



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 2018



Best wishes to you all for the New Year—The History House will be closed on Sundays until March but open 11-4 Thursdays to Saturdays.

Dates for your Diary

Our last two winter talks at Hastings History House are:

February 10th 5.30pm 'High Wickham & the East Hill' – explored with Anne Scott.

February 27th Oral History Workshop [see West Street below]

March 17th 5.30pm Pebsham Airfield and Sidney Little with Andre Palfrey Martin
Tickets for both talks £4 members, £5 non members refreshments available.

BOOK SALE Thurs 8th March to Sun 11th March -we have some interesting old Sussex titles for sale as well as a good collection of various subjects and fiction.

We have designated the first Thursdays of the month as **Street Directory Days** when we encourage visitors to come in and consult our good collection of these. As I write we have on order two cupboards which will enable us to house these downstairs, so consultation any time when we are open will be easier.



TBC AGM Friday 8th June 7 for 7.30pm

28 July to 5 August
Old Town Carnival Week

Rediscovering West Street:

The West Street Community Group has received Heritage Lottery Funding and are currently putting research together for a year-long project encompassing the good, the bad and the long-hidden histories of West Street. We are appealing for any information people may have on West Street, especially personal accounts. Maybe you are a former resident or have relatives who used to live here or who ran businesses? The Market Hall originally built to be the fishing market has had a number of reincarnations, the Queen Adelaide only closed relatively recently and there have been a number of shops, cafes and businesses on the street. Maybe you have photographs? There are remarkably few old photos of West Street as the picture postcard photographers stuck to the more profitable Old Town streets/ seaside/ fish market areas.



This street has an amazing history that has been overlooked for years. Costumiers, bootmakers, tea merchants, an octopus, a coroners court, two private libraries at the top of the road, Bidy the Tubman grew up here, meetings of suffragettes, Oswald Moseley & the Black Shirts + the Ancient Order of Druids, plus a healthy dose of fishing, piracy and smuggling. Rossetti used to stay in the rooms above The Cutter before his marriage to Lizzie Siddal (the landlord was formerly Nelson's valet).

The street is still notorious for problems from late-night revellers and antisocial behaviour. However, it is of architectural interest with no two houses alike and sixteen listed buildings. It has attracted artists studios and an independent book shop.

As part of the project we will also be running a free one day oral history training session at the History House on Tuesday 27th February. If you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch.

We would love to hear from you.

Please contact Lorna: lornacrabbe@gmail.com or 07975 872075