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# Hythe Civic Society NEWSLETTER

No. 225 Autumn 2022



## TALKS PROGRAMME 2022-23

There is a change of format for our Talks' Programme this year. Instead of holding two talks per month, October to April, we will have one per month from September to June, which will extend our Talks Season. (programme enclosed)

**Our first Talk of the season on 13 Sept will be a special evening to launch the programme of Talks and Events for 2022-23. We will meet up after the summer to enjoy a glass of wine and reconnect with Members. Why not bring a friend to introduce them to Hythe Civic Society.**

The programme as usual is varied and entertaining, while we try to include something of interest for everyone. We are always looking for new speakers so please tell us if you know of anyone you can recommend.

Talks are held on Tuesdays at Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School  
Cinque Ports Avenue, Hythe, CT216HS  
Doors will open at 6.45 pm for a 7.30 pm start. Entrance: members £2, non-members £4, visitors are very welcome.

**PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE  
OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY CHANGE**

**13 SEPTEMBER**

**STUART BLIGH: Maritime Kent**

Highlighting the importance and interesting aspects of Kent's rich maritime heritage from the Bronze Age through to the nineteenth century.



## PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE EX-ALDI SITE

Since the last issue of the newsletter the prospective developer, In5 Group, has submitted a formal planning application for the ex-Aldi site. As this is a critical site in the middle of the Conservation Area the Executive Committee emailed HCS members to alert them of the planning application, to ask them to comment to FHDC and to copy those views to HCS so that those views could be included in the HCS response to FHDC. The HCS response can be summarised as:

- Welcomed mixed use of the site.
- Welcomed the improved design which is more in keeping with the conservation area.
- Recommended that the apartment block on the corner of Bank Street and Prospect Road be reduced from 3 to 2 storeys to fit better with the 2 storey buildings on the south side of Prospect Road.
- Commented that there was too much black cladding proposed which is not dominant in the High Street area and that there should be more brick finishing that is more typical of the High Street area.
- Criticised the loss of public parking in the town centre. More landscaping of the car park will help to soften its impact.
- Welcomed the upgrading of Town Square but is concerned about the number of trees proposed and who will be responsible for the maintenance of Town Square and other proposed landscaping.
- Welcomed the new pedestrian way from the car park to Town Square. There needs to be a legal agreement to ensure there are no restrictions on public use of the pedestrian way.
- There is an opportunity for directional signage from the car park.
- Criticised the small size of some of the apartments which are below acceptable standards and that there appears to be no secondary means of fire escape from the 2nd floor apartments.
- Wishes to see measures included to prevent anti-social behaviour in the pedestrian way at night as this is the entrance to some of the apartments.



Responding to Hythe Civic Society's criticism of the design of the development, Sam England, Land Director at In5Group, commented: "Having listened to the local community, we have adapted our design to incorporate materials that complement the local character while bringing in a modern twist. We believe this better reflects the site's heritage."

## EATON LANDS COMMUNITY ORCHARD UPDATE

A reminder this is a joint project between the Civic Society and the Hythe Environmental Community Group. The orchard was planted some two years ago, with different varieties of apple (10) pear (3) and plum (2), 15 in total. For those who are not aware of its location it is sited alongside the footpath (HB 25) which runs from the entrance located on Castle Road, opposite the turning into Castle Avenue, down to Tanners Hill. It is on the righthand side before it opens out to the play area.

The fruit trees flowered beautifully earlier this year and this has resulted in what looks like a generous crop. So much so that we have had to carry out some thinning in order to minimise damage to the branches and ensure the fruit is of a reasonable size. As the dry spell continues it has been necessary to water the trees and there will be further watering in the next few weeks.

Most of the hedgerow planted along two sides of the site are also thriving, but some planted earlier this year have wilted, and will be replaced in the late Autumn.

In addition, we planted wildflower seed over part of the site before the orchard was planted and have kept the annual maintenance to ensure that wildlife, particularly bees is encouraged, which helps the pollination.

Our next challenges are to lay out a pathway through the trees, and to design, commission and erect information boards that will help visitors to understand what they are enjoying. To this end, following initial discussions, we are developing the project with the staff and pupils of Brockhill Park Academy later this year.

