

© Rufus Segar

Hythe Civic Society

www.hythecivicsociety.org

NEWSLETTER

No. 227 Spring 2023



TALKS PROGRAMME

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

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

Visitors always welcome.

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

14th March
ANDREW ASHTON
The Art of Forgery



11th April
JULIETTE PATTINSON
Shirkers?
Civilian Men on the Front Line



9th May
LEN HOWELL
Rehearsing Armageddon



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

The Society's annual meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 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, nibbles and a natter. The agenda and other papers will be placed on the Society's website by the May Coronation 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 Crispin Davies, Chairman, on 01303 237831. We have plans for an exciting and informative talk.

HON SECRETARY REQUIRED

Mary Hunter has been the longest serving Society Hon Secretary since the Society's formation in 1945 (17 years!), and will be stepping down at the AGM. We will all miss her knowledge, efficiency and good humour.

Please consider if you are able to replace Mary as Hon Secretary. We are looking for someone who has an interest in Hythe, is computer literate, can organise and administer meetings, deal with correspondence, is the first point of call for the Society, and is available for meetings once a month on a Tuesday afternoon.

Expenses are reimbursed and an honorarium is available. If you think this could be you, please contact the Chairman (01303 237831) or any Committee member for further information.

HCS AWARDS

Nominations for the three categories of annual awards are invited to be sent by Tuesday 11 April and will be presented at the HCS Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2022

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.

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 chairman.hcs@gmail.com by Tuesday 11 April 2023.

ARCHIVE CORNER

HYPHE CELEBRITY VISCOUNT CHARLES CHEERS WAKEFIELD OF HYPHE

Those readers who live in Hythe will no doubt be familiar with Wakefield Walk, whose floral borders provide an enjoyable passage between Twiss Road and Ladies Walk. Some may also know of Wakefield Way to the western end of the town - but why two roads named after the same man? He must have been a pretty important figure to warrant such an accolade...and yes he was...

Viscount Charles Cheers Wakefield of Hythe was born in Liverpool in 1859 the son of a Customs official and his wife Margaret (nee Cheers) from whom he took his unusual middle name. After schooling he found work with an oil broker and, having specialised in lubricants, set up his own company, C.C. Wakefield and Co, which eventually changed its name to Castrol – chosen because castor oil was added to the company's lubricating oils.



Wakefield was a great philanthropist whose charities included many projects in London including Talbot House, which became Toc H, the WWI home for soldiers in Poperinge, Hythe's twin town in Belgium. He also had a passion for speed, financing aviation pioneers and donating the Wakefield Gold Trophy for the world land speed record. He also supported Henry Segrave's failed attempts at the world water speed record.

He was knighted in 1907, became a city Alderman the following year and served as Lord Mayor of London in 1915-16. He first came to Hythe in 1912, moved here and became a prominent figure and generous benefactor. He paid for the recasting of three bells at St Leonard's Church and also provided a new lifeboat - 'Viscountess Wakefield' - and lifeboat house. He was created a Freeman of the Borough in 1930, and in 1934 was further honoured when he became Viscount Wakefield of Hythe in the County of Kent. He had a large mansion built near the top of Blackhouse Hill, called 'The Links' (later named 'Bassett House'). The Links was a grand affair with oak panelled interior and a minstrel's gallery but his wife disliked the house, so after a short time Lord and Lady Wakefield moved virtually next door. As a result, Bassett House was re-christened 'Wakefield's Folly.' Sadly, the house was destroyed in a catastrophic fire in 1960.

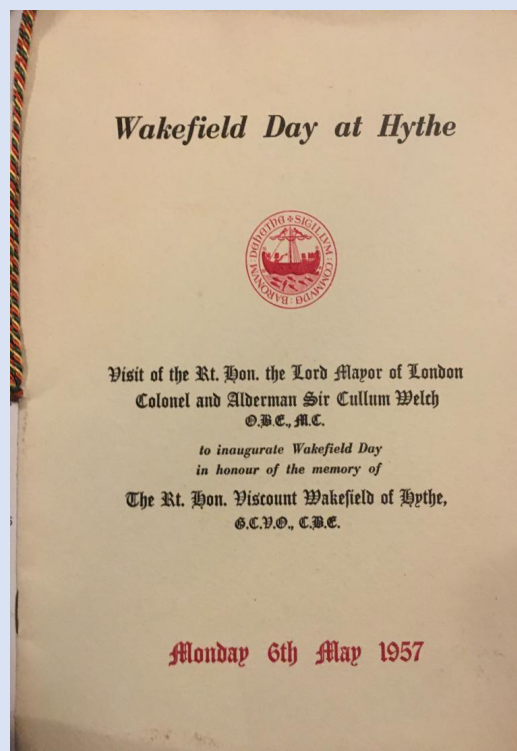


Lord and Lady Wakefield were both laid to rest in Seabrook cemetery and, until recently, as a sign of his importance to Hythe, and probably its greatest benefactor, Hythe Town Council laid a wreath on his grave on the date of his death, 15th January. This year the tribute was carried out by Hythe Civic Society.



