



**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 September 2020**



I do hope all our members are well and have escaped the virus and let's keep it that way. If you have suffered from Covid 19 then our best wishes for a full recovery. I am not sure whether things will ever be the same but with members support and the dedication of volunteers and staff I am sure the OHPS will survive. The officers have worked very hard during this summer keeping abreast of instructions and making sure staff and property are looked after.

In mid July our dedicated staff at the Fishermen's Museum began work again for the allotted hours. The hours have been increased in August to make the most of the visitors returning to the Old Town. September is usually a good month for the museum but October is less certain and undoubtedly November till March will be very difficult. The Government grant and the furlough scheme have been most welcome, we monitor takings weekly and will adjust the hours accordingly. It seems likely that the Museum will be opening part time for the rest of the year. Because the situation is so fluid the latest information on opening will be posted on the website. The Museum was bequeathed a new watercolour by W.H. Borrow recently which is a welcome addition.

We are grateful to Jan Sellers and her team for all their care in keeping the museum and visitors safe with social distancing, track and trace and plenty of hand sanitisers and thorough cleaning. We have instituted a cleaning checklist at Hastings History House and have floor marking, and sanitisers. Both venues have staff behind visors and in the Museum's case a screen at the till. We welcome visitors who respect the rules regarding face masks and until these rule change, reserve the right to refuse admission unless shown an exemption certificate. Both venues have UV wands to sterilise books and equipment.

The History House opened again for what should have been Old Town Carnival Week from 1st August, and we are now opening Thursdays, Friday, and Saturdays. We are pleased to see most of our volunteers back. Stephanie was a great help in preparing the History House to open as she had been working throughout the summer and therefore well versed in what was needed and how things should be done. Another member who deserves to be mentioned in dispatches is David Dine, who has been invaluable at the Fishermen's Museum and the History House helping with practical tasks.

We have continued to answer email enquiries and those from visitors and phone calls, it is one of the things we enjoy most.

You will realise that during the winter months finances will be tight. We are grateful to our treasurer, Doug Deeks for keeping a close eye on the situation and reacting accordingly. We are very grateful for those of you who have paid their subscriptions for 2020 and would urge those who have not to consider doing so. Subscriptions are a vital part of keeping the OHPS and its work going so please do continue your support. If you wish to pay by bank transfer the details are: CAF Bank sort code 40-52-40, account number 00003831. Subscription rates remain as £10 individual and £15 for two people at the same address.

**Please think about offering to join the Council of Management. Many hands make light work they say and it is no secret that we are none of us getting any younger. Contact us if you are willing to be nominated or co-opted.**

## **Old Town Carnival Week and current programme**

Thanks to Keith & Heather Leech, HOTCA & Innovation Station for their work on a virtual Old Town Carnival Week. We did manage to do an Old Town Walk for the allowed 5 people, thanks to Judy Cubison. Thanks to Ann Novotny for her virtual Open Garden and generous donation. We produced a power point *Introduction to Hastings Old Town* which was submitted and we also ran it on our computer as well as **Carnival Parades** compiled by Marilyn Saklatvala. This will be running to the end of September as will the informative new exhibition from Hastings Local History Group **Artists in Hastings**. It is amazing how much local art is now in American institutions. If you haven't seen this yet do try and call in. It will be shown again after our usual October of the **Bayeux Tapestry and things 1066**.