More immediately, as the fruit ripens over the next few months, we would hate for it to go to waste - we have some ideas and will publish these shortly.

Please find out for yourselves what a lovely space the orchard has become, and enjoy.

*Beautiful Pears*



For more information contact [enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org](mailto:enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org)  
or Alan Joyce on 01303 267085.

## MOLLY GRIGGS 1929-2022



Molly, a long-standing member of the Society, passed away on 16 July 2022 aged 93.

She was a keen supporter of the Society, loved Hythe, its history and fishing heritage, was an avid collector, photographer, and a trained and skilled musician, and of course a mother, nan and great nan. She was always fun to be around and to have a chat and a laugh with. Molly was an inspiration and a great source of material for last year's 'Heritage Hythe'.

A well-attended Celebration of Molly's Life was held at the St Michael's Methodist Anglican Church Centre on 2 August, where since the early 1960s Molly worshipped and was choir leader, pianist and organist.

Despite the difficulties she faced in later years, life was there to be enjoyed and lived to the full. On her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday she rode the zip wire at the Eden Project with a smile. The Society and Hythe will miss a good friend.

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**(SAVE THE DATE)**

**CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

**Friday 2nd Dec 2022 @ 7pm  
The Sports Pavilion, South Road.**

**Members and friends welcome,  
mulled wine/coffee and mince pies.**

**A chance to meet other members and  
get the festive season started.**

## ARCHIVE CORNER

### Jack Adams' negatives

Within the Society Archive are literally thousands of negatives that were donated by the late Jack Adams back in the 1990s. As may be imagined, being a professional local photographer with a large and ranging client base, Jack's work and the negatives we hold cover an enormous range of topics and subjects. One recurring feature is his photographs of construction projects in progress.

Now, through the work of Roy Moore and Eric Hartland of the Kent Photo Archive and society member Ron Greenwood, we are able to show Jack's photos once more. Here is a tiny sample of scans of Jack's negatives showing some familiar buildings being constructed.

*Hythe's new Swimming Pool, South Road 1975*



*The Former Seaboard Offices Military Road, 1976/77*



*Building the Woolworth's store, High Street – 1933*



Our work to prepare Jack Adams' negatives and other photographs and scans held in the archive continues. It will be a few months before the website can be made ready for this, meanwhile more images will appear in future Newsletters and also on display at our Talks. If any member has photographic material they believe would be of interest for the Archive, please get in touch by emailing [enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org](mailto:enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org)

## MOYLE TOWER AND THE HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP – PART 1

*By Anne Petrie - [hythehistoryblog.wordpress.com](http://hythehistoryblog.wordpress.com)*

In 1912, Sarah Porter nee Moyle of Hythe died. She left her house, Moyle Tower on the seafront, to her four children – who decided to sell it. Hythe Town Council considered buying it to use for their offices, but the idea came to nothing and it was put up for auction. It had, according to the auctioneers, five reception rooms, twenty-one bedrooms and dressing rooms, stabling and a garage. Whoever bought it seems not to have used it and it was requisitioned on the outbreak of war by the army and used to house men of the Devon Regiment. After the war it was offered for sale, before finally being bought by the Holiday Fellowship, who opened it as a guest house on 23 June 1923. Ironically, that was how it had begun life. Sarah's husband Frederick, an architect, had bought the building as a semi-derelict hotel before renovating it in the 1870s.

The Holiday Fellowship had been established in 1913 by T. Arthur Leonard, a social reformer and pioneer in developing organised outdoor holidays for working people. Encouraged by the success of a walking holiday in Ambleside which he organised for members of his church in 1891, he went on to co-found the Cooperative Holidays Association in 1894. In 1912, he stepped down to found a new organisation, the Holiday Fellowship (HF), partly because wanted to encourage more working-class people to take part. The first holidays operated at Conwy, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and Germany. The HF ethos of simple accommodation and lots of healthy pursuits proved popular and more centres were acquired. In his 1934 memoir of the organisation, Leonard wrote:

*"We acquired Moyle Tower in Hythe in 1923. It is not comely either inside or out, but the rooms are sunny and we can run from our bedrooms to bathe in the sea. The most atypical of Kentish towns, Hythe's greatest advantage is its proximity to Canterbury." (1) A.T. Leonard, Adventures in Holiday Making, (1934: Holiday Fellowship)*

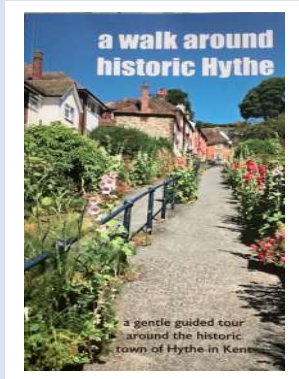


Excursions to places of interest, preferably educational, were an important part of an HF holiday. Those from Hythe would include trips to Dover, Canterbury, Deal, Sandwich, Winchelsea and Rye. On days when no trips were planned, guests could take advantage of local excursions to Boulogne from Folkestone.

Stanley Sykes was one of the earliest guests and wrote a very favourable account of his stay which won him first prize in an essay competition. The sea bathing, he said, was 'top hole' and the Royal Military Canal 'a lovely stretch of tree-shaded limpid water'. He enjoyed all the excursions and has a fortnight 'crammed full with pleasure and enjoyment.' However, he did have to travel to Folkestone to play tennis. HF rectified this by renting a tennis court from Hythe Town Council for fifteen pounds a year. This caused some local ill-feeling as the courts had been paid for through the rates and had been intended for the use of Hythe people. The organisation also received permission to play tennis on Sundays, when public courts were shut. To be continued.....



A WALK AROUND HISTORIC HYTHE  
PUBLISHED BY HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY



If you are interested in Hythe's history, you can't get to their guided walks on a Thursday, or you have visitors looking for something to do, the Hythe Civic Society has published a guided walk in a book for your use at any time. "A Walk Around Historic Hythe – a gentle guided tour around the historic town of Hythe in Kent." Full colour, 68 pages including lots of great photographs past and present.

Available at Best Wishes (formerly Ideas), 83 High Street, Hythe, £5 per copy. For more information please contact: Sally Chesters 01303 266118.

### OUT OF CINQUE

This new publication brings together writers local to the ancient Cinque Port of Hythe. In the book you will find inspiring stories and poems taking you from medieval times to the end of the 21st century. The book is published by Wealden Strand and is available from Amazon.



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### HCS AT THE VENETIAN FETE



Despite the downpours HCS maintained a presence at the Fete, selling copies of our publications and showing many vintage photographs from the Jack Adams' collection.



### EVENTS AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

**September - Saturday 10**, 6.00pm: Orsay Piano Quartet: Mozart Piano Quartet in Eb major KV493; Brahms Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor, Op25. **Saturday 17**, 3.00pm: Ukrainian charity fund-raising concert

**Wednesday 21**, 11.00am -12.30pm: official opening of 101 High Street / Open Door Project by Bishop Rose, Bishop of Dover. [If you would like to become involved in the project in any way as a volunteer, or are just interested to find out more, please email [101opendoorproject@gmail.com](mailto:101opendoorproject@gmail.com).]

**Saturday 24**, 5.00pm: Stephen Pinnock (organ): Bach Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV541; Parry Choral Prelude on "St Ann's"; Vierne Pièces de Fantaisie, Suite No 2. **Sunday 25**, 11.00am: Harvest Festival followed by celebration of Dr Berkeley Hill's 50th anniversary as Director of Music.

**October - Thursday 6**, 12 noon: Nathan Winters (clarinet) & Julian Jacobson (piano): Beethoven piano sonatas; Schumann Fantasiestücke (followed by lunch). **Thursday 27**, 12 noon: Oliver Nelson (violin) & Vasilis Rakitzis (piano) (followed by lunch).

**November - Friday 18**, 7.00pm: Lunaire String Quartet: Beethoven Op 59 No 1; Elgar String Quartet in E minor, Op83. **Saturday 26**, 7.00pm: The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment & Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe. **Tuesday 29**, 12 noon: Harriet Adie (harp) (followed by lunch).