More information on notable Hythe residents can be found in the Hythe Civic Society publication 'Hythe Celebrities' at www.hythecivicsociety.org

We found the programme below in the
HCS Archives



THE GENEROSITY of Lord and Lady Wakefield was magnificent . . . it covered The World. But here in Hythe it was tender and precious : so very often between man and man. Threads of Gold even yet bind many hearts in Hythe to the memory of a kindly deed performed in unobtrusive manner. It must be remembered that the Years between the Wars provided many occasions in Hythe for Compassion and Sympathy. The Compassion which filled Two Great Hearts still lives on though The Hearts have ceased to beat : the Wakefield Trust has a capital sum of £10,000, the income from which is distributed among those in need by local Trustees . . . still in inconspicuous and unobtrusive manner.

HOME FROM THE BUSY CITY for the Week-end, on Saturday afternoons Lord Wakefield would walk down the hill to a Football Match—and Men would walk to meet him. Always he was looking for an Opportunity to indulge his Generous Heart—and these Men as they walked, they Talked. First "Sir Charles" and later "His Lordship" learned many Facts of 'Life in Hythe' during his Talks with these Men, because there was mutual Trust and Confidence. By Generous Gifts he encouraged Churches, Gardeners, Sports Clubs. He was fond of Children and would do Anything for Them. Football, Cricket, Golf, Tennis, Bowls—all These and More Too received Aid from his Hand. Ex-Servicemen were always assured of his Sympathy. Bells for the Church?—Of Course! A Recreation Ground?—Certainly! Historic Hythe Documents in the Market?—Get Them and I will Pay! All This went on in Hythe Throughout the Years.

Perhaps his last public event was in April 1938 when Princes Parade, Hythe's new coastal road, was built at a cost of £70,000. Lord Wakefield opened it – he paid for the Hospitality that day – and to commemorate the Event, he provided and signed 400 autograph books as gifts for Hythe school children.

Dear Member

Hythe Civic Society annual membership subscription - 2023/2024

A reminder that the annual membership subscription for 2023/2024 is due on 1st April 2023. The subscription remains at £10.00.

You can renew by the following means.

1. By standing order: (our preferred option)

The form can be downloaded from our website www.hythecivicsociety.org or set up via your own online banking, using the information supplied in no 2. If you set it up online please let us know via our email or you can obtain the form from Alan Joyce enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org or by telephone 01303 267085. If you are unsure as to whether you already have a standing order please do not hesitate to call Alan.

2. By BACS transfer:

Account name: Hythe Civic Society

Sort Code: 20-02-62

Account No: 50010189

Reference: Subs

3. By cheque: Payable to Hythe Civic Society and send to Alan Joyce, 6 London Road, CT21 4DF

4. By cash: Please deliver to the above address. Do not send by post.

**CIVIC SOCIETY EXHIBITION
'THROUGH THE LENS'
MAY 2023 IN HYTHE LIBRARY**

The Society is planning an exhibition at the Library of photographic prints which will be on display over the first half of May.

There will be a selection from our 'Jack Adams Collection'. Jack was a professional photographer in Hythe for many years and his vast collection of local and commercial negatives was bequeathed to the Society in the late 1990s.

During the second half of May there will be a sample from the 'Horton Collection' on display; these are photographs, including rare local scenes from the 1890s/early 1900s. More information will be made available via the website and our Facebook page in the coming weeks.

SOCIETY BOOT FAIR ON HYTHE GREEN

The Society will be hosting the first Boot Fair of the season on the Green on Sunday 21 May 2023. If anyone is willing to be a traffic marshal at the event please call Crispin Davies on 01303 237831.

HYTHE CORONATION FESTIVAL

The Town Council and the Hythe Festival are combining to organise a *Hythe Coronation Festival* for the 6, 7 and 8 May. Plans are at an early stage but you will find the programme of events on the Town Council website and the Society website in due course.

PRINCES PARADE

Following the pause in the project late last year due to uncertainty in both the financial and energy markets FHDC received an offer in early February from an un-named private developer to purchase the whole site and deliver the whole project but with *"some degree of re-planning and simple re-engineering to make the scheme more viable and less costly to deliver"* (whatever that may mean). In late February the FHDC Cabinet decided to instruct officers to consider the offer in detail and to suggest some next steps which could include marketing the whole site to other possible developers to ensure best value.

