



## HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

No 202 June - July 2018

### SOCIETY NEWS

#### HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY - SUMMER OUTING

##### ----- BLETCHLEY PARK

Home of the WW11 Codebreakers

Wednesday 25th July 2018

Cost - £38 per person

This includes return coach fare (including driver's gratuity) and entry to Bletchley. Lunch is *not* included but there's a cafe, coffee shop and a tea room, so a very good range of meals and snacks is available...or you could take your own picnic.

Departure: 8.30 am from Red Lion Square, Hythe  
Arrival time: approx. 11.30 / 12 o'clock  
Arrive home: approx. 8.30 pm

Please book as soon as possible by Telephone or email to Betty Black on:

**01303 230959**      **eablack@talktalk.net**

I will need to know the names of people travelling, your address, telephone number and email address.  
Payment in full is needed by 1st July.

You will receive confirmation of your booking as soon as payment is received and final details will be sent to you the week before the trip.

*The Bletchley Park site is quite extensive and to visit everything does involve a fair bit of walking. But don't worry, if you don't feel that you want to do it all, there's plenty to see in the visitor centre and the manor house itself, to make your visit interesting and worthwhile.*

#### ----- CIVIC SOCIETY - 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The Society will celebrate its 75th anniversary on 1 February 2020! The Chairman invites members to suggest ways in which the anniversary can be celebrated – perhaps an exhibition, a concert or a new publication. You are invited to submit your ideas by the end of July for discussion and decision by the Committee in late summer. Please email them to [enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org](mailto:enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org) or write to the Secretary at the address at the bottom of this newsletter.

#### Gift Aid

The number of Gift Aid donors has dropped once again, due mainly to some deaths and resignations. Gift Aid is a valuable source of income to the Society, especially with the recent increase in subscriptions. If any member would like to check if they have already signed a declaration please do not hesitate to contact Alan Joyce, Treasurer

#### National Trust

The Society has renewed its membership of Civic Voice, which amongst other things that members are again entitled to a free National Trust one day pass. Applications forms can be obtained from Alan Joyce, Treasurer.

#### Denge Marsh Sound Mirrors

Members may be interested in the planned RSPB Open Day at this site on the 7th July. Peter Osborne, who is giving our first talk on 9th October on this subject, will be present to help interpret the site for visitors. Full details can be found on the RSPB Dungeness website under the heading "Events". Peter is an acknowledged expert on the mirrors and was responsible for updating the publication "Echos from the Sky" written by the late Richard Scarth, one of our long standing members and which the Society published in 2014.

#### Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held in Hythe Town Hall on 8th May.

The meeting opened with a talk from HCS History Group leader, Anne Petrie, on the work being prepared in connection with the celebration of the centenary of the World War One armistice on 11th November 2018. The Group has researched the histories of all the 200 or so names on the Hythe and Saltwood war memorials – there are about 10 separate memorials around the town – as well as a number of other people who died as a result of enemy action. An individual summary of their lives and, where possible, a photograph of themselves or their grave will be produced and it is hoped will be displayed in the shop windows of the town. Local schools have also been asked to contribute, and there will be an exhibition on "Hythe in WW1 in the Library".

The meeting was then very pleased to be the scene of a presentation by the Hythe Town Mayor of a nomination certificate for the Town Council's new Citizen of the Year Award. From a list of ten

nominees the Council had selected our own Committee member, Sally Chesters, who received her certificate from the Mayor, Cllr. Paul Peacock. Our own Awards for Outstanding Service to the Community were presented to Rev. Desmond Sampson, who was sadly unable to attend the meeting, and to Alan Joyce.

This year the Society decided to award the Capon Shield to Folkestone and Hythe District Council for their excellent restoration of the historic Tram Shelter on Princes Parade.

All the resolutions proposed on the agenda were passed unanimously. The Chairman, Crispin Davies, thanked the two resigning committee members, Mike O'Sullivan and Valerie Mercer for their loyal service over many years and welcomed two new members, Carol Adams and Kim Murton, who had been co-opted during the year.

