



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

Registered Charity Number 221623 Company Registration 611762

## Newsletter Autumn 2018



**It was with regret that we learnt of the death of Ion Castro, for many years a member of the Council of Management and the Fishermen's Museum Committee and our first web designer.**

**Andre Palfrey-Martin led a minutes silence at our September committee meeting and we have sent sincere condolences to Ion's family on behalf of OHPS. He will be much missed by many.**

### **Old Town Carnival Week**

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this week raising funds for Hasting Old Town Carnival Association, OHPS, RNLI, Two Towers Trust and other charities. Apart from the first Sunday when it blew and rained the weather was good. Despite that the Beach Concert, The Elm Lodge Open Garden and the West Street Party carried on but commiserations to Lower Torfield Allotment whose Bar-B-Que was washed away.

Donations to OHPS from those who organising events came to a great total of £1927.55; especial thanks to Craig and Jo Sams for the magnificent sum raised by their organic cream tea, an event that is a 'must do' for many people during the week. The income from advertising and the programme boxes so far totals £6703.28 with possibly some more advertising money to add. The cost of the programmes printing and design totalled £1969 which leaves £4734.28 to be divided between HOTCA and OHPS. We are grateful to all advertisers and shops and pubs who take collecting boxes and encourage their customers to contribute. The History House did well with tickets for walks and talks and sales to visitors who numbered 709 over the week. The new Lost Pubs and Breweries walk with Alan Jeffries sold out 3 times, if you missed it there is another chance in Hastings Week see below. Thanks to all our volunteers

**OHPS AGM** –we must apologise to members and Erica Barrett for omitting Erica's walks report from the 2017 Annual Report presented at the AGM. It is printed here below.

#### **OHPS Free Guided Walks Report for Season May to October 2017**

I have been organising these walks since about 2010, following (literally) in the steps of a long and successful heritage of OHPS free guided walks round Hastings Old Town. Our 6 volunteer guides this year again took visitors and locals on the now-traditional route starting at the top of the West Hill and ending at the 'Look-out' at the top of Tamarisk Steps or on Winkle Island / The Stade.

However, the guided walks scene is changing and so the OHPS Free Walks offering is changing too; principally because of the multiplicity of guided walks now on offer in the Old Town. These (priced) walks are mainly held during Carnival, Heritage and Hastings weeks, but not exclusively so. Whilst our walks cover all aspects of Hastings past and present, other tours offer specific themes, from ghosts to cat-creeps.

The OHPS History House also now offers themed walks and of course there are the free Stade Walks organised by the Fishermen's Museum. I liaise with the FM so that our Walks and theirs complement each other. OHPS has also recently re-written and published its 'DIY' walks booklet.

Fewer people over all come now on our walks, due perhaps to all this 'competition'. The DIY guide may affect our numbers too. I have therefore reduced the number of walks we offer in August to reflect these trends. This year has also seen a marked decrease in booked group walks: down from 5 to only one this year. Nevertheless, 357 people joined our walks, including some children, but not counting a few, apparently interested, dogs accompanying their owners. These 'walkers' donated £817.17 (and 2.05 euros) to the OHPS, an average of £2.29 per person.

As always, OHPS extends a sincere 'Thank you' to our guides. Without the dedication and enthusiasm of Lynn Gausden, Chris Hone, Alan Jeffries, Judith Cubison and Kevin Veness there would be no regular OHPS Walks Programme and Hastings would lose what has become an Old Town tradition. **Erica Barrett December 2017**

**Last walks of the season - free Old Town Guided Walk 14th Oct. meet 2.30pm at the top of the West Hill Lift. Free Stade Walks 13th and 14th Oct. and 17th and 18th Nov. at 11 am from the Fishermen's Museum. Lost Pubs and Breweries of the Old Town 14th Oct., 2.30pm from Hastings History House tickets £4. A big thank you to all our Volunteer Guides who provide the walks and Erica Barrett and Nona Jackson who recruit, train and organise them.**