ST SAVIOUR'S HOSPITAL

After many years of inaction on the site the developers have submitted a detailed planning application for the design and layout of the site. Your committee has objected to this application as it considers the largest residential block on the site, replacing the "Dutch" façade you see as you pass the site on Seabrook Road, as both out of character with the surrounding residential buildings and far too large as it dominates not only the site but the hillside too.

CONCERTS AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Friday 17 March, 7.00 p.m. ARKangel's 'Milonga del Angel':

An intimate story of Tango through voice, violin and classical guitar

Friday 7 April (Good Friday), 6.00 p.m.

Shepway Singers, Directed by Berkeley Hill, Nigel Brookes (*baritone*), Margot Rusmanis (*violin*),

Harriet Adie (*harp*), Molly Oldland (*cello*), Tim Parsons (*organ*)

Fauré – Requiem; Bruckner – Vexilla regis; Mendelssohn – Am Karfreitag; Ouseley – O Saviour of the world

Saturday 29 April, 5.00 p.m.

Ida Pelliccioli (*piano*)

Blasco de Nebra – Sonatas No 10, No 1, No 5 & No 2; Mozart – Fantasia with Fugue in C major, K394; Fantasia in C minor, K396; Fantasia in D minor, K397; Fantasia in C minor K475

Saturday 13 May, 7.30 p.m.

Snowdown Male Voice Choir & Military Wives Choir, Shorncliffe: *'Sounds of Spring' – ballads and songs*

Saturday 27 May, 7.00pm.

Orsay Piano Quartet. *Mozart – Piano quartet No 1 in G minor, K478;*

Fauré – Piano quartet No 2 in G minor, Op 45

For further details and tickets visit www.friendsofstleonardshythe.org.uk.

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 to brin.hughes@btinternet.com

BRING OUT YOUR OLD ELECTRICALS



Every Saturday volunteers from Hythe Environmental Community Group are standing by to receive your defunct electrical and electronic equipment. You will find them at **101 Hythe High Street, every Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.**

Most of us have a stash of broken or unwanted appliances that we know we can't put in our household bins, but haven't quite got round to taking them to the Council recycling centre. If they are working, please take them to the Demelza charity shop in the High Street, where they will be checked and sold in the shop.

Otherwise, do drop them off at 101: from there they will be taken to the state-of-the-art recycling facility in Sittingbourne where 75% to 100% of the material will be recycled. The plastic can be turned into playground furniture and the copper, gold and rare earth minerals will be recovered. From alarm clocks to X-boxes, and everything in between, all items can have new life. If it has a plug or lead and you can carry it, do bring it along.

For more information visit www.hytheenvironmental/waste or recycling@hytheenvironmental.community



Registered Charity No 283177

COMMITTEE

Chairman: Crispin Davies

Secretary: Mrs Mary Hunter
(01303 268423)

Treasurer & Membership: Alan Joyce

Newsletter Editors: Jill Ayling and
Kim Murton

Newsletter Distribution:
Michael Tubman (01303 267373)

THE ANCIENT CUSTOM OF 'HONOURS AT COURT'

(And a Good Banquet) by David Paton

This custom seems to have begun in 1189 when during the Coronation Procession of Richard the Lionheart, 4 Cinque Ports Barons rushed forward and raised a silk canopy on 4 spears over the King which he much enjoyed and so the 'Honours at Court' was born. It was later confirmed in Charters, together with the right to sit near the King's Right Hand at the Banquet.

At the next Coronation of Henry III and Queen Eleanor, the canopy was now purple cloth and supported by silvered spears each with 2 silvered bells which the Barons were allowed to retain. This gave rise to various disputes and the tradition of the value being shared equally 'lest any Port should seem to be preferred'. That still holds with each Port providing the Speaker of the Brotherhood every 7 years. For Centuries the Coronation Barons, as they were styled, chosen by each Port, carried the King's and sometimes the Queen's canopy, during the walks between the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey. This was usually a long and elaborate Procession with the great and the good in their Court finery. The Barons at one time received 43s and 4p from the Confederation as an allowance for their Coronation livery (models can be seen in some Cinque Ports Museums including Hythe).

