



# Hythe Civic Society

## NEWSLETTER

No. 229 Autumn 2023

[www.hythecivicsociety.org](http://www.hythecivicsociety.org)



### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

12 November



A Service of Remembrance will be held at 11.45 at the Memorial and afterwards in the High Street

#### A snippet of Hythe Remembrance Day History by Mike Umbers

Hythe's Remembrance ceremony used to include a line of armed cadets who fired a salute, but in 1997 for the first time no shots were fired. Local papers implied this decision was taken locally because of the Dunblane shooting massacre, but it was in fact a national ban, and it nearly prevented the Cadets from appearing at all.

The Shorncliffe Garrison Commander (alerted by the Mayor) intervened so they did take part, but weapon-less. In fact the feu de joie was deemed militaristic by some ('It smacks of IRA funerals'), and that part of the ceremony has never been restored, but the enthusiastic youngsters do still participate in the parade, and in the days before do their bit with the collection boxes.

In the run-up to this year's Remembrance Day, the 'Forgotten Histories' page on the website will contain more pieces about the service's history based on past newsletter items.

### HCS TALKS

Talks are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from September to June (excluding December) at Hythe Bay Primary School, Cinque Ports Avenue, Hythe, CT216HS

Doors open at 6.45 pm for a 7.30 pm start Members £2, non-members £4

**TO START OUR TALKS PROGRAMME ON THE 12TH SEPTEMBER  
YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR**



**A GLASS OF WINE**

**AT 6.45PM**



**A CHANCE TO CHAT WITH OTHER MEMBERS AFTER THE  
SUMMER AND MEET NEW MEMBERS**

**(Friends also welcome at non-members price of £4)**

12 September

#### WENDY FRASER - A VISIT TO FLORENCE

A look at Ferragamo's Shoe Museum, Botticelli's 'La Primavera', marbling paper, working in an artist's studio along with more familiar parts of the city.



10 October

#### CHRISTOPH BULL – THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

The story of a German POW escape from Kent in 1915 and his journey from China via America to Gravesend



14 November

#### RICHARD HOLME – KING CHARLES' MODEL VILLAGE POUNDBURY

The King's view on architecture, town planning, his urban extensions of Poundbury and the more recent Nansledan in Cornwall



## ARCHIVE CORNER

### Forgotten Histories

#### 'THE BAKERY GHOST'

Cliff Woodward was a cheerful figure as he made his almost daily way along the High Street or Canal in his wheel chair, chatting or waving to friends and often with his camera in his hands. His funeral cortege in February 2023 processed down the High Street to give many the chance to pay respects, and the crematorium was filled to overflowing. Cliff was a link to the strange story of the ghost in No 49, now Lawrence's the Estate Agent.

From 1939 to 1966 this shop was a bakery owned by the late Dan Ludlow Senior and Cliff's late father was the master baker. Daniel's son, also Dan, of Silver Spring fame, told the story of 'The Night his Father was Afraid'. Working late in the office upstairs in 1940 or thereabouts Dan Senior saw the ghostly figure of a lady in a long dress carrying a child: she crossed the room and exited through a doorway which had been bricked up years before. (It still is.) Thereafter he avoided night work up there! That room was until recently Denis Egan's 'Seacoast' Agency; Denis saw no ghost in his time, but occasionally his little dog who shared the office used to growl unaccountably and the hairs on his back stiffened as he stared at something Denis could not see. Cliff did not know if his father also saw the ghost, but remembered his father knew of it, and would not go upstairs when working the night shift in the bakery. He and Dan discussed it together but for the time kept it quiet, perhaps not wanting to be laughed at.

*Does the Jack Adams' photograph opposite of Ludlow's Bakery oven (undated) show Cliff Woodward's father at work - the man that also knew of the ghost?*

Then, in 1968, during alterations to the shop downstairs, a discovery was made. [The shops along the North side of the High Street were once at the edge of the sloping beach and to this day the back room in several shops along there is at a higher level and reached by stairs.] When sand was dug away in Number 49 it was reported in both the Herald and the Gazette that 'two skeletons and clothing' were dug out, together with statements by experts at Maidstone Museum that they were human remains, medieval, and that two leather shoes found with them were probably pre-18th Century.

In June 2000 HCS NL 94 told the story of the discovery as reported and also quoted the rather less dramatic version told by Mrs Diana Spence, a member who worked at the Police Station at the time and who remembered the duty Sergeant dashing off and returning with the find – not skeletons at all, just a few bones and the two child's shoes, and no inquest was deemed necessary.

