



admission is free, and from 2 p.m. Despite the Hall's steep steps, disabled access will be available at the rear of the Masonic Hall.



Maze Hill c.1968

This photographic exhibition is about capturing moments in the life of the historic core of St Leonards from the late mid-1960s to the early 1980s. For some it will be a visual reminder of these decades, and for others, an insight into recent social history.

Many of the photographs which will be on display originate from an exhibition called *Let's Save Burtons' St Leonards*, put on by the Mount Preservation Society (the BStLS's original name) in May 1968. The exhibition ran for a week at the Royal Victoria Hotel to raise funds for restoration. Monies raised duly helped local restoration schemes. The Burtons' St Leonards Society continues to strive to preserve and enhance our rich cultural heritage.

The exhibition venue, the Masonic Hall, started life as the Subscription Rooms or Assembly Rooms — originally the social

## Burtons' St Leonards Society (BStLS)

Website: <https://www.burtonsstleonardssociety.co.uk/>

Postal address: 1 West Ascent, SLoS TN38 0BB

Email: [info@burtonsstleonardssociety.co.uk](mailto:info@burtonsstleonardssociety.co.uk) or [membership@burtonsstleonardssociety.co.uk](mailto:membership@burtonsstleonardssociety.co.uk)

Annual membership: Singles – £20  
Couples – £35

The Society welcomes payment by standing order or bank transfer, to account name: **Burtons' St Leonards Society Limited (The)**

Sort Code: **40-40-09**

Account: **01215248**

including your name as payment identification.

If necessary, the Society can accept payment by cheque or cash, but please note our bank now levies a charge to process cheques.

Charity No: **258719**

Company No: **00982237**

## Christ Church Embroidery

A new project is under way to create a contemporary embroidery to reflect the history and community of St Leonards-on-Sea. Individuals and groups are welcome to join the community project and learn more about the history of Christ Church (London Road | Silchester Road) and St Leonards-on-Sea, while helping to sew a beautiful embroidery.

The project is led by artist Elizabeth Betts, and Lucy Bailey, who together designed and managed the production of an international community quilt celebrating the life of Jane Austen on behalf of the Jane Austen's House museum in Chawton, Hampshire.

Christ Church was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and built in the 1870s. The scheme is a National Lottery Heritage Project, and is not restricted to Christ Church parishioners or sympathisers. No experience is necessary, and there will be community workshops through the winter. See their website: <https://www.christchurchstleonards.co.uk/heritage-project>

## PLANNING NEWS



- **Burton Tomb:** following intrusions at Burton Tomb site (which is unstable), the local PCSO has assessed matters of perimeter security and visibility. HBC have been asked to improve sightlines by removing foliage.
- **St Anne's Hollington:** the church in Chambers Road, designed by J L Denman, has been saved for now (**HS/FA/23/00448**) but remains at risk. The Twentieth Century Society were among the objectors.
- **Malmsbury House:** the 1.7 acre site at 123 West Hill Road (near the Bo Peep pub) is on the market. Savills as agents state that planning permission **HS/DS/89/00804** is still extant, from 1989, for 117 units and basement parking. This is on the basis that work began. But where? Even the brochure shows that the site is apparently clear. Counsel's opinion (Landmark Chambers, March 2017) was muted about the tenability of all this.
- **Combe Haven:** a 76' telecoms 5G mast is proposed for Combe Haven Holiday Park, also affecting the setting of Combe Haven Countryside Park: case **HS/TL/23/00597**.
- **40 Norman Rd:** for a site opposite the Kino there is a planning application (**HS/FA/23/00620**) to change a vintage clothing and ceramics shop to a café-bar. The site is within a designated Saturation Zone and there may be licensing issues.



Allegría, Quarry Hill

heart of Burtons' St Leonards, built by James Burton in 1829.

A pay bar will be available throughout the event, and – subject to availability – small cream teas for purchase, and coffee.



## EVENTS

### Annual General Meeting

The Burtons' St Leonards Society AGM will be on 11 December 2023 at 6 p.m. at 6 The Uplands. This will be followed by a social event until 8 p.m., including a tribute to the achievements of Christopher Maxwell-Stewart, BStLS founder and former Chairman.

### January 2024

On Sunday 28 January 2024, at 4 p.m., local historian Andre Palfrey-Martin will speak at the Royal Victoria Hotel. His subject will be 'The St Leonards Bathing Pool'. The Pool was designed by the great Sidney Little, and was one of the largest in Europe. It was a local landmark from 1933 to 1993.

