



# *Dymchurch & District Heritage Group*

## **NEWSLETTER** OCTOBER 2018

We have had yet another eventful and very busy year. Our meetings started in March this year, it was agreed at the AGM to miss out January when it is usually so cold and have a meeting in April instead.

### **MEMBERS MEETINGS**

**March** - We had Mike Umbers who gave us an Excellent talk and presentation about “**The Grand Redoubt**”.

**April** – Mary Smith came and gave a talk about the book she has written called “**A Schoolgirls War**”. This was very popular, it brought back memories for a lot of our members.

**May** – We had Dr. Pat Argar who was very entertaining with her talk about “**Writers of Romney Marsh**”. Another very popular speaker that we have been fortunate enough to find. She said it was a pleasure to talk to our members and would love to come back again. We have booked her again for 2019.

**June** – Last year we started having a Members meeting where any member could give their own short talk, this was informal and held in the Schoolroom at the Methodist church, as it turned out to be popular, we decided to carry on with it. At this meeting our Chairman Terry Preston told us all about how honoured he was when he received Maundy Money from the Queen this year at Windsor Castle. We also had member Roy Jackson give a very interesting talk about aspects of his life including when he served in armed forces.

**July** – We had Dennis Chambers who did a talk about “**Pluckley**” The most haunted village in England.

**September** – We had one of our favourite speakers, Geoff Hutchinson, he told us all about “**Battle Abbey**” in his usual entertaining way.

**October** – Our Members only Evening. Terry Preston started the evening off and paid tribute to “**Winnie Field**” our late Honorary President, she will be sadly missed, Winnie came to most of our meetings and was a very Loyal Member.

**November 15th** – We will be holding our **AGM** as usual, this will be followed by a Presentation by Raymond Moses entitled “**St. Mary’s Bay (part 2)**”. We can then go in to the Schoolroom for Tea/Coffee and nibbles. **Members will also be able to renew their membership for 2019.**

### **ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**On November 27<sup>th</sup> 2017**– We went to the “**Houses of Parliament**”, this was a most successful trip, every single one of those who went thoroughly enjoyed the day.

2018

We have had several groups visit the Heritage Room after they visited Martello Tower 24, all of them were quite amazed at all the pictures, records and information that we have.

We organised a visit for the Kent W.I. Firstly they went to Martello Tower 24 followed by a visit to our Heritage Room, they then had a break for lunch and then met at New Hall and had a guided tour which included the Gaol, this was followed by a visit to the church of St. Peter & St. Paul where they heard some of the history, the church kindly laid on Tea/coffee and cake . They really enjoyed their day.

Following our Churchyard tour last September at St. Peter & St. Paul which was so popular, the result of which was so many requests for us to repeat it, we have been corresponding with the Parochial Church Council to see if they will allow us to do it again, after much consideration they have granted permission with a few alterations, they have asked that we do not hang any information on the grave stones, so, we are looking into producing guide books for people to borrow. We are hoping to have this ready for Spring 2019, we will keep you informed.

In June a group of us went to Sandwich and had a guided tour around the town, this was really good, we then had a break for lunch followed by a guided tour of the Guildhall. If you have the opportunity to go on this tour you will not be disappointed. The Town Sergeant was our guide in the Guildhall, he was so entertaining and very amusing, so much so, I have booked him to do one of our talks next year. You will see this on our programme for 2019.

Very sadly on the 13<sup>th</sup> July our dear Honorary President Winnie Field died at the grand age of 98 years, she was well known in the village both in the Methodist Church and at the Royal British Legion.

### DYMCHURCH FIRE STATION

In August we were invited by the Dymchurch Fire Station to take part in their Open Day, it was a very successful day and very nice to be able support them.

### END OF WW1 CENTENARY

We were hoping to work with the Parish Council, Dymchurch Traders, the Royal British Legion Branch, the Parish Church and The Legion club, unfortunately the group lost momentum so we have organised our own event. We have asked all the traders if they will adopt one of the Dymchurch Fallen, we have provided them with framed pictures asking for everyone to remember them, We have also produced a Power Point presentation set to the music of our member John Pearce, we think you will agree it is very moving, this will be shown in the Dymchurch Methodist Church on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 between 10 am and 4 pm and also on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 after the service at the War Memorial and until 4 pm. We will also have our WW1 Exhibition in the Schoolroom where you can get a Cup of Tea/Coffee or Hot Chocolate and biscuits. There will be collection boxes about and all proceeds will go to the Poppy Appeal. Please do support this and remember those who gave their lives for all of us.

## TRIP FOR 2019

The trip we are planning for 2019 is a trip to Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill. This of course is if we can get the numbers to fill a coach. If you are interested we are thinking about doing it in June and you can add your name to the list at our AGM, cost will be approximately £30 per person which includes entry.

## PROGRAMME FOR 2019:

Meetings held at the Methodist Church, High Street, Dymchurch. Starting at 7.30pm.

21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 “LOOKERS OF THE ROMNEY MARSH” - Dr. Pat Argar

18<sup>th</sup> April 2019 “ELIZABETH BARTON OF ALDINGTON” – Melanie Gibson Barton

16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 “THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING NURSE” – John Pearce

18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 “ST. LEONARDS CHURCH, HYTHE” – Mike Umbers

19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 “A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TOWN SERGEANT” – Kev Cook.

21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 AGM followed by “TIMOTHY BEDINGFIELD, His Story” – Colin Walker

## HERITAGE ROOM Opening Times

The Heritage Room will be open on the first Saturday of the month 2 - 4 pm. Starting on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 until 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 (Inclusive). If anyone wishes to go in the Heritage Room at any other time please do contact us by email [dymchurchheritagegroup@gmail.com](mailto:dymchurchheritagegroup@gmail.com) or by phone 01303 872805, and we will do our best to open at a time that suits you.

**DDHG Committee** – I am sure you would all like to join with me and say a very big thank you to all members of the Committee for their hard work during the course of the past year..

**We look forward to another action packed year in 2019. It just remains for us to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.**