

Northiam & District Historical & Literary Society

Providing Entertaining & Informative Speakers, Events & Films

www.ndhls.co.uk



Newsletter Summer 2019

Chairperson's Report



I am delighted to say that your Society has continued to go from strength to strength. Our membership has increased to 146 (only 4 away from my aspirations of getting 150!), we had our highest attendance figures to date and our surveys have indicated that the vast majority of our members and visitors have enjoyed the Talks, Filmnights and Outing. We have benefitted from a very strong Committee which has worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the Society: managing the website, putting out chairs, keeping financial records, organising refreshments, booking coaches, ensuring we can all hear the Talks, booking speakers, writing minutes, sending out letters and emails, writing publicity material and advertising our events in a myriad of publications and attending regular Committee meetings to name but a few!! We are also very grateful to those Society members who help with the raffle on Talks' nights – the raffle is a real financial asset and a big thank you goes to the organiser. The 2019/20 Speaker Programme is listed overleaf.

The Committee 2019/20



I am delighted that our Committee is now at optimum number. We have recently recruited Brian Doggett as our Web Manager and Sarah Doggett who will become our Talks Organiser in 2020. Lisa Reeves, our present excellent Talks Organiser will have held this position for 3 years and will be stepping down at the end of the next season.

Sadly, we are also losing Hazel Marlor, our dynamic Publicity Officer but we have been fortunate to have recruited Myra Dicken to this position. Our new and existing Committee members will be introduced to you at the AGM on 8 October.

Film Nights



We ran two film nights this season one in March screening *Darkest Hour* and the other in May featuring *84 Charing Cross Road*. Both were very much enjoyed by all those who attended. Our thanks go to Tony Biggs for organising these films and Rex Collins for his technical support. We were very grateful to the Seniors' Club for the loan of their comfortable chairs. Attendance was boosted by the Conservation Society who advertised the films to their members and joined with us on both evenings. Thank you to everyone who supported these evenings and helped to ensure we did not make a financial loss! Given this fact we intend to carry on with the film nights.

Our coach trip



Our outing this year was a joint venture with the Conservation Society. We had a really great day visiting the Brighton Pavilion which provided us with some really amazing artifacts and insights into the lives of its royal occupants. Some participants also visited the Museum & Art Gallery. The venue allowed us to spend time in the town centre and enjoy the restaurants and cafes in The Laynes. The weather was beautiful – a lovely sunny warm day in the midst of a cold and rainy week! We were very lucky. Members and guests from both societies found the excursion to be excellent value.



Linking with the Conservation Society

You will have noticed that our outing to Brighton was a shared event with the Conservation Society. It has been a very positive development to work together and hopefully there will be future initiatives we can share.

Memory Lane

A couple of our highlights last season:

Our Talk on 20 November 2018 was extremely

popular. Christina, a visitor from Berkshire, came all the way to hear Barnaby Philips speak about the forgotten African soldiers who had joined the British army and fought the Japanese in Burma. Christina's father was one of those soldiers and the artifacts and photos she shared with us all brought a very poignant edge to the evening.



We were privileged to welcome Layton Frewen in January who gave us an animated Talk about the 'Strange and Sad Tales from the Titanic'. As usual Layton came equipped with many interesting props which brought his subject

alive. Sadly, Layton had announced that this would be his last lecture and we are grateful that he honoured the Historical and Literary Society with his swan song.

Subscriptions



Membership of the Society is £10 per person and as usual includes your entrance to all 10 Talks and the lovely refreshments provided at our December Talk. We are planning to show 2 films next season and will welcome your suggestions.

Cauthar Tooley - Chairperson

N&DHLS Talks Programme for 2019/2020 Season

8 Oct AGM	<u>Julian Fryatt Lockett</u> The Murder of Captain Fryatt: Patriot or Pirate?
22 Oct	<u>Tony Harris</u> Stories from the not so Wild West
12 Nov	<u>Joe Woodcock</u> Nurses on the Battlefields of World War One
26 Nov	<u>Melvin Smith</u> Rural Life in Victorian Times
17 Dec	<u>Andy Thomas</u> A Celebratory History of Christmas
14 Jan	<u>Melanie Gibson-Barton</u> Eva Braun – Victim or Contriver
28 Jan	<u>Graham Bandy</u> Lowthers Lambs, The Day Sussex Died and the Cinque Port Volunteers
11 Feb	<u>David Clark</u> Three Castles and an Ironmaster's House
25 Feb	<u>Pete Sargent</u> The History and Mystery of Northiam Cemetery
10 Mar	<u>Andy Nash</u> The History of the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway

Our web-site



Remember you can view our Programme and other events as well as pay your membership at www.ndhls.co.uk