NL Editor Mike Umbers describes visiting Mrs Janet Adamson the Town Archivist in the storeroom at Oaklands in early 2000 and being shown two tiny black leather shoes, just the soles, and a square cardboard box containing one thighbone, several other smaller bones and an incomplete and damaged skull; in his article he quoted 'modern expert opinion' that the remains are of a male human, nearly 5'10" tall, and, probably medieval, but he does not say in the NL if this was a recent report, or followed the first discovery.

What he saw does not amount to 'two skeletons and clothing'! Was the Press exaggerating, or did more bones go to Maidstone, and were never returned?

The Curator today, Kevin Bailey, took this photo and confirms the shoes are listed as having come from No 49 (then Southern Rentals) in 1968, so we have partial confirmation of Cliff's story, but today there is no trace of the cardboard box in either the History room or the HCS stores.



It would make a much better story if the bones had been found to be female and if there were also bones of a child! Mike thought what he saw was pitiful, and that those human remains should be given Christian burial, or at the very least added to those in St Leonard's Crypt. Well, the box has disappeared without trace from Oaklands. Did someone quietly dispose of the remains (we must hope sensitively) to avoid controversy?



*The Ludlow's Bakery Oven photograph is from the Society's 'Jack Adams Collection'*

## PLANNING

The new administration has expressed their desire to remove the site hoardings as soon as practicable, and to consult with the community and their representatives on the end-uses for the Princes Parade site. As a first step officers need to procure the necessary technical input to report on the ground conditions to specify the actions and costs required to remove the hoardings to re-open part / all of the site to the public.

## KEEPING HYTHE BEAUTIFUL.....

If you enjoy the floral displays in Wakefield Walk, Mackeson Square and alongside the War Memorial, please consider joining the Tuesday gardening volunteers as they struggle to maintain the beds during the current perfect growing weather for weeds...!

We are tackling Wakefield Walk at the moment and cutting back the Scabious so, if you are free on a Tuesday morning, please come and help.

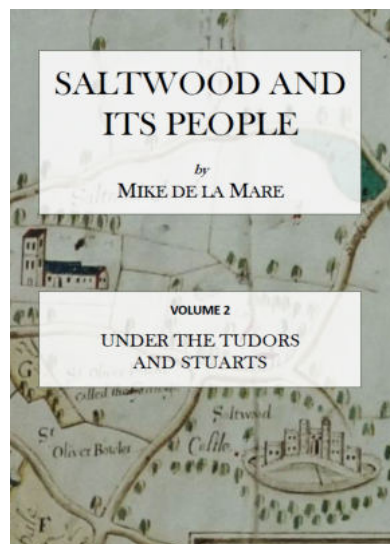
We meet every Tuesday at 9am at the War Memorial with our own tools and usually work for a couple of hours. **THERE IS NO COMMITMENT**, just come when you feel like it and stay for as long as you like – even half an hour can make a difference....

Do join us...

Contact: [chestersnsl@btinternet.com](mailto:chestersnsl@btinternet.com)



Wakefield Walk



Mike is a major contributor to the Hythe Local History Group, which is part of the Hythe Civic Society. The second volume of his History of Saltwood is now available. Information about the History Group can be found on our website [www.hythecivicsociety.org](http://www.hythecivicsociety.org)

We follow the story of the village from the end of the Middle Ages to the early 1700s, encountering a large cast of characters from all levels of society.

We see, briefly, those three great architects of the English Reformation, Thomas Cranmer, Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell. Then there are the gentry, taking different sides during the Civil War: Sir William Boteler, who lived for a while in the castle, giving his life for the king, and Thomas Tournay of Brockhill summoning the auxiliaries on behalf of parliament. We hear about why Sir William's appalling son, Sir Oliver, had a rare legal separation from his wife, Anne, and what belongings Thomas's grandmother Alice had in the 38 rooms in her great old medieval Brockhill manor house, now long since demolished. And then there is his son, referred to at the time as 'one of those bloody-minded people', causing mayhem as Mayor of Rye but later becoming a respectable local lawyer.

We visit humbler houses, too: parish clerk Thomas Stone's four rooms are very simply furnished but with 'a little deske with certaine books in it' as befitted the clerk, and a range of carpentry tools; the few things at the home of Thomas's relation, the labourer William Stone, are described as either old or small.

We meet, surviving with the help of parish funds, the epileptic Simon Prizer and the orphaned and disabled Elizabeth Rootes. Clothes and shoes are bought for 'young Iggleden', his father Joseph ('old Iggleden'), Thomas Humphrey and many others. Widows are provided with firewood, the old and sick are visited and John Lawless is nabbed for stealing wood from the old Ostenhanger deer park.