There are now three vacancies on the Committee although one member has shown an interest in co-option, two other volunteers would be most welcome to spread the workload!

Under "any other business" HCS member Chris O'Connor proposed that the Society should participate in the proposed review of the Hythe Conservation Area as part of a national initiative by Civic Voice. This was warmly approved and a detailed explanation will follow in Newsletter 203.

Full minutes of the meeting will be published on our website in due course and copies will be available from the Secretary.

## **OUR HYTHE**

### **Sir William McAlpine Bt.**

Referring to the recent death of Sir William on 4<sup>th</sup> March it is noted that, as a lifelong railway enthusiast, he came to the rescue of the Romney Hythe & Dymchurch Railway in 1972 when it was on the verge of collapse. He led a consortium of supporters and personally invested in some 8% of the share capital. It is thus due much to his support that we still have this wonderful tourist attraction which generates a lot of income to the area.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Places and Policies Local Plan Submission Draft**

The Society's 12 comments have been forwarded to the Government Inspector who will choose what topics to debate at the Examination in Public and who to invite to be part of that debate. The Society is hopeful of an invitation.

### **Core Strategy Local Plan Review**

Folkestone and Hythe District Council's Core Strategy has been reviewed and is on public consultation until 18 May 2018. There are two major changes to the 2013 approved Core Strategy. Firstly, there is a substantial increase in the number of houses planned – even more than required by Government – and, secondly, there is the inclusion of Otterpool Park garden town. The Society will be making comments.

### **Princes Parade**

The planning authority requested further detailed and technical information from the applicant. This has been received and the planning application is

expected to be determined by the District Council's Planning and Licensing Committee in the near future. If the officer recommendation is for approval the Society will ask the Secretary of State to determine the application under his "call in" powers.

## **TOWN AND AROUND**

### **"Made In Hythe"**

#### **A Short History of Portex by C.J. O'Connor**

Chris O'Connor, a member of our History Group, has just published a book about this important Hythe-based company.

This history highlights the success in the commercial development of Portex, a Hythe based manufacturer of plastic disposable sterile medical products used in anaesthesia and intensive care, 70% of its business being export. This success is due to the nature of the products and the people who were, and still are employed in the company and is an integral part of the commercial history of Hythe.

During its time in Hythe the company was a major employer in the town and equally a major contributor to the town's economy, in consequence the history is dedicated to the company employees and the people of Hythe.

The significance of the title '*Made in Hythe*' is derived from the fact that end users worldwide knew that statement as one of product quality and reliability, they all knew Portex and consequently they all knew Hythe.

The book covers five major periods in the company's history from its foundation in 1940 until the present day, the development has been categorised by the particular management styles and culture.

*The Early Years*; under the management of Dr Leader.

*The Years of Opportunity* under Walter (Wally) Crossland.

*The Years of Expansion* under George M Kennedy.

*The Corporate Years* under the management of Smiths Medical.

*The New Millennium* being the current period.

An important underlying author's message is how to run a successful export business which goes without saying is a significant factor for the future of Britain's economy after Brexit.

The book is now available at a price of £9.99 + £2 p.p. from [chrisHythe@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisHythe@hotmail.com)

tel +44 (0)1303 260758

## **SOCIAL HISTORY**

### **Mackeson's Brewery**

*A Civic Society member has found, among his late father's papers a history of the brewery, This is the third of several extracts from the research, which was compiled before the brewery shut in 1968.*

At home tension with France increased. In November Henry Mackeson observed, 'the volunteers here commence permanent duty tomorrow for 3 weeks, during which period Bony will pay us a visit so that they will be ready for him.' Brewing went on as usual, however, and in the very next sentence he mentions difficulty in getting haircloth for straining hops. Payment of

debts continued, too, and there are several drafts for £200 each that month for materials for the new building work. Even in those days the modern custom of stocking other brewers' products seems to have been in force for Henry wrote to a Thomas Oakley in December 1803, 'your bill on us for £332 which becomes due 12th February, we this day return to you accepted, but we do not wish for any more beer at present as there is a strong Porter or musty taste in yours which does not suit the palate of our customers. We may probably have some more sometime hence.' Later, in 1806 and 1808, Henry made three orders for payment of sums from £200 to £300 to Meux and Company. Would these have been orders to Meux the brewers? The sums of money involved were about the same as Oakley received some three years earlier. Much later, in 1835, Henry must have asked Barclay Perkins for supplies, for their reply by 'Electric Telegraph' still survives. It runs: WE HAVE NO ALE THAT WILL SUIT YOU.

