



Dymchurch & District Heritage Group

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

We have had yet another eventful and very busy year.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

January - The first meeting of the year was an excellent presentation by Damian Collins about the book he had written entitled "**Charmed Life**" **The Phenomenal World of Philip Sassoon**. We had two meetings in January the second one was Andy Nash who did a presentation on the **Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway** which was enjoyed by all who attended.

March - We had Melanie Gibson Barton who gave us a presentation about "**Wandering on the Somme**". This was very moving and as usual wonderfully presented by Melanie.

May - We had Raymond Moses who was very entertaining with his talk about "**Growing up in St. Mary's Bay**".

June - We had a Members meeting where any member could give their own short talk, this was informal and held in the Schoolroom at the Methodist church, we had two speakers, Alf Parker who told us about his "Rambles" and our President Mrs. Winnie Field who talked about her memories of the "Village Shops". We should have had a trip to the **Houses of Parliament** but due to the General Election this was postponed.

July - Imogen Corrigan came to the group and told us about "**The Black Death**" and its aftermath. This was very popular with those who attended. It has been requested that we should have Imogen again in the future.

September - We had Dr. Pat Argar who came to tell us some of the history about "**Burmarsh**" it was very interesting being local. We also had a trip to **Chatham Dockyard** which was very enjoyable. We had an excellent tour around the dockyard in our coach with a dockyard guide who also took us in to the Ropery and told us the history of that.

October - This month we had another Members meeting in the Schoolroom. We had three speakers Colin Walker who told us about the lives of some villagers who are buried in the churchyard, Roy Jackson told us about his connections with Romney Marsh and Terry Mullard who told us how he came to live in Dymchurch.

November 16th - We will be holding our **AGM** as usual, this will be followed by a Power Point Picture Presentation by Colin Walker entitled "**A Journey through the village of DYMCHURCH**". We can then go in to the Schoolroom for Tea/Coffee and nibbles. **Members will also be able to renew their membership for 2018.**

November 27th - We are going to the "**Houses of Parliament**", this is the trip we should have had in June. I have just 1 seat left on the coach, if anyone is interested please contact me. The cost to members is £15 and to non-members £20.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Colin & Margaret gave a talk to the New Romney Royal British Legion about how the Heritage Group was formed, also about our WW1 book and how we produced it, they are now in the process of producing their own about the servicemen from New Romney.

Colin, Margaret and Peter gave talks to 4 different groups from CARM. These were all very well received.

Terry, Colin and Margaret gave a guided tour of New Hall and the church of St. Peter & St. Paul to the Canterbury Historical & Archaeology Group. They really enjoyed what they were told.

September we did something really different, we held the event in the churchyard of St. Peter & St. Paul and we told the stories of some of the people buried there, but we did it in their words. This was so popular, we had over 100 people and from the feedback we have had they loved the way we had presented it. We keep getting asked when we are going to do it again, we do not have an answer to this question at the moment, however, we do intend to produce a book at some point, we will be working on that through the winter.

MARTELLO TOWER 24

Friends of Martello 24. (Information up to 18th October 2017)

The Friends of Martello24 have been responsible for opening the Tower 2pm to 4pm every Saturday and Sunday from Saturday 15 July 2017 until 29 October 2017.

To date, we have had 3,684 visitors to the tower, with two weekends to go. This is a very gratifying number of people and has clearly demonstrated the appeal of the tower to the general public.

In 2018 it has been agreed that we open 2pm to 4pm every Saturday, Sunday and BH from Easter until the end of October.

We have 12 volunteer Stewards who are very enthusiastic and doing an excellent job, and we are getting lots of ideas about how we can improve what we are doing.

However, this number of volunteers is not really enough and we are seeking some more volunteers Stewards for 2018.

Please let Margaret or Peter (peter@martello24.net) know if you can help.

TRIPS FOR 2018

If anyone is interested we are planning to go on a guided walk around Sandwich, for more information take a look at the website of Sandwich Local History Society, the walk takes approximately 2 hours. It is the most complete medieval town in England. We will follow in the footsteps of Viking and French raiders, England's most famous Martyr, Armies bound for Crecy and Agincourt, Pirates and Smugglers, Kings and Queens. We can take the tour between 1st April and 31st October. The cost is £2 per person but you will need to make your own way there. Please let me know if you would like to go as I have to book the guide.

END OF WW1 CENTENARY

We are in the process of making plans for this at the moment. We will soon be having a meeting with Dymchurch Parish Council, The Royal British Legion, Friends of Martello 24 and Living History Workshop.

PROGRAMME FOR 2018:

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

We have decided not to have any meetings in January this year as it is a rather cold month, instead we will start our meetings in March, we will have a speaker in April instead of January.

- 15th March 2018 “ONE HISTORIC BUILDING IN HYTHE” - Mike Umbers
- 19th April 2018 “A SCHOOLGIRLS WAR” – Mary Smith
- 17th May 2018 “WRITERS OF ROMNEY MARSH” - Dr. Pat Argar
- 19th July 2018 “PLUCKLEY THE MOST HAUNTED VILLAGE IN ENGLAND” – Dennis Chambers
- 20th September 2018 “BATTLE ABBEY” – Geoff Hutchinson.
- 15th November 2018 AGM followed by “ST. MARY’S BAY (Part 2)” - Raymond Moses.

We will have a vote at the AGM to see if members would like us to carry on having the two members meetings in June and October. If you can't make the AGM and you would like to vote please let me know.

HERITAGE ROOM Opening Times

The Heritage Room will be open on the first Saturday of the month 2 - 4 pm. Starting on Saturday 7th April 2018 until 3rd November 2018 (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..

We look forward to another action packed year in 2018. It just remains for us to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.