



Dymchurch & District Heritage Group

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

I think you will all agree we have had a lot going on this year.

Firstly a list our meetings this year.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

March - We had Dr. Pat Argar telling us about “**The Lookers of Romney Marsh**”. She was excellent as usual.

April – Melanie Gibson Barton gave a very detailed presentation about “**Elizabeth Barton of Aldington**”. Melanie is a favourite of ours.

May – John Pearce told us about “**The Mystery of the Missing Nurse**”. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed that.

June – Was our Members Evening which we held in the School Room where members stand up and give us a 10–15 minute talk on a subject of their choice.

July – Mike Umbers came to tell us about “**St. Leonard’s Church, Hythe.**” Mike was very entertaining.

September – Was a very amusing and entertaining evening with Kev Cook who told us about “**A Day in the Life of a Town Sergeant**”. He also brought along a beautiful Mace that was handled by Queen Elizabeth 1st and we all had the opportunity of touching it, a real honour.

October – Our 2nd Members only Evening which we held in the School Room where members stand up and give us a 10–15 minute talk on a subject of their choice.

November 21st – We will be holding our **AGM**, this will be followed by a Presentation by Colin Walker entitled “**The Timothy Bedingfield Story**”. We can then go into the Schoolroom for Tea/Coffee and nibbles.
Members will also be able to renew their membership for 2020.

ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

November 2018

We had a very successful event at the Methodist Church when we remembered the centenary of the end of WW1. We put on a very moving Power Point presentation to music plus a pictorial exhibition in the school room. We will be showing the Power Point Presentation again on Saturday 2nd November 2019 in the school room between 2-4pm.

2019.

In the early part of the year Colin and myself took part in the Oral History project with Andrew South and Rib Davis who recorded us for the Fifth Continent project, run by Kent Wildlife Trust. Colin’s interview was broadcast on Radio Kent in August.

We launched our new book “Remembered” in May at the church of St. Peter & St. Paul, people were able to take themselves on a tour of the churchyard and read about the lives of some of those that are laid to rest there.

We have had a couple of meetings during the course of the year with Robyn Collins from the Brenzett History Group, we were able to advise Robyn on different aspects of research, in particular, her group would like to produce a book similar to our WW1 book.

NEW HALL

We had two very successful Saturday Afternoons at New Hall, one in June and the other in September, both afternoons were very well attended. We hope to do the same again in 2020.

TRIP TO CHARTWELL

In June a group of us went to Chartwell, the home of Winston Churchill, we had a really lovely day and the weather was very kind to us. Unfortunately we didn't manage to fill the coach, therefore, we have made the decision that we will only arrange trips close to home where we can travel in individual cars and people who will need a lift maybe can go in cars that have spare seats.

TRIP FOR 2020

The trip we are planning for 2020 is to Saltwood Castle, we are hoping to get a group tour of the inside of the Castle. There will be a list at the AGM where you can put your name down if you are interested in going. Date to be arranged.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

At the end of June we put on a pictorial exhibition at the Parish Council Offices, the new Parish Council asked if we would do this and it was good that we could support them.

KENNINGTON SCHOOL VISIT

I don't know if any of you remember, but in 2016 we were contacted by Rachel Leavey from the Pheonix Community Primary School at Kennington, she wanted to bring her class of 8/9 year olds to Dymchurch to walk our Heritage Trail and then to visit the Heritage Room, after doing this they worked on a project where they built a 3D model of our village, after doing this our committee were invited to the school to see their work, we had to judge what they had done and pick a winner, it was a very hard decision to make so instead we gave them all a medal each. The school then asked if we could have the model, this we had in the Heritage Room for a while, some of you came to see it. Well, Rachel has been in touch with us again this year, she said it was such a success that she would like to do it again with the class she has this year, but also class 3 would like to do it too, consequently we have had two classes of 30 children visit us during the month of September/October and yet another invite to go and see them at their school, this will be sometime in the New Year.

LYMPNE HISTORY GROUP VISIT TO NEW HALL

We had the Lympne History group contact us to see if we could arrange a visit to New Hall for them, we did this for the 8th October, they were a group of 24 and they couldn't believe what they saw, they thoroughly enjoyed their visit and bought some of our “Remembered” books.

DONATIONS

We have had 3 donations this year.

The first one was a cheque for £1000.00 that was left to the Heritage Group in the will of Margaret Smith nee' Pope, Margaret passed away in October 2018 and it was her wish that our group should receive this amount. Margaret had been a member since the group started and gave us many artefacts and information, she loved what we are doing and was very supportive through the 9 years that we have been going. Our thanks go to her family for carrying out her wish.

The second one came in the form of a Television, this came from Eileen Walker who sadly passed away in May this year. Eileen is the mother of Colin and had been a member since the group started. She loved us telling her all about what was going on in the group and her last visit was when we did the presentation about the centenary of the end of WW1. She found that very moving.

The third was a cheque for £50. This came from a lovely lady who has just turned 101 years of age and is a descendant of a past local family, her nephew Barry Sterndale Bennett keeps her informed about all our activities and news, her name is Dr. Anne Sterndale Bennett and she appreciates the things we do as a group. Her family lived at Barn House on the Sea Wall and Granchester in Sycamore Gardens. Many members of the family are buried in our churchyard some of who are in our "Remembered" Book.

There is a separate piece to this newsletter with the memories of BARRY STERNDALE BENNETT we thought you might enjoy reading this and we thank Barry for sharing this with us all.

NEW EQUIPMENT

In the past couple of months we managed to get a grant from our two District Councillors Terry Mullard and Ian Meyers, this was to fund some new equipment in the form of a Laptop Computer, Printer and special software that will enable us to record all our artefacts, documents and pictures. This project is in the hands of Adrian Goodsell and Colin Walker.

Our very grateful thanks go to Councillor Terry Mullard and Councillor Ian Meyers for their support and help in obtaining this equipment for the Dymchurch & District Heritage Group.

PROGRAMME FOR 2020:

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

19th March 2020 "MURDER COMES GIFT WRAPPED" - John Pearce

16th April 2020 "DUNGENESS HISTORY" – Keith Swallow

21st May 2020 TO BE ARRANGED

16th July 2020 FROM ASHFORD TO DUNGENESS – Emma Batten

17th September 2020 "HOP PICKING" – Dr. Pat Argar.

19th November 2020 AGM followed by TO BE ARRANGED

HERITAGE ROOM Opening Times

The Heritage Room will be open on the first Saturday of the month 2 - 4 pm. Starting on Saturday 4th April 2020 until 7th November 2020 (Inclusive). If anyone wishes to go in the Heritage Room at any other time please do contact us by email 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. Special thanks go to Brian Goldsmith (Vice Chairman) who is standing down and John Henley also standing down, plus Pat Goodsell for being Minutes Secretary but will no longer be fulfilling this role, Pat is willing to stay as a committee member. All three are founder members of the group.

We look forward to another action packed year in 2020. It just remains for us to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.