Those funds are administered by a sort of parish council made up mainly of the local farmers, and we meet some of them too, like John Greenland whose wife, Ann, has such a tragic end.

The rectors of the church come and go, one getting on the wrong side of Queen Elizabeth and fishing in his spare time (and supposedly inventing bottled ale); one busy executing heretics in Canterbury; and another desperately trying to obtain the tithes he is owed, restoring the rectory and entering into a fierce dispute with a local fundamentalist. The book contains maps showing the places mentioned and family trees of the main families.

**Saltwood and its People, Volume Two: Under the Tudors and Stuarts** is currently available for £8 from the Saltwood Village Shop, or Mike can be contacted on 01303 264914.

## CONCERTS IN ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

**Friday 22 September, 12 noon**

Marina Karagianni *soprano*, Paul Jackson *piano*  
*Songs by 20th century composers: Ravel, Obradors, Lavilla, Montsalvatge, Constantinidis*

**Thursday 5 October, 12 noon**

Molly Oldland *cello*, Jennifer Carter *piano*  
**Mendelssohn** *Cello Sonata No 2 in D major, Op 58*; **Schumann** *Three Romances, Op 94*

**Saturday 14 October, 7.00pm**

Charity Concert in aid of Cancer Research UK  
**An evening of Robert Schumann's popular music for piano, cello, voice and organ**  
Molly Oldland *cello*, Adrian Oldland *piano*, Christopher Benham *organ*  
**Schumann** *Dichterliebe; Fantasiestücke; Carnaval; Organ music tbc*

**Friday 27 October, 12 noon**

Julian Jacobson *piano*, Nathan Winters *clarinet*  
**Weber** *Grand Duo Concertante for Clarinet and Piano*; **Debussy** *Images Book 2*

**Saturday 18 November, 6.00pm**

Caritas Chamber Choir  
**'Music for Saints and Apostles'**

**Saturday 25 November, 7.00pm**

Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment & Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe  
**Christmas concert**

For further details and ticket booking  
[www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk)

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival will be celebrated this year on Sunday 24 September at 11.00am in St Leonard's Church, to be followed by a bring-and-share lunch also in the church.



Registered Charity No 283177

#### COMMITTEE

Chairman: Paul Naylor

Treasurer & Membership:  
Alan Joyce

Acting Secretary: Crispin Davies (07804 695828)

Newsletter Editors:

Jill Ayling and Kim Murton

Newsletter Distribution:  
Michael Tubman (01303 267373)

## 'I LIKE HYTHE BECAUSE...'

Originally launched on our Facebook Page in June to coincide with the national Civic Day event, Hythe Civic Society has decided to extend the period for submitting photographs to 1 February 2024. The Society will be holding an exhibition later in Spring 2024, when as many submissions as possible will be displayed.

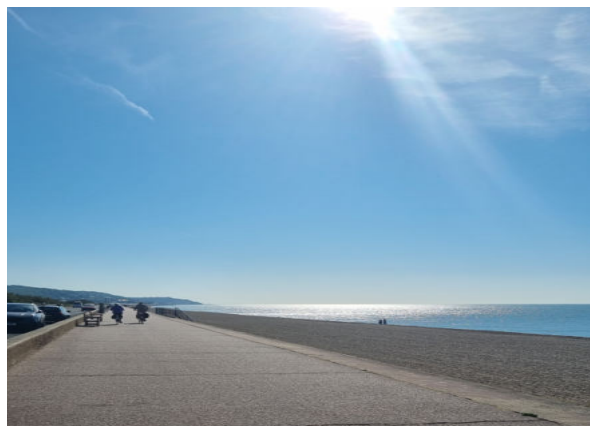
To enter, the Society is asking you to illustrate your "like" by taking a photo and adding a couple of short lines to describe the reasons why you like Hythe.

Then submit your photo and description to either the Society's Facebook page by using the post title 'I LIKE HYTHE BECAUSE.....'. or send to [actingsecretary.hcs@gmail.com](mailto:actingsecretary.hcs@gmail.com). There is no restriction on the number of posts that you may submit. All posts will be added to the Society's website for safekeeping and will help guide the Society in its work of promoting and protecting Hythe's life and character. What matters to you matters to the Society.

The Society reserves the right to delete inappropriate posts.

**The last date to post your 'like' is 1 February 2024.**

Below is the pic Lois Cavallaro Little entered, with the comment:  
'I love Hythe because of mornings like these'



Kim Murton's photo and comment:  
'I love Hythe for the beautiful walks along its canal'

