

HASTINGS  
TRUST

2000/2001

# annual review



# Greenway

Progress on the development of Hastings Greenway has focused this summer on two important links:

## St Paul's Link

Following the construction of this new Greenway link (1999), invasive grasses and some areas of bramble are to be removed. A new landscape management strategy aims to sustain the attractive herb and wild flower verges which are already becoming well established. New planting (trees and hedgerows) is scheduled for this coming planting season.



## Brisco's Walk

Major improvements to this part of the Greenway include rebuilding and widening the existing footpath, the removal of derelict boundary fencing, clearing overhanging vegetation, and the creation of two new sitting areas. The landscape management of this Greenway link now aims to encourage the establishment of a new woodland-margin habitat.



# Volunteers & External Projects

## The Objective

- To consult Residents Associations and community groups, identifying and addressing the need for improvements.
- To enroll and train a team of volunteers to participate in project work.
- To initiate and undertake 3 environmental enhancement projects within Castle and Central St. Leonards wards per year.
- To enhance the employment opportunities of volunteers by providing professional training towards certificate qualifications.
- To undertake joint project work with Workability PACT (a project assisting the mentally and physically disabled)

## The Projects

### Wallinger's Graveyard Enhancement

Improvement of closed cemetery as a public amenity site which aims to improve security and access, restore historic memorials, undertake soft landscaping and exploit and conserve the historic provenance.



### Stonefield Road

Installation of steel railing securing and protecting raised embankment. This has improved the safety of operatives maintaining the site and further enhanced the opportunity to facilitate additional landscaping.

### Kings Road / London Road Steps

Re-painting of walls and doors to footpath, replacement of railings and signage proposals.