### Guided Walks of Burtons' St Leonards

Even out of season, guided walks are still possible by arrangement. See the website, or email [BStLwalks@gmail.com](mailto:BStLwalks@gmail.com).



### The Servant Problem

In its mid-Victorian heyday, St Leonards-on-Sea prided itself on its *bon ton*. This was not always practised however, as local reports show. The *Sussex Agricultural Express* of 2 November 1867 had an article headlined 'ANOTHER COMPLAINT AGAINST THE VISCOUNTESS MONTMORENCY'. It began, 'LADY FRANKFORT DE MONTMORENCY, of 123, Marina, was summoned for assaulting Sarah Rebecca Morey, one of her domestics, on the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.'

The case was heard at the Hastings Petty Sessions. The summons was only able to be delivered by the 'stratagem' of a police sergeant, in plain clothes, ringing the doorbell repeatedly for an hour and a quarter at 1 pm on the previous day. An attempt to deliver it by a sergeant in uniform had failed, as he was not admitted. The excuse offered by her ladyship's counsel was 'she is an unprotected female', which provoked laughter in court. He had been refused more time to prepare a defence on the grounds that it was his client's fault. He returned an hour later with the defendant's sister (but not the defendant).

Morey said that she was a servant of all work, and gave her evidence. 'On Monday evening I went to her ladyship for a candle, as mine was burnt out. Her ladyship said, "I will not give another. One a night is enough for the winter for the kitchen." I went across to take a piece of candle from a bedroom candlestick, on the other side of the room. Defendant jumped up, went to the fireplace, took up the poker, locked the door, put her back against it, and danced. She held the poker up threateningly.'

The Clerk interrupted to say, "Not beat time to the dance", which caused laughter in court. Morey continued, 'No. She said, "I will knock your ——— brains out with the poker." I tried to open the drawing room window, and Lady Frankfort rushed across the room while I was doing so, and seized me by the hair. Her ladyship's sister was present, and was frightened to death. Defendant put the poker down, and dragged

me half across the room by my hair. I put my hand up and caught hold of her hair to make her release me. She tried to get the candle out of my hand. After the scuffle I got the door open, and went downstairs. I was the only servant in the house, and I went to the next house. I tried to go back, and defendant pushed me into the street whilst I stood with my back to the doorway. She locked the door. I had to go to a neighbouring public-house for shelter. I have since been to demand my clothes, but Lady Frankfort will not admit me. The clothes I am wearing I was obliged to borrow.

On cross examination, Morey said 'I did take the candle contrary to orders. Everyone knows that Lady Frankfort is of a violent temper. She did not tell me to leave the room; she did not give me time to do so.'

Defendant's counsel argued that complainant's evidence was not trustworthy, and that she had provoked and assaulted Lady Frankfort. He called Ellen Ann Heatley, her ladyship's sister, as a witness.

Heatley was described in the account as 'as deaf as her ladyship. A considerable amount of pantomime became necessary, and the questions had to be put in writing. Altogether the scene was more amusing than befitting'. Heatley backed up her ladyship by saying she did not see her take up a poker, that she knew 'nothing about it' on some points, or contradicted Morey's testimony.

The Mayor said that the magistrates believed the girl's evidence. Her ladyship was fined £2 and 15 shillings in costs. On application, Morey was allowed the expense of her attendance, but there was no mention of back pay or the like.

The previous complaint was in the *Brighton Guardian*, 4 September 1867, reported on the Viscountess assaulting Eliza Bennett, her housemaid. This unpleasant case was heard at Hastings Police Court. There, Bennett stated that on the 21 August when she was clearing away breakfast, and putting the bread knife in its drawer, 'Lady Frankfort slammed the drawer and called witness an ignorant fool, told her she was a robber, and that she would get a policeman to turn her out of the house. Her ladyship also told her she was a worthless fast girl from town, a stinking ———, and, after stamping her foot, called her a ——— bitch, and a stinking blackguard.'

An hour later she was summoned to take the teakettle down. Witness continued 'As she was going down stairs, Lady Frankfort told her to take down a pillow which was upon the balusters, and upon which there was a quantity of dog's vomit. She turned round to take the pillow, upon which defendant slapped it in her face with all her force, the vomit going on her face.' The Mayor said the assault was of a very offensive character, and fined defendant 40 shillings and 21 shillings costs, or two months' hard labour. (More on her ladyship in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.)