 www.haarg.org.uk.

HLHG • Hastings Local History Group - prospective members welcome to attend a session: contact Brian Lawes 437253

HRFHS - Hastings and Rother Family History Society: new members welcome, contact Linda Smith 437493