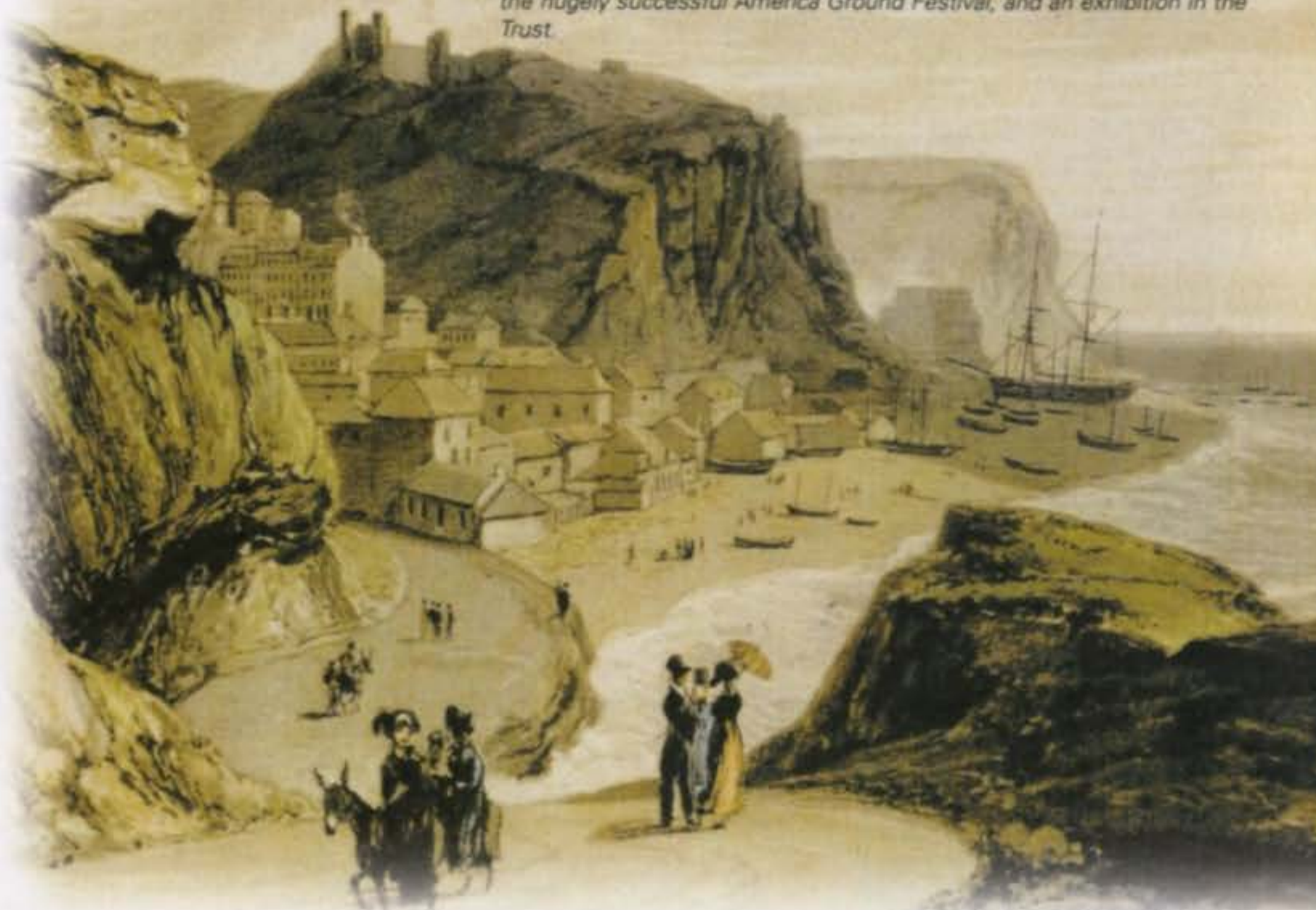
### The Statistics

2436 Voluntary hours from 17 individuals participating in project work, 8 obtaining qualifications and 5 obtaining jobs.



# America Ground

*Hastings from the White Rock - 1823 by William Daniel. Showing the America Ground in its heyday - one of the prints used in designing the mural, Hastings Trust provided the information sheets for the hugely successful America Ground Festival, and an exhibition in the Trust.*



*Joy Collins Ore Valley Forum Co-ordinator with Jackie Gaunt Oasis Centre Co-ordinator.*

## Oasis



*Sophie Grigson with Jackie Gaunt and Gill Fulton of Oasis at the launch of the 5 a day healthy eating project.*



*Princess Anne visits the Ore Valley project.*



*Vicksburg High School Band Michigan.*

*Pupils of William Parker School re-enact the raising of the American Flag on the America Ground. The school was housed in a room over a warehouse on the America Ground nearly two hundred years ago. Part of the Mural and the flag raised by the American Vice Consul, Rob Hollister, can be seen in the background. Members of the Hastings Trust, together with the Old Hastings Preservation Society, provided all the historical input to the America Ground Festival, which was a huge success.*