To return to Napoleonic times, however, Malt for Hythe brewery apparently came by ship from Byles of Ipswich. The voyage to Dover took ten days and, of course, when endangered by the enemy in the Channel or on the North Sea insurance rates rose, for no one knew if cargoes would reach their destinations. In 1803 Henry insured 482 quarters of Ipswich malt for £1450. This was probably ground on arrival at the brewery, as a later draft of an insurance schedule of the property refers to stones for grinding malt.

Most of John Mackeson's letters are to his brother William, to whom he was nearer in age than to Henry. Possibly he was closer to him in character and temperament also. Lacking John's sense of fun, Henry seems to have been a serious fellow who felt his business responsibilities weigh heavily. Judging from notes and letters written after William's death, in 1821, Henry's share in the brewery was far greater than William's, whose stake was small, yet who appears to have drawn money from the business as though it had indeed been a fifty-fifty partnership.

In 1804 Henry and William attended Hythe Assembly. They 'represented to the meeting that they are very much distressed for water in consequence of the increased demand for it by the number of military and other people who have within the last ten years come to inhabit this place.' Apparently at their own expense they had conveyed extra spring water to the town's cistern, but the pipe from this could not cope with the additional supplies. They offered to pay for more piping - as this would mean more water for the town, and, as the cost would be at least £180, the assembly agreed with alacrity. A minor disaster occurred three months later, however, when the work was put in hand, the volume of extra water burst many pipes in Hythe. No floods are reported but the annoyance must have been considerable for the town had to pay £20 for the pipes to be taken up.

The following year the assembly recognised the increase in the town's population which the Mackesons had noted in their plea for more water, by ordering that £10 a year be paid to the town clerk or to a 'billett master' who would find billets for soldiers. Numbers must have been at their peak between 1809 and 1810. Hythe Sessions Books, recording the annual grant of licenses to innholders, show that there were five houses in Hythe in 1801 - The Swan, The White Hart, The Red Lion, The King's Head, The Duke's Head. Today all are Mackeson houses. By 1805 two others appear, The Great Gun and The Carpenter's Arms. By 1809 licenses were granted also to canteens at the Horse Barracks, at Twiss Fort (near the present Hotel Imperial), Sutherland Port and Moncrief Port. By 1811 mentions of canteens cease and today no forts remain, though several streets commemorate their names. Modern as licensed canteens may seem, those were in some ways barbarous times, since at that time a Hythe labourer was sentenced to be hanged for stealing two cows and two heifers. He was pardoned - on condition that he was transported for life to New Guinea.

*To be continued.....*

### **HYPHE IN BLOOM**

Over the last few years H.I.B. volunteers have planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs and this Spring these efforts have borne fruit with several amazing displays including the following at London Road and Prospect Road:



## Events in Hythe

### CIVIC SOCIETY

**Town Walks** - The ever popular guided walks start again on Thursday 7th June and take place every Thursday starting at the Town Hall at 10.30 until the end of September. The charge is £1 per person. There will also be a walk every weekday during Festival Week - 9th to 13th July - and on the first Saturday, 7th July. These walks are free of charge. Parties of 10 or more may come at any time by arrangement. Please call (01303) 266118 for more details.

