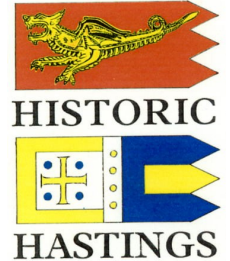




Old Hastings Preservation Society
 Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse Street, Hastings, TN34 3AU
 Tel: 01424 424744

Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

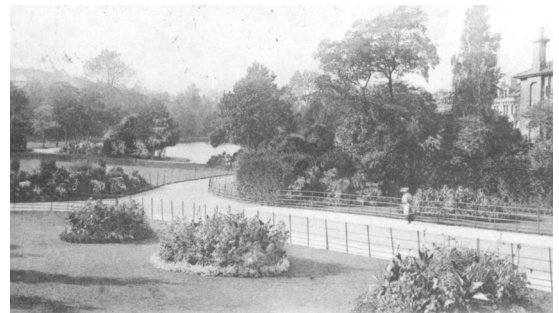


Best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead.



Our final talks in our **'Winter Lecture Season'** are:
Saturday 21st February Haydon Luke talking on Fairlight. Haydon's excellent book on the village is a welcome addition to our local history libraries. His talk is entitled **'Fairlight - Highdays and Holidays for all'** and I guarantee members will find it of interest.

Both are at Hastings History House at 5.30pm Tickets are £2.50



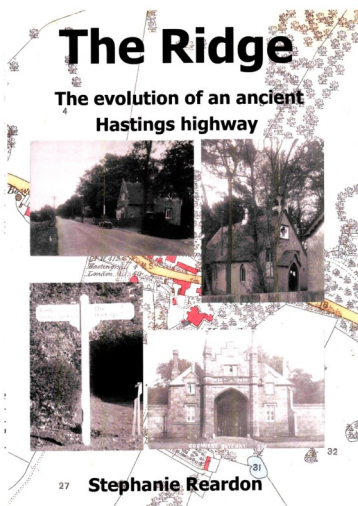
Saturday 14th March we have a presentation on **The Alexandra Park Story** by Steven Whitford and guests. Steven wrote the book Hastings Historic Alexandra Park and Pom Press funded the publication last June as a gift to OHPS. We are grateful for his support.

Wednesday April 22nd a coach trip to Rottingdean is being organised by Steven.

Rottingdean is an interesting town, once home to both Kipling and Burne Jones. We will be given a guided tour by the Rottingdean Preservation Society of the Village, the Windmill, Kipling Gardens and the Grange Museum. The cost for the coach is £10 a head.

If you wish to book a place please email pompress@hotmail.co.uk and send your payment of £10 to OHPS Hastings History House. Cheques should be made payable to Old Hastings Preservation Society. There will be no charge for the tour as the OHPS is offering a reciprocal tour of Hastings Old Town. Lunch arrangements are to be confirmed. The provisional first pick up will be Ore at 9am with further pick ups to be arranged. Please indicate if you would like an Ore, Old Town, Town Centre or Warrior Square pickup and timings will be confirmed. Departure from Rottingdean is proposed for 4pm. Rottingdean has something in common with Hastings in the Saxon derivation of its name, the village of Rota's people.

Subscriptions to the OHPS are once again due. Our membership Secretary Jill Bradley will be glad to receive them; the rates remain £7 for an individual and £10 for couple/family, donations are also welcome. New membership cards will be issued either by email (card to be included in your AGM mailing) posted or hand delivered as appropriate. You will find a renewal slip in with this mailing.



**New Publication
The Ridge**

Now available from Hastings History House and the Fishermen's Museum price £12.50.

An excellent and well illustrated overview of this important road.

Exhibitions.

Our current exhibition is on the Ridge to celebrate the publication of Stephanie's book and also to display material that has come in since. We are grateful for the loan of HAARG's display case which has material on Hydneye House on show. We also have Courthouse Street on display which also has new material included.