## Beach Concert

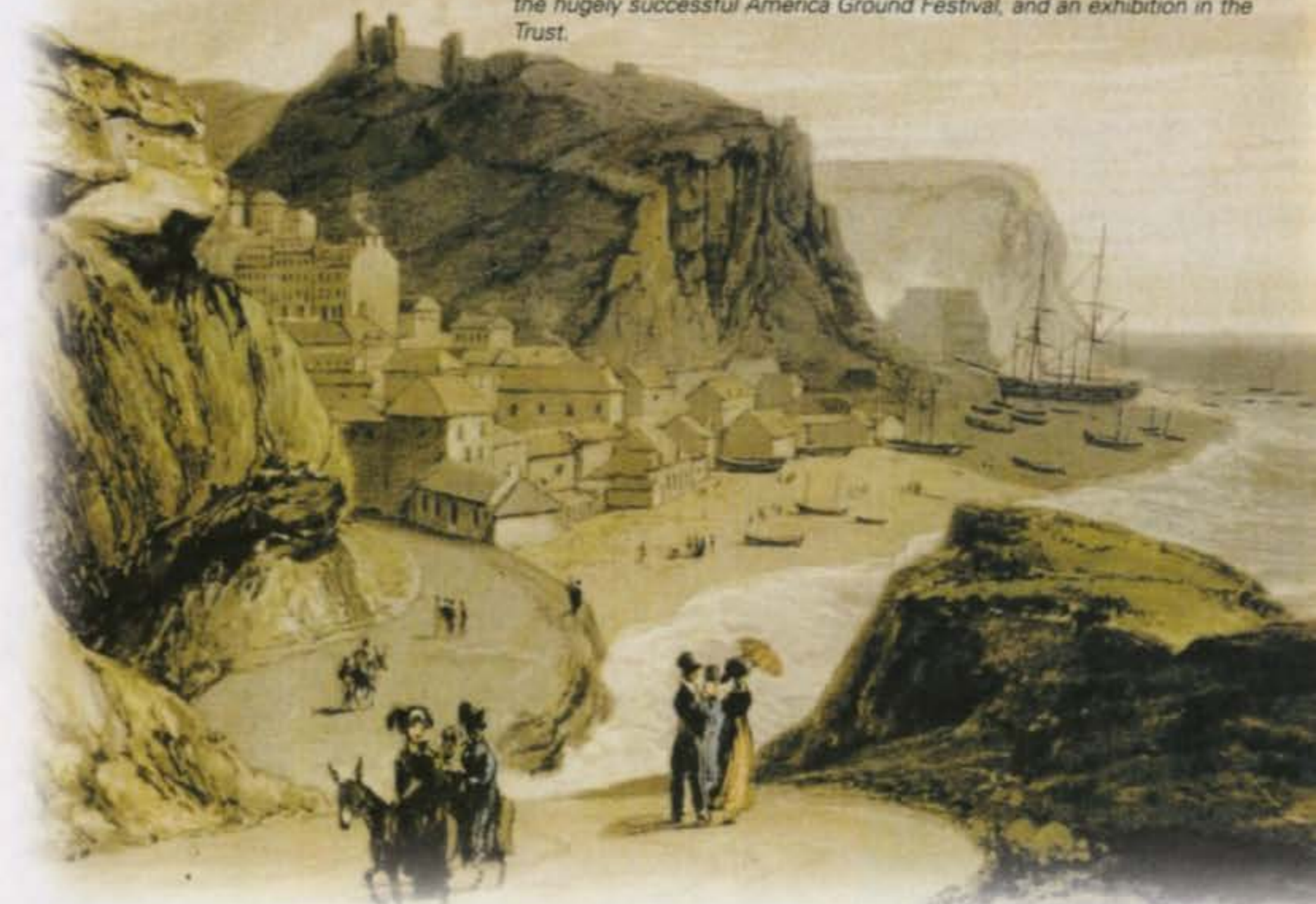
## majorpartners

The Trust has 11 years experience fostering partnerships between the public, private, voluntary and community sectors; won 8 awards and completed over 100 successful projects. Our major partners include:

1066 Enterprise	Hastings Borough Council
1066 Housing Association	Hastings College of Arts & Technology
Association of Preservation Trusts	Hastings Regeneration Community Group
Astec	Hastings Regeneration Partnership
BTCV Enterprises	Hastings Voluntary Action
BTCV	Here and Now Magazine
Charities Aid Foundation - 'Investors in Society'	Isabel Blackman Foundation
Chartered Institute of Marketing	Marshall Tufflex
Community Service Volunteers	National Lottery Charities Board
CSV S.E.	New Economics Foundation
Development Trusts Association	Old Hastings Preservation Society
Think Office Products	Railtrack South
East Sussex County Council	Residents Associations
Education Business Partnership	Sealife Centre
Employment Service	South East England Development Agency
English Heritage	Step-On Project
Fishermens Protection Society	Sussex Enterprise
Gaby Hardwick Eaton Sagar	Sussex Police
GEMS (The Hastings & Rother LETS)	Sussex University Centre for Continuing Education
Gibbons & Mannington	Trade Paints Ltd
Government Office of the South East	Transport 2000, East Sussex
Hastings & Rother Youth Justice	Tressell Training
Hastings & Rother Primary Care Group	Workability Pact
Hastings & St. Leonards Credit Union	Youth Service
Hastings & St. Leonards Local Agenda 21	Youth Clubs Sussex

