

HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS SOCIETY
Promoting Our Heritage and Civic Pride

Website: www.hastingsandstleonardssociety.org.uk
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Newsletter: Issue 8 (27th September 2018)

Hastings Week events

In association with the Burtons' St. Leonards Society, we have arranged a '**Georgian Weekend**' as our contribution to this year's Hastings Week programme. The details are as follows:

Friday 5 October, 2pm, at Hastings Museum, John's Place, Bohemia Road, Hastings TN34 1ET

'Hastings and St. Leonards, 1789–1837', a lecture by architecture historian Elizabeth Nathaniels, detailing how Hastings and St. Leonards became important during the late-Georgian period.

Saturday 6 October, 11 am, meet at St. Mary-in-the-Castle café area, Pelham Place, Hastings seafront (TN34 3AE)

Guided walk (part 1), looking at Georgian architecture in the Hastings area.

Sunday 7 October, 11 am start, meet at South Lodge (West), Maze Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 0BA (lower end of St. Leonards Gardens).

Guided walk (part 2), looking at local Georgian architecture in the St. Leonards-on-Sea area.

All events are free. Booking not required.

Also in 'Hastings Week', we are providing the prize money for the **National Town Criers Championship**, held on **Saturday 13 October** at Queens Square (Priory Meadow Shopping Centre). This is a colourful and very entertaining – and yes, noisy – event, with Town Criers from around the country competing. The competition starts at about 11 am. A reminder that the fundraising booklet '**A Bellow of Criers**' (£4) is currently on sale at the Tourist Information Centre on Hastings seafront, and also at Hastings Museum.

Open Meeting to discuss the proposal to apply for World Heritage Site Status

Our next Open Meeting is on **Friday 19 October, 6 pm start, at the Priory Square Building of the University (Room 402)**. The meeting will focus on the proposal to apply for UNESCO World Heritage Site status for Hastings and St. Leonards. The proposal was briefly introduced by Julia Hilton at our Open Meeting in April, when it was agreed that the Society would facilitate a discussion

at a future Open Meeting. It is hoped that representatives of groups and societies concerned with local heritage, and other individuals with an interest in promoting the heritage of our Town, will attend the meeting. All welcome, but we would appreciate notification of your intention to attend, so that we have an idea of numbers and can issue you with the Agenda. Please e-mail: hstlsoc@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days

Our events for Heritage open Days (HODs) in September were well supported, so thanks to all those who attended and for your favourable feedback. Thanks especially to our leaders: Brion Purdey, who showed us around St. Mary-in-the-Castle; Kevin Boorman, who gave the guided tour of the Town Hall – taking us into every nook and cranny!; and Robin Fahie and his team at Emmanuel Church – Robin's rolling slide show was fascinating and the refreshments (for donations) very welcome. The guided walk around the town centre was also successful, and a free leaflet 'Short Guided Tour of Hastings Town Centre' will become available as from our event at the Museum on 5 October.

Next year, HODs will run for a period of ten consecutive days: Friday 13–Sunday 22 September. It isn't necessary to have events on all ten days, but along with other organisers in the Borough we will aim to provide a variety of interesting openings and walks during the HODs period.

Hastings Pier Archive

The Pier Archive team no longer operates on the Pier. However, you can get information about the archive from the website: <http://hastingspierarchive.org.uk>

New Memberships for Society Year 2019

If you are not yet a member of the Hastings & St. Leonards Society, you can join for 2019 as from 1 October and receive up to three months free membership.

Our current membership fees are:

Individual £5

Joint (two persons at same address) £8

Student £4

We also provide quotes for group membership on request.

Information about the Society and membership forms are available on our website (address at head of this newsletter).

Your subscriptions to the Society go towards our operating costs, and help us fund projects of interest to residents and visitors to the Town.

Castle Down (Area) It's Your Neighbourhood Group

The RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood Group' at Castle Down has been awarded a Level 3 ('Advancing') Certificate in the South and South-East in Bloom judging this summer. Residents have been endeavouring to improve the appearance of this conservation area by planting bulbs in a bed dominated by a large Holm Oak tree, and also creating a wild flower border – a spectacular sight at midsummer. A plant trough is another attractive feature, and to educate visitors on their walk

up to the Castle a Local Heritage Information Board was installed in the spring – a project realised by Hastings & St. Leonards Society with the support of HBC. The IYN Group will be planting 1,000 crocus corms this autumn, purchased through the Rotary Club's 'Purple for Polio' scheme and funded by H & St. L Society. Many of the corms will be planted in Wallinger's Graveyard, with permission of the Diocese of Chichester.

The West Street Chronicle

A one-year long project, funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, to research the history of West Street in Hastings Old Town has resulted in the publication 'The West Street Chronicle'. This is a fascinating read and you can pick up a free copy at Hastings Public Library.

We hope to see you at our Hastings Week events, and at what should be a very interesting Open Meeting on 19 October.

H & St. L Society Committee