The University of Kent at Canterbury, as part of the 'Gateways to the First World War' project, have done a mobile exhibition on the maritime history of the war and its impact on the lives of ordinary people "Two Services One War". This will be visiting the History House and the Fishermen's Museum during the spring; exact dates are to be confirmed we anticipate it will be with us for early in March.



Hastings Local History Group and others are pursuing the plans to erect the statue of Albert (from the memorial) outside the Town Hall. This is going to the planning committee on 28th January. As part of the fundraising for this Brian Lawes is giving a talk on the statue and its sculptor Edwin Stirling in the Town Hall on 19th February at 6pm.

Plans for exhibitions during this year include a small commemoration of Waterloo, Magna Carta and Agincourt. Our major exhibition in the summer will be on Hastings' Literary Connections and will include a display by the Sheila Kaye Smith Society. We would be glad to hear from anyone who has suggestions for inclusion or relevant material we could copy.

We also hope to produce a book to incorporate information from Gerald Brodrigg's 'Hastings' and Men of Letters' published by the OHPS in 1972.

'The grave's a fine and private place' a project exploring history in Hastings cemetery has completed recording memorials in the older sections and now has 8030 entries to sort back into alphabetical order so they are easily searchable for researchers. We still have some grant funds available and hope that the Heritage Lottery Fund will allow us to carry it forward to produce the two books we would like to publish.

'Re-lighting the Lamps' our survey of those killed during or died as a result of their First World War service and recorded on their family memorials is nearly complete, but the last section to be finished threw up three more names. The second book is some of the stories we have discovered - there are still a lot more to be uncovered but that will happily occupy some of us for many years. If you would like to go on our email list to be sent the completed sections please let me know, you may then be inspired to look up some names on the internet and let us know what you find.

Recent find include Amherst Hawker Renton, a scientist and inventor who wrote to Michael Faraday inviting him to Westminster Hall to view his new Oxyhydrogen Limelight. The first 'Charley's Aunt' William Penley, who had a colourful theatrical career. Bernard William Ritson, a mining engineer who worked in South Africa and Montevideo and in the same section Louis Clement Daumas, son of a French missionary in Africa who patented a machine for processing gold. Did they know each other?



When Whistler's grave vanished

Dennis Collins unearthed a copy of this article from the Hastings News of 14th April 1977. It explains how the grave of J M Whistler's mother and brother and sister-in-law was grassed over when the Garden of remembrance was created. J M Whistler is not buried here as the article suggests, but his mother's grave

does attract visitors from the US.; Anna McNeill was born in Wilmington North Carolina.

We are offering two more guided walks in the cemetery this spring on April 26th and 31st May both at 2pm and the meeting point is the cemetery car park. Our information leaflet and many of the stories we have uncovered so far are on our website www.friendsofhastingscemetery.org.uk

Just before the Christmas / New Year holiday always seems to be a favourite time to lodge planning applications that may be controversial and this year was no exception.

The Rocklands saga continues with an application to keep what they have built despite it being larger than they had consent for. This month has seen further land slips in Ecclesbourne Glen which is now closed again to the public. An interesting letter published in the Hastings and St Leonards Observer in 1937 has come to light. The letter is from the then owner of Rocklands, Major J H Whittaker-Swinton R E [Ret.] asks Hastings Council to ensure protection for the heritage of beauty of the site for all time and save the area from speculative builders. He has a revealing comment about the Old Town which goes some way to explain how we lost so much of our built heritage. "*If its provision was to save the future beauty lovers of the East Hill from being reminded of the squalor of parts of the Old Town it were better surely to speed up the work of sweeping away the squalor.*"

There was also an application registered for a 'Pavilion' off Exmouth Place. This is for a house and studio replacing a modest wooden workshop. This site is very visible from the hills and the development is much more substantial in size and area than what is there now.

We have lodged an objection to both of these schemes.

Book Sale

The next one is on Friday 10th - Sunday 12th April - come and buy good quality second hand books raising funds for Hastings History House.