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**For further information** please contact Hastings Trust 35 Robertson Street, The America Ground, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HT  
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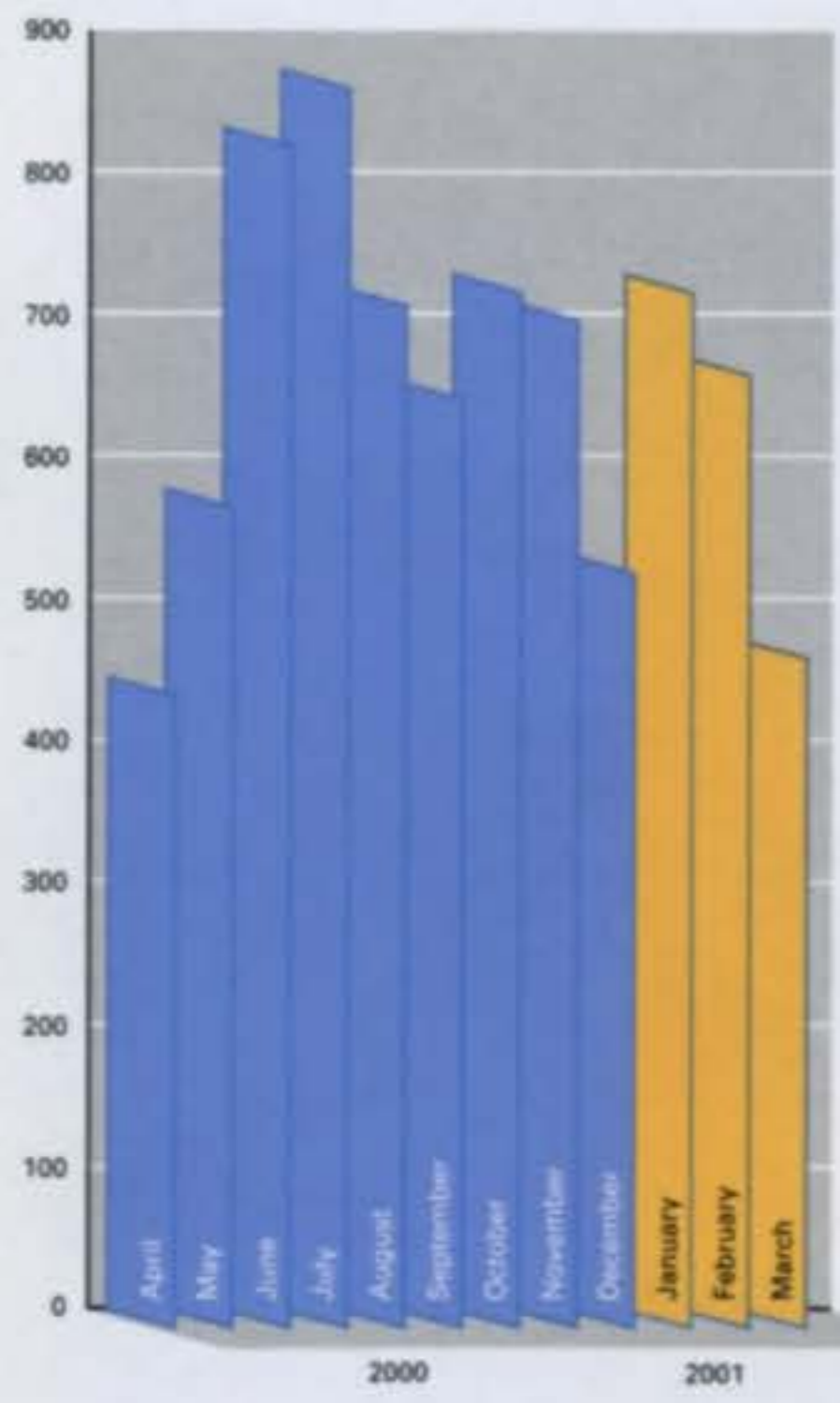
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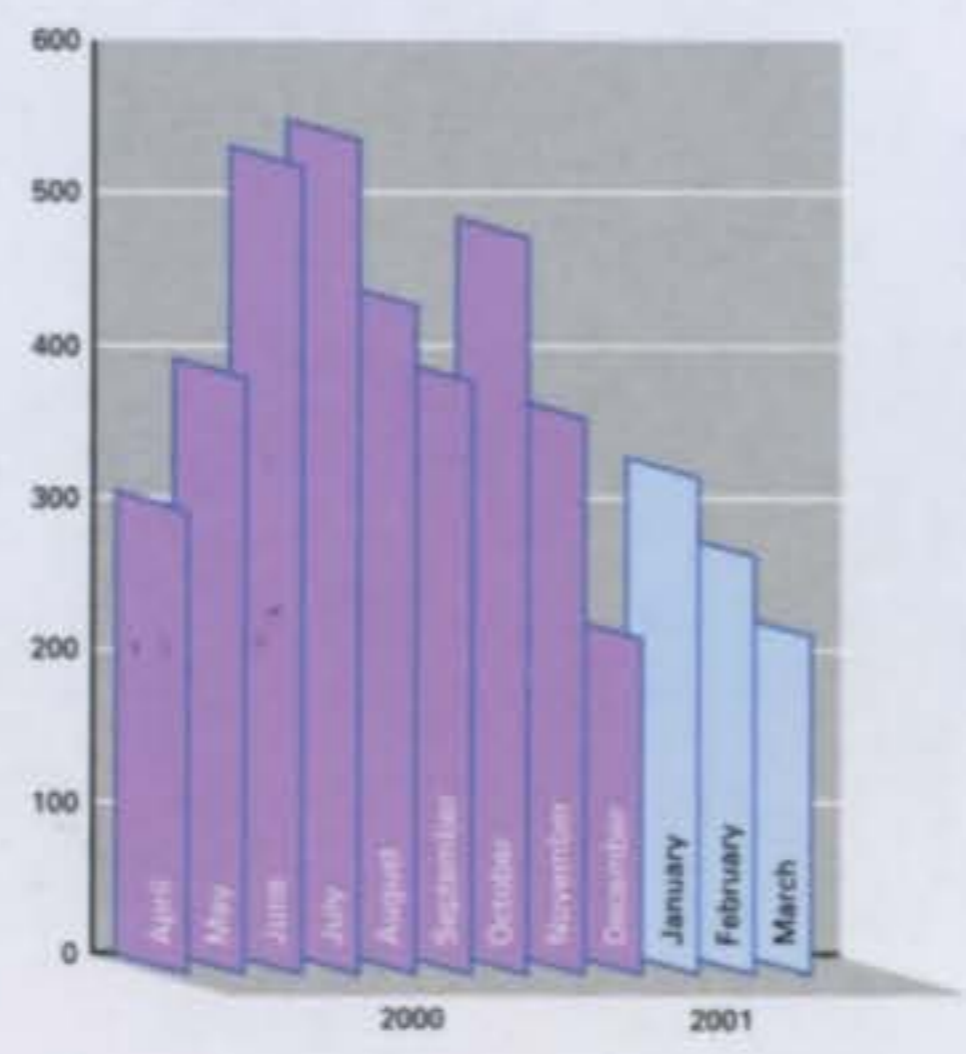
# resourcecentrestatistics