**Talks Evenings** - The Society arranges talks at fortnightly intervals on Tuesdays during the months of October to April at Hythe Bay C of E Primary School, Cinque Ports Ave. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm. The next talk will be on Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

### FRIENDS OF ST LEONARD'S CHURCH – CONCERTS:

**Saturday 2 June, 7.30pm: Nicholas King (organ) [Tickets £12]**

Bach – *Toccat & Fugue in D minor, BWV 565*; Howells – *Psalm Prelude, Set 2 No 2*; Archer – *A Festival Toccata*;

Reger – *Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op 60*; Schumann – *Two Fugues on B-A-C-H*;

Joubert – *Passacaglia & Fugue in C minor, Op 35*; Franck – *Final, Op 21*

**Saturday 9 June 7.30pm: Primavera Chamber Ensemble [Tickets £21 & £15]**

Dvořák – *Bagatelles, Op 47*; Strauss – *Waltzes*; Beethoven – *Symphony No 3 'Eroica' (arr. Hummel)*

**Saturday 7 July 7.30pm: BBC Singers {JAM on the Marsh Festival event} [Tickets £15]**

Rachmaninoff – *Vespers*; Rory Boyle – *Songs from the Marshes (world premiere of new choral work)*

**Sunday 8 July 3.30pm: afternoon concert by The Grier Trio [Tickets £15]**

Beethoven – “*Spring Sonata*” in F, for violin and piano, Op 24; Chopin – *Cello sonata in G Minor, Op 65*;

Beethoven – *Piano Trio in E flat, Op 1 No 1*

**Monday 9 July 7.30pm: Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra [Tickets £12]**

**Thursday 12 July 2.30pm: Daniel Cook (Organist of Durham Cathedral & Curator of JAM on the Marsh)**

{*JAM on the Marsh Festival event*} [Tickets £10]

Bach – *48 Preludes and Fugues (selection on organ and piano)*

**Saturday 14 July 10.30am-12 noon: 'Come and Play' {JAM on the Marsh Festival event}**

Bring your instrument and play during a relaxed coffee morning. This is not a formal concert but an opportunity to explore music with a world-class accompanist, JAM on the Marsh Festival Curator Daniel Cook. Open to anyone, of any age, who would like to try performing, maybe for the first time! [*Free event*]

**Sunday 15 July 6.30pm: 'Raise the Roof' with Maidstone Band of the Salvation Army [Retiring collection]**

Favourite hymns for all

**Thursday 26 July 12 noon: Classical Folk – Sylvia Akagi (voice & flute), Andrew Wickens (violin), Peter Golden (guitar) [Tickets £7]**

Classical (old, new, popular) and Folk (Russian, French, English) from amusing to thoughtful – always entertaining! Followed by light lunches in the church.

**Saturday 11 August 7.30pm: Narropera – Dorothee Jansen (soprano), Floriane Peycelon (violin),**

**Haydn Rawstron (piano and narrator) [Tickets £12]**

Mozart – *Don Giovanni*

*For more information about the Friends of St Leonard's Church, including how to become an Annual or Life Member and to be added to our email distribution list for advance information about concerts throughout the area, visit our website at [www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk), contact Brinley Hughes on 01303 264470 or e-mail [brin.hughes@btinternet.com](mailto:brin.hughes@btinternet.com).*

**HYTHE COMMUNITY CINEMA:** meets on the first Tuesday of the month from October to July at The Tin Tabernacle, Portland Road, Hythe CT21 6FL at 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm). Entry £5 on the door, or £3 for Hythe Cinema Card holders. (for more details: [www.hythecommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.hythecommunitycinema.co.uk) or phone 01303 264914)

**5th JUNE 2018 PATERSON (2016) • US • 118 mins Comedy drama • Rating: 15**

*A week in the life of a poetry-writing bus driver, and a quiet observation of the triumphs and defeats of daily life and of the poetry evident in its smallest details. A film of great gentle charm.*

**3RD JULY 2018 THE BLIND SWORDSMAN (2003) – Japan - Action comedy • Rating: 18**

*An extraordinary film about a blind masseur / swordsman who comes to a town in control of warring gangs. Funny, beautiful, violent, traditional and exuberant by turns, it shouldn't work but does. An upbeat film to end our season.*

**We are on the Web: Website: [www.hythecivicsociety.org](http://www.hythecivicsociety.org) You can e-mail us at: [enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org](mailto:enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org)**

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