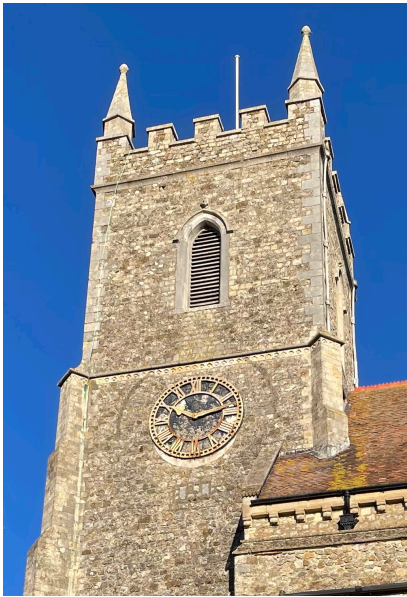
We come to Charles II Coronation (attended by Samuel Pepys) in 1661 in Westminster Hall. The King's footmen tried to seize the elaborate canopy, silvered staves and bells, but the Barons defended stoutly and later the King imprisoned the culprits. However, during the scuffle in the Hall, some Bishops and Judges slipped into the Barons seats and refused to budge so they sat glumly at the 2nd table on the King's Right Hand. On another occasion, they were not listed to attend the Banquet, but did so and stood around the top tables, holding the canopy and their gifts, though received no food. In 1685, it is recorded that 32 Barons were involved in supporting the golden cloth canopies of James II and his Queen. It may have been the number of Barons and the earlier incident that caused William and Mary in 1689 to refuse the Barons the right to sit at the King's Right Hand!

Unfortunately, it got worse for by 1820 the Procession route had now become more built-up with taller houses so George IV decided to walk IN FRONT of the canopy so he could be better seen and could acknowledge people at windows. The elderly Barons hastened their steps to try and keep up with him, but the swaying canopy made the King nervous so he kept ahead - the Barons surged after him arriving at Westminster Hall in a rather undignified state and out of breath made worse it is said by their having drunk too much to the 'detriment of the dignity, stability and safety of The King'. Another version was that the elderly Barons began to tire causing the canopy to sway. The King feeling nervous that it would descend on his head, started walking slightly in front, so the Barons increased their steps arriving at the Hall in an unseemly state. And so ended the Honour. The Barons did not appear for William IV or Queen Victoria, but in 1901 the Cinque Ports won their case at the Court of Claims allowing the Barons to attend the Coronation of Edward VII and thus the ancient right was recovered. It is said that in 1953, the Barons presented themselves in their finery to the Duke of Norfolk at the rehearsal of the Coronation of HM The Queen. He asked who they were, consulted his lists and said they were not listed to attend. However, in true Cinque Ports style, the 'awkward squad' insisted on their historic right. The Duke relented and arranged for them to be positioned in the Abbey to receive and hold the Commonwealth Standards. Sir Winston Churchill attended in his uniform as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports which may have helped the Barons case!

What of the future for the historic privilege of the Cinque Ports Coronation Barons to exercise their ancient right to attend the Sovereign's Coronation? We will have to see on May 6th!

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, HYTHE

RESTORATION OF CHURCH CLOCK DIAL



The dial and hands of the clock on the tower of St Leonard's Church are in need of restoration. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is proposing that this work should be carried out as a fitting project to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

The specialist clockmaker firm Smith of Derby has carried out a survey of the work that would be required and provided a quotation of £12,697+VAT (i.e. a total of £15,236.40) for removal of the dial and hands (entailing two engineers abseiling from the top of the tower), transport of the items to Derby for restoration (including application of gold leaf) in the firm's workshop, and subsequent return of the restored dial and hands to the church for reinstallation. The opportunity would also be taken to separate the driving tubes, remove corrosion, re-polish and correctly lubricate them. The gearing would also be serviced as necessary for correct operation.

A project group is being established by the PCC to oversee the task of raising the funds required. The church clock is regarded also as a public clock and a community asset, which we hope will facilitate the raising of the necessary funds required. Grant applications are being submitted to various potential sources of funding. However, we are now seeking additional financial support from within the parish and local community more generally.



If you feel able to help in any way, however great or small your contribution, please kindly complete the form below and return it with your donation to Brinley Hughes, Beech House, Castle Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 5EZ. Cheques should be made payable to "PCC St Leonard's Church, Hythe". Alternatively, donations can be made by bank transfer to the PCC deposit account: HSBC Sortcode 40-25-25 Account 51667602.



PARISH OF ST LEONARD, HYTHE

Registered Charity number: 1144695

My details

Title First name or initial(s) Surname

Full home address

..... Postcode Date

Email Tel no

Gift Aid Declaration

I would like to enhance my donation through Gift Aid. I am UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Amount £.....

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for this tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a UK tax payer.

You must sign this box to show you agree to your details being held securely by the parish and the diocese, and being sent electronically to HMRC. They will be used for processing gift aid and for no other purpose. Your details will be retained for as long as required under the relevant Finance Act.