# financialreport

Visits April 2000 to March 2001 by month

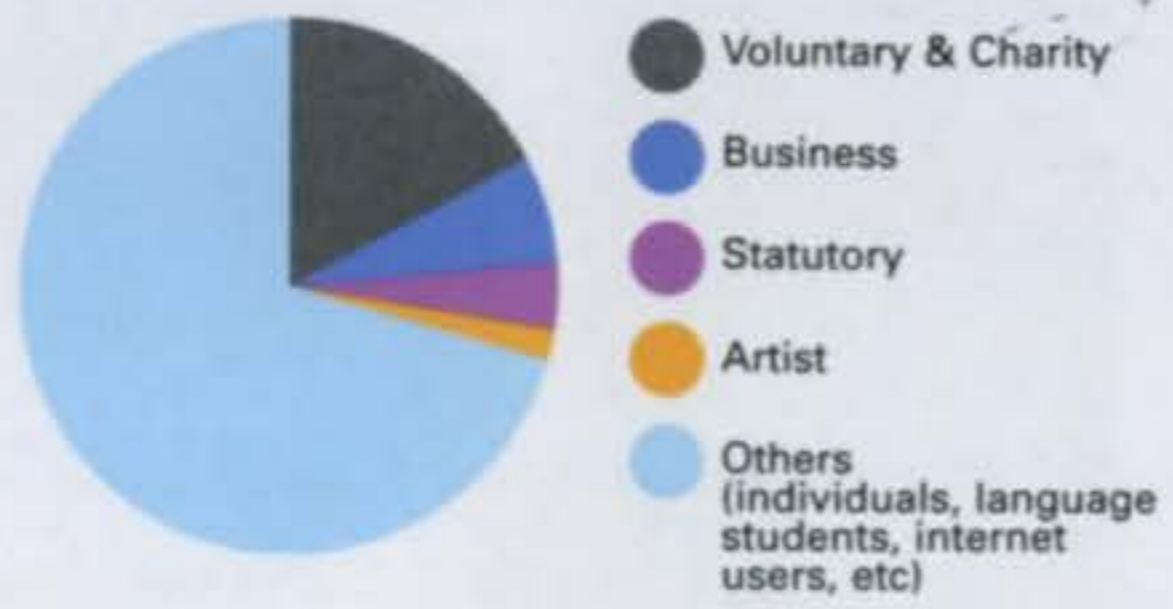


Volunteer hours April 2000 to March 2001 by month



Visits by sector April 2000 to March 2001

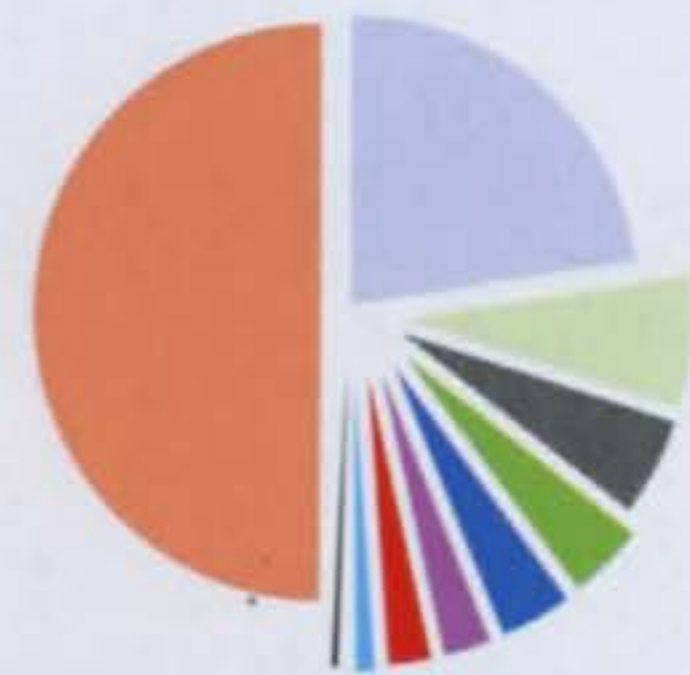
Business Advice sessions	64
Careers Advice sessions	26
Individuals in voluntary work	22
Training Days	1360
Resource Centre Courses	26
Community Enterprise Start-ups	4



Project activity at the Trust remained constant in the period - in so much that there were no project closures. Towards the end of the year and with assistance from the government's Single Regeneration Budget, the Trust was able to purchase a property in central St Leonards. Once refurbishment is complete, this will certainly enhance community amenity in the area. Also the Trust was fortunate to win a bid to the Charities Lottery Board and this money will assist in improving its core operational infrastructure over the next few years.

The Trustees progressed their programme of 'PQASSO' Quality Assurance with enthusiasm and in the coming year will also be working towards 'Investors in People' accreditation. The present Business Plan is due to expire and a new 5 year plan will be produced in the autumn.

*Paul R Smith*  
Paul R Smith, Treasurer.

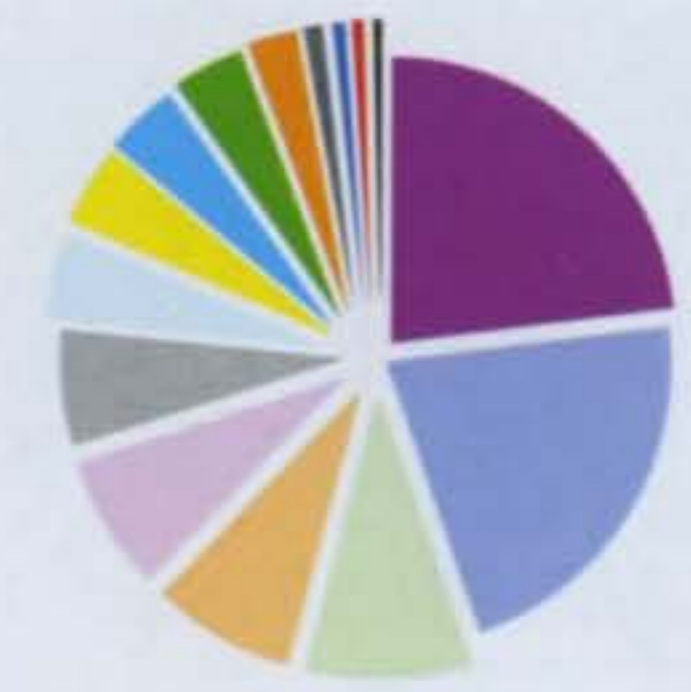


Where the money came from

SRB	£213,423
HBC	£69,781
Earned Income	£52,291
NLCB	£40,660
Trusts & Sponsors	£38,230
Donated & Membership	£25,085
Hastings & Rother PCG	£22,528
ESCC	£9,660
Covenanted Income	£2,052
Other	£472
<b>Total</b>	<b>£474,182</b>

