

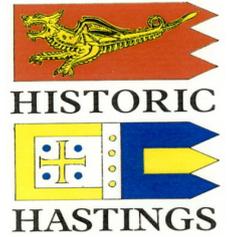


Old Hastings Preservation Society
Hastings History House, 21 Courthouse Street, Hastings, TN34 3AU
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Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

Newsletter Spring 2016

Happy New Year to all our readers



Our 2015/16 series of talks continues:-

Saturday February 13th at 5.30pm we are delighted to welcome back to Hastings **Victoria Williams who will give us a talk on Great Dixter**. Many of you will know Victoria who was curator of Hastings and St Leonards Museum and Art Gallery for many years. She has now been working at Great Dixter at a most interesting time in the history of that great house and garden and it will be a pleasure to hear what she has discovered. Tickets £3 including refreshments.



March 19th at 5.30pm The Winkle Club with Richard Stevens, Phil White and Ian Porter - an entertaining crew if ever there was! The story of the Winkle Club is part of the story of Hastings. In 1900 a small band of enthusiasts came together with the idea of helping others less fortunate than themselves. This charitable organisation is now known all over the world. The OHPS is fortunate to share a very supportive Patron with the Winkle Club, Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce. K.G., G.C.B., O.B.E., D.L. Tickets £3 including refreshments.

We are very grateful to our speakers, David Clarke, Dr Elizabeth Allen, Deeday White and Marilyn Saklatvala who have given us such excellent talks already this season. Thanks also to Poppy McLachan who has taken on organising talks and speakers.

It is that time of year again when subscriptions to OHPS are due and you will find a reminder note with your mail out or email. It is also an excellent time to join the society as you will get a full years membership. We are grateful for your support. The Society is here to be used; it has a fairly wide remit in heritage matters. If you have ideas for projects why not join our committee. Save our Heritage and the Friends of Hastings Cemetery are two examples of projects we support in practical ways. Hastings History House was envisaged to bring together various groups active in local history and heritage, to showcase their work and increase public awareness and involvement. It needs to be used to succeed in this. As well as Hastings Area Archaeological Research group and Hastings Local History Group who use the building for storage and meetings, it is hired by Friends of the Country Park and Hastings Botany Group. It increasingly provides information to visitors now the Old Town does not have a tourist information centre. Do you know of a group who would like to use it? Please let them know and pass on our contact information.

Thank You

We have had one important change on our committee in December Christopher Langdon resigned as Treasurer and Trustee. Christopher joined the Council of Management in 2013 and took over the role as treasurer from Carol Porter in 2014. We are grateful to him for his work both as treasurer and trustee.

Doug Deeks has agreed to take over as Treasurer from December 2015. Doug is a retired Chartered Account and we are grateful for his skills.

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Old Town Hall

Dick Edwards HOTRA and I met with Cllr. Peter Chowney, leader of Hastings Borough Council and Cllr. Kim Forward to discuss the future of this building. There have been various suggestions for community use for it and we hope it will be possible to combine these and form a new charity to develop this idea. There is to be a **public meeting on Monday 14th March 6pm for 6.30pm** at Hastings History House to discuss the idea. Please come along. This project will need strong and active community support.

There has been no serious commercial interest in taking it on to date. It will be used by Hastings Music Festival in February and March for rehearsals for the Concerto Competition. It cannot stay closed this summer so we are hoping it would be available for a variety of temporary uses to test the economic viability of some of the ideas. It may even be possible to house some of the Hastings Embroidery in there in this special year.