



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

Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

Newsletter Spring 2017



Happy New Year to you all. You will see that enclosed or attached to this newsletter is a reminder that annual subscriptions are due. We do hope that you will continue to support the OHPS and if you are not a member that you will consider joining. Many hours of voluntary time go into undertaking the work of the Society, managing the Fishermen's Museum and keeping open the History House. These could not happen without the support of our members. We are very grateful to all our members, our volunteers, our team of guides, our CoM and those who take a turn in the History House.

The Society was founded in 1952 at a time when it was felt that developments and alterations were affecting the historic character of the Old Town. However the constitution did not restrict our area of interest to just the Old Town and we welcome members with particular interests in any other areas of the town. It is difficult with our small number of Trustees/members of the Council of Management to keep an eye on developments townwide. We are always happy to look at planning issues that our members raise and make responses, if the CoM agree, to HBC.

12 years ago we purchased 21 Courthouse Street and have developed Hastings History House. We are grateful for the support of Hastings Area Archaeological Group and Hastings Local History Group who use the premises. Like everything else costs have risen and so the CoM discussed the level of subscriptions and finally, by a majority, voted to increase these to £10 for a individual and £15 for two people at the same address. We hope members will appreciate the need for this and renew for 2017.

We welcome new volunteers and are delighted to be able to offer a very interesting task in helping sort and index the large collection of research notes and cuttings we have been given by David Padgham. You don't know what you may come across in his folders. For example a copy of a letter from 1850 from an agent in Armagh explaining that things were very difficult in Ballygroobany and he could not collect the rents for Col. Eliot. He

wrote that if he pressed for the money he would be shot. Amazingly we were subsequently shown the original letter. We also picked up a reference to the Irish Famines in the late 1840s whilst researching the Mortimer family, the female members of whom have a most imposing memorial at Hastings Cemetery. Pictured right.



We are pleased to have a volunteer who is continuing recording at the cemetery. Marilyn Saklatvala is adding new stories to the website.

We also of course have scans of David's postcard collection an example of which is pictured above showing one of the Roman Catholic processions passing down the High Street c 1909.

We are very grateful to David Clarke, Dr John Geater, Kevin Boorman and Michael Plumbe for their talks so far this season. Still to come at 5.30pm at Hastings History House

Saturday 18th February – Anne Scott offers a further selection of **History from Postcards**. The information and atmosphere that can be gained by reading the backs of postcards is fascinating. These are primary historical sources and often from a social strata whose voices are rarely heard.

Saturday 18th March - Jonathan Mendenhall on "Life in a Newsroom". Jonathan will be known to many and will entertain us with stories of his many years working as a journalist.

Tickets for all are available from Hastings History House @ £5 for members and £6 non members. Refreshments will be available. Thanks to Poppy McLachlan for organising our lecture series.