

Hythe Civic Society

NEWSLETTER

No. 231 Spring 2024

www.hythecivicsociety.org



TALKS AND EVENTS

All Talks are held on Tuesdays

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 pm start

Hythe Bay C of E Primary School

Cinque Ports Avenue

CT21 6HS

Entrance: Members: £3 Non-Members: £5

12 March 2024

Andrew Ashton: Kill or Cure

'Kill or Cure' takes a look at 200 years of popular remedies



9 April 2024

Imogen Corrigan:

The Hazards of the Journey

Pilgrimages in the Middle Ages

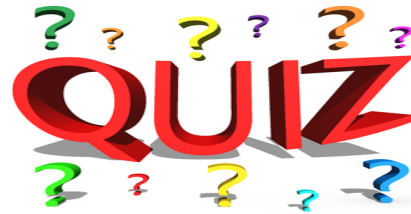


14 May 2024

Guy Bartlett

The Vulcan Bomber

Exploring all aspects of the aircraft



We are holding a fun quiz and raffle on Saturday 23 March in the Sports Pavilion at South Road from 7pm till 9pm

Doors open at 6.45pm

Can you put together a team of six? We can help complete your table if you are short on numbers.

Entry fee is £5 per person

Please bring your own refreshments (snacks and drinks)

There will be a raffle and prizes for the winning team

Your entry fee includes free raffle tickets

Please book your table by contacting Betty Black on 01303 230959 or Crispin Davies on 07804 695828

We look forward to seeing you on the 23 March!

HCS EXHIBITION

'Through the Lens' returns in May this year, following a successful and popular exhibition of photographs from the Society's archive in May last year. Arrangements are underway for a second exhibition and once again this will be held in the foyer of the local library. It will feature more scans from the very large collection of Jack Adams' negatives. The collection was donated to the Society by his son John in 1999, (the photograph of Jack is also courtesy of John Adams). Over the last two years more than 5,000 of the images have been digitally scanned. A selection of about 100 photographs across two exhibitions during May will show various aspects of Hythe, mainly between the 1940s and 1970s. Look out for more details on the website in due course.



Jack Adams

Please note: If you would prefer to receive this Newsletter by email rather than a hand-delivered print copy, please let us know at enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org

ARCHIVE CORNER

A Royal Visit



Front Elevation on Hillside Street

The Old Manor House in Hythe has had its fair share of illustrious residents, but none more exalted than George I, albeit his stay was very brief. George I, Elector of Hanover, had succeeded to the throne in 1714. He preferred Hanover and visited five times during his short reign, travelling with a huge entourage including his mistress. In June 1725, George set off for his fifth trip. He hunted, took the waters and did politics with the Prussians. He was supposed to leave in mid-October, but procrastinated until finally leaving on 22nd December.

His timing was poor. It was a dreadful journey and the worst was feared by his subjects, until on 4 January 1726 he unexpectedly landed at Rye. The surprised citizens displayed 'all possible Demonstrations of Joy' and he was put up at the Mayor's house. In thanks to the town, he freed all the local prisoners, paid their debts and gave £100 to the poor.

He and his party proceeded towards Canterbury, but the roads were so muddy that they were obliged to halt at Hythe. There is no record that the people of Hythe went to any particular effort to welcome him. His stay at the Old Manor House is only briefly recorded in the press. Why stay there? His host was of suitable social rank; the house was big enough; and perhaps critically, it was relatively modern, with large, high-ceilinged rooms and magnificent sea views. George departed the next day and if he made any gesture of thanks to his hosts, it is lost to history.

Anne Petrie



George I

What is The Old Manor House?

Formerly called St Leonard's House, the Manor was home to the Deedes family until they moved to Sandling Park around 1800.

The House is Georgian in appearance with Dutch influence, evidenced by the bell gable – although the actual date is mid-17th Century.

The site itself was inhabited much earlier.

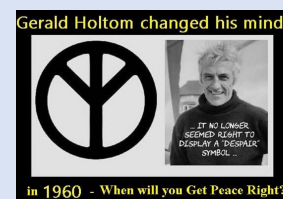
A Norman wall and Saxon remains have been discovered here.



Back elevation of the Old Manor House not seen from the road (Photograph by Mr M Jack)

Several of the original windows remain bricked-up, probably to avoid the window tax which was in place between 1696 and 1951.

Gerald Herbert Holtom, designer of the Nuclear Disarmament Peace symbol also lived at The Old Manor House during the 1980s, until his death in 1985. He is buried in Spring Lane Cemetery.



Original Sketch

The design is meant to represent the letters "N" and "D" – standing for "nuclear disarmament" – as they appear in the semaphore alphabet. But Holtom wrote: "I drew myself: the representative of an individual in despair, in the manner of Goya's peasant before the firing squad". Although in the painting the peasant shown has his arms stretched upwards not downwards.

Shortly before the Aldermaston March in 1958 Holtom experienced what he termed a "revolution of thought." He realised that if he inverted the symbol "then it could be seen as representing the tree of life, the tree on which Christ had been crucified".

Who was Barbara Matera?

Costume Designer Barbara Matera (nee Gray) was born in Hythe on July 16, 1929. Her Father, Frederick Gray, was a Captain with the Manchester regiment and was stationed in Hythe at this time. He, his wife Edna and daughter Pauline were living on Hillcrest Road at a house called Quarrymead when Barbara was born. However, they did not stay long in Hythe and moved to Sandgate the following year, and the 1939 census shows that they had divorced and Edna had moved to Paddington with Pauline and Barbara.

Barbara apprenticed in costume design at the Royal Opera House in London during the late 1940s and later designed costumes for several productions at that theatre. She also worked for the Adelphi Players, Covent Garden, the Ballet Romberg, Stratford-upon-Avon and the Old Vic. She eventually opened her own company, Scott/Gray Ltd.

She moved to the US in 1960 with her husband Arthur Matera and designed costumes for more than 100 Broadway shows; including A Chorus Line, Aida, Dreamgirls, Follies, The Lion King and Mamma Mia! Among her costume designs for films were The Great Gatsby, Death on the Nile, The Age of Innocence, Moonstruck and Indiana Jones. She designed costumes for productions at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, the American Ballet, and other ballet and opera companies.

As a clothing designer she created clothes for an impressive list of famous clientele which included Mick Jagger, Gloria Swanson, Katharine Hepburn, Claudette Colbert, plus many others, including Hilary Clinton. She did not design Mrs Clinton's ballgown for the 1993 Presidential inauguration, but she did make it.



In 1996 her work was the subject of an exhibition at the New York Library for the Performing Arts called "Inside and Out" – The Costumes of Barbara Matera.

Although Barbara only spent a small amount of time in Hythe, it's loveliness obviously helped to awaken her creative genes!

2024 ANNUAL MEETING – 28 MAY 2024

The Society's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 May in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall in the High Street from 6.30 pm onwards. The meeting will commence at 7pm but will be preceded by refreshments. The agenda and other papers will be placed on the Society's website by May 6th Bank Holiday and sent by email to those on the Society's email list. If you would like a paper copy please request this by telephoning the Chairman, Paul Naylor, on 07561 127591. Members can submit a wish to have an item considered by the AGM if 14 days notice in writing is given, therefore the deadline would be no later than 14th May.

We also have plans for an exciting and informative talk.

HCS AWARDS

Nominations for the three categories of annual awards are invited to be sent by Sunday 14 April and will be presented at the HCS Annual General Meeting (see above).

The three categories of award are:

Amenity Award – to an organisation or a facility that provides a new or significantly improved amenity for the community of Hythe. Open Door, 101 High Street, received the award last year.

Outstanding Service Award – to an individual who, or exceptionally an organisation that, has rendered outstanding service to the community of Hythe in line with the Society's charitable objectives. Such service will normally be unpaid and outside the individual's normal profession, occupation or elected office or additional to the organisation's normal remit.

HCS Award – to a completed project in Hythe, displaying an overall excellence of design and enhancing the visual quality of the neighbourhood.

Nominations, together with the rationale, should be made to the Society via chair.hcs@btinternet.com by Sunday 14 April.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for a new President, a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer plus Committee members are sought from members. If you know of anyone, perhaps yourself, who may wish to stand please telephone the Chairman, Paul Naylor, on 07561 127591 for an informal chat before Sunday 14 April.

BOOT FAIR

Advance notice to collect together your surplus belongings to sell at the Society's Boot Fair on The Green on **Sunday 16 June 2024**. A reminder and more information will be distributed nearer the day.

PLANNING

Princes Parade - A tender to take down the existing panels and install a permanent perimeter fence was published last year. Once an appointment has been made in the new year, it is hoped the work will be completed in the spring. A new perimeter fence will prevent residents from coming into contact with the contamination found in the soil at relatively shallow depths. It will also restore the unrivalled vistas and protect the biodiversity and ecology of the location. Discussions with the community about the future of the site will be held in 2024.

Golf Course - The Society is awaiting the formal submission of a planning application for the proposed development. A "scoping report" has been submitted to FHDC that can be found at <https://folkestonehythedc.my.site.com/pr/s/planningapplication/a1n2o000002QHPRAA4/231910fhsc0>. This set out the developer's thoughts on development of the site in late January 2024. Subsequently members were informed by email of a major change to that report – the deletion of the proposed road diversion from the seafront to be run adjacent to the Canal. The Society will be in touch with members once the anticipated planning application has been submitted.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Dear Members

Just a reminder that at the AGM in May 2023 approval was given to increase the annual subscription to £15 per household from 1st April 2024. The methods for payment are:

1. Members for whom we have email addresses will be sent a revised standing order form, whether or not they currently pay by that method. There will be no obligation on the latter to pay this way but it would help to reduce admin. They can also elect to pay by the methods shown below.

2. Members who currently pay by Standing Order for whom we do not have an email address will have the revised form included with the next newsletter.

Note: all standing orders can be sent direct to the members bank account.

3. Members who do not currently pay by Standing Order may if they wish take up this option. The form can be downloaded from the Society's website (click on the 'join us' button). If you do use this option, would you please advise the Treasurer at the addresses below.

4. Members who do not wish to complete a Standing Order can pay by Bank Transfer:

Account Name: Hythe Civic Society

Sort Code: 20-02-62

Account No: 50010189

Reference: Subs

Or: Cheque payable to Hythe Civic Society and sent to Alan Joyce, Treasurer, 6 London Road, Hythe, CT21 4DF.

Or: Cash which should be delivered by hand to the above address.

Please contact Alan if you have any queries, either by email

alan.wiseone@zdomain.plus.com or telephone 01303 267085



Registered Charity No 283177

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Paul Naylor

Treasurer & Membership:

Alan Joyce

Secretary: Robin Bhar

Newsletter Editors:

Jill Ayling and Kim Murton

Newsletter Distribution:

Michael Tubman (01303 267373)

CONCERTS AND EVENTS ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

MARCH: **Friday 1, 7.00pm.** Orsay Quartet & Nathan Winters (*clarinet*) & Kokila Gillett-Khan (*violin*). **Mahler Piano quartet in A minor; Brahms Clarinet quintet in B minor, Op115** **Saturday 2, 10.30am** Coffee concert – Tom Klidzia (*violin*), Philip Wicker (*cello*), Janet Hughes (*piano*) **Haydn Piano trios, Hob.XV:26 & 27; Beethoven Sonata for piano and violin, Op 30 No 3**

Friday 15, 6.00pm. Jamie Rogers, Assistant Director of Music at Canterbury Cathedral (*organ*)

(programme to be advised). **Friday 22, 7.15pm** BBC Radio 4 Any Questions?

Monday 25, 6.00pm Friends of St Leonard's Church AGM

Friday 29 (Good Friday), 6.00pm. Shepway Singers & Molly Oldland (*cello*) **Durufle Requiem; Bach Cello Suite**

MAY: Saturday 4, 6.00pm Canon John Wright memorial concert.

Thursday 9, 6.00pm Ivan Hovorun (*piano*) Works by **Liszt, Chopin, Silvestrov**

For further information about these events please visit the *Friends of St Leonard's Church* website at: www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk.

EASTER SERVICES AT ST LEONARD'S

For information about Easter services at St Leonard's, please visit the parish website at www.slhk.org.

ST LEONARD'S CRYPT STEWARDS

The crypt and ossuary will be open to visitors at Easter weekend and from 1 May through until the end of September. If anyone would like to join our team of volunteer crypt stewards, please contact: Brin Hughes by phone 01303 264470 or email brin.hughes@btinternet.com

A WALK AROUND HISTORIC HYTHE

With spring just around the corner you may want to get outside and explore our Town's streets and alleyways. HCS still has copies of its book 'A Walk Around Historic Hythe' retailing at just £5. You can purchase a copy from 101 High Street, or at Best Wishes, 83 High Street.

We have several other HCS publications for sale, see our website for details.

HISTORY GROUP PERSONAL RECORDINGS

The oral/personal history collection was started some time ago, and the recordings and transcripts are a vital part of our town's history. Our archives do have quite a collection of tapes and transcription recordings between 1970 and 1990; hopefully in the future these will be put on the HLHG website. They cover a range of topics, including people who were born, lived, worked or served in Hythe. The collection covers their memories of growing up, changes to Hythe, the World Wars, the armed forces and employment.

In 2023 three members of the History group took on a new project to interview a selected number of local people. Some of these have now been added to the website, with the added bonus of audio being linked with the transcription. Please note that these transcriptions are verbatim. They can be accessed by clicking on 'History Group' as in the link below, and then on the icon 'Personal Histories'. One of those recorded interviews is with John Adams who recalls his father Jack Adams, the photographer discussed on our front page.

<https://www.hythecivicsociety.org/history-group>