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HASTINGS TRUST

quarterly

Trust Leaps Ahead