Where the money went

Core Services	£105,984
Silchester Mews	£100,000
Hastings Greenway	£43,796
Community Resource Centre	£37,732
Environmental Initiatives	£35,462
Community Capacity Building	£31,321
Training & Volunteering	£22,641
34 Robertson Street	£20,623
OASIS	£19,540
External Works	£18,917
Tools Database	£13,183
Beach Concert	£5,028
OreValley Forum Worker	£3,362
Stade Warden	£3,060
Make a Difference	£1,964
<b>Total</b>	<b>£462,613</b>



Full audited account can be viewed by appointment at 35 Roberson Street.



## chairman's report

During the year the Board was able to co-opt four new members to fill skills gaps: Bob Falla, Tony Howarth, Keith Pound and Melanie Rycroft - very welcome additions at a time when Trust regeneration responsibilities are being tested to the full.

The decision to authorise an overdraft to support the Trust's programme of work for the coming year was not taken lightly. I am very comfortable with the decision for two reasons: our asset base has enabled us to support the overdraft and the year's projected income (although paid in arrears) is nearly ten times that amount. It is absurd that organisations like the Hastings Trust must provide finance up-front for projects and claim in arrears. Many organisations are unable to and thus are prevented from initiating projects. There must be a fairer way of financing voluntary and community sector projects. For the Trust the Board's decision indicates the wonderful success of Christine, our Executive Director, in identifying needs, creating partnerships and acquiring funding for a range of projects that meet our objectives.

These projects will challenge the Board's management skills. More importantly, the high calibre of our staff and volunteers will be tested through the hard work and experience required to negotiate the trials that confront multi-sector partnerships. I wish them well and have confidence in their ability.

TCL - our trading arm - is growing in confidence and ability, supporting the Trust with financial contributions and overseeing the maintenance of the Trust's building assets. In time we hope to be able to initiate a large, long term commitment from TCL towards one of the Trust's main objectives...Building Preservation.

As a representative of Hastings Trust, I attended a Business Luncheon at the Beauport Hotel with guest speaker Ian Stuart (lead partner in Mundial Invest SA - purchasers of the pier). He said we should be positive and talk up the town more. My sentiments exactly, although I could add "ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS" - don't only talk, get involved as well. I would ask all members of Hastings Trust to promote this concept by example and encouragement.

Stephen Hinton, Chairman.

## board of directors

Cllr Pam Brown, Dennis Collins, Cllr Godfrey Daniel, Robert Falla, Tony Haworth, Stephen Hinton, Dr Chris Joyce, Canon Keith Pound, Alan Privett, Melanie Rycroft, Cllr Paul Smith.



## resource centre

ADSL internet access at ten times the speed of a 56k modem was installed - one of the very first in the area. Its great success led to the redesign and refurbishment of the Resource Centre to make it more customer and volunteer friendly, provide room for further computers, network more securely the existing ones and reinstall software. This took place during February and March and explains the drop in visits during these months - since then visit numbers have soared.

### Other services

IT training for community groups with the help of Hastings Voluntary Action and the Community Fund.

Funding advice and training in fund raising & Funder Finder for individuals, community groups and voluntary organisations - including group and one to one training sessions.



Career advice - one to one repackaging advice.

Project and business planning advice.

Providing resources for a member of the Steering Group of the Hastings Multi Modal Study, community networking, helping visitors with information on Hastings and the Trust, on the spot IT training - especially in internet use .

Meeting Room space in Hastings town centre - in constant demand throughout the period from all sectors, especially the voluntary.

### Resource Centre Projects

- a) Business in the Community arranged for a secondee from the Benefits Agency to research the possibility of a free access community website
- b) Work with community groups, including advice and guidance on business planning and training for board members of 1066 Residents Service Organisation
- c) Working with fundraising consultancy for Hastings Trust and other community project needs, including the Resource Centre
- d) GEMS the Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) for Hastings and Rother continued to use the Centre as a public access point
- e) The Centre Library began radical reorganisation to make it more user friendly
- f) The Apple Mac publishing service continued support for the community's promotional efforts

### Volunteers

The Resource Centre cannot run without volunteers. During the period 22 volunteers put in over 4518 hours. One talented volunteer networked the computers and ran an IT course for beginners, others helped internet novices, entered data into the reception database, handled incoming calls, kept the library database up to date and dealt with a multitude of inquires.



## missionstatement

**The Trust is an enterprise with social objectives, actively engaged in the regeneration of Hastings & St Leonards and its environs. Its principles are:**

- The long term environmental, economic, social and cultural regeneration of the Borough.
- To be financially self sufficient and independent - not just relying on grants.
- To create assets and wealth in the community and re-invest in the community.
- To be open and accountable in our work and our practice.
- To create working partnerships between the community, voluntary, private & public sectors.
- To demonstrate that local people can shape the future of their communities in ways that are sustainable, innovative and entrepreneurial.

The Hastings Trust is a founder member of the Development Trust Association.

## ourstrategy

**The Trust responds to local needs with local solutions. Supporting community means adopting a comprehensive approach involving a wide range of activities.**

**To promote and support local economic development we have:**

- Researched into social enterprise and local economic development;
- Bid for funds for development of social enterprises and support systems;
- Helped write Social Enterprise Strategy;
- Researched into the development and management of managed workspaces for small and medium sized businesses;
- Established and staffed a Resource Centre providing hotdesking office work space and facilities;
- Provided marketing and business advice
- Run job and training schemes;
- Provided career and continuing personal development advice
- Encouraged inward / local investment opportunities and systems;
- Run a crime reduction project

**To improve the local environment we have:**

- Improved and developed derelict land;
- Regenerated and managed public open space;
- Carried out a number of local improvement schemes;
- Restored and developed buildings - including our own - and set standards for others to follow;
- Promoted good practice in conservation

**To improve local services and amenities we have:**

- Provided local community facilities and services;
- Supported and enable community development;
- Engaged in wide ranging consultation new initiatives;
- Supported sustainable development;
- Promoted local arts and heritage initiatives;
- Worked in partnership



## director'sreport

This year brought sadness at the death of Jean Hope, our Community Enterprise Worker and opportunity for the Trust through the Single Regeneration Budget round 6.

**Quality Assurance Programme:** staffing structure reviewed and operational infrastructure strengthened with new posts of Operations Manager and Resource Centre Development Co-ordinator (both thanks to NLCB) and a Volunteer and Training Co-ordinator.

**Community Development:** Resource Centre redesigned to provide additional space and services for its open door access; Tools for Community Regeneration became a community enterprise; a Co-ordinator for the Ore Valley Forum appointed as part of a multi-agency project; support for Hastings Regeneration Community Group.

**Urban Regeneration:** On the Greenway, Brisco's Walk & St. Paul's Link were completed. Refurbishment of 2 arches of the Linton Viaduct Training Centre completed.

**Education & Training:** Voluntary sector courses in basic IT; personal and career development.

**Building preservation:** SRB 5 funded the purchase of an old factory in Silchester Mews for a new community facility in Central St. Leonards.

**Young People:** Funding obtained to relaunch Wheels Project with Sussex Police; MAD Project elided into Millennium Volunteers. Step On remains in 34 Robertson Street.

**Social Economy:** Community Economic Development began, then tragically Jean Hope died; her legacy a successful Phoenix Fund bid for Start-Up Incubator Units for Social Enterprise. Support for GEMS & the Credit Union continued. We wrote the draft Community Economic Strategy with East Sussex County Council.

**Environmental Enhancement:** in Castle and Central St. Leonards began with projects in Wallinger's Walk and Kings Road.

**Arts & Culture:** Continued support and advice to local arts groups and the annual Beach Concert. We hosted another Laetitia Yhap exhibition for this year's 'Ocean Currents' event.

**Funding:** Trust's turnover was up by 30% up this year to £474,182. Support funding for came from HBC, SRB, Home Office, NLCB, Hasting & Rother Primary Care Group; ESCC; 1066 HA.

**External work:** The Trust continues to work in partnership with many funders and supporters locally, regionally and nationally: Hastings Regeneration Community Group, Hastings Regeneration Partnership, Stade Partnership, HVA, Development Trusts Association; GOSE, SEEDA; plus study tours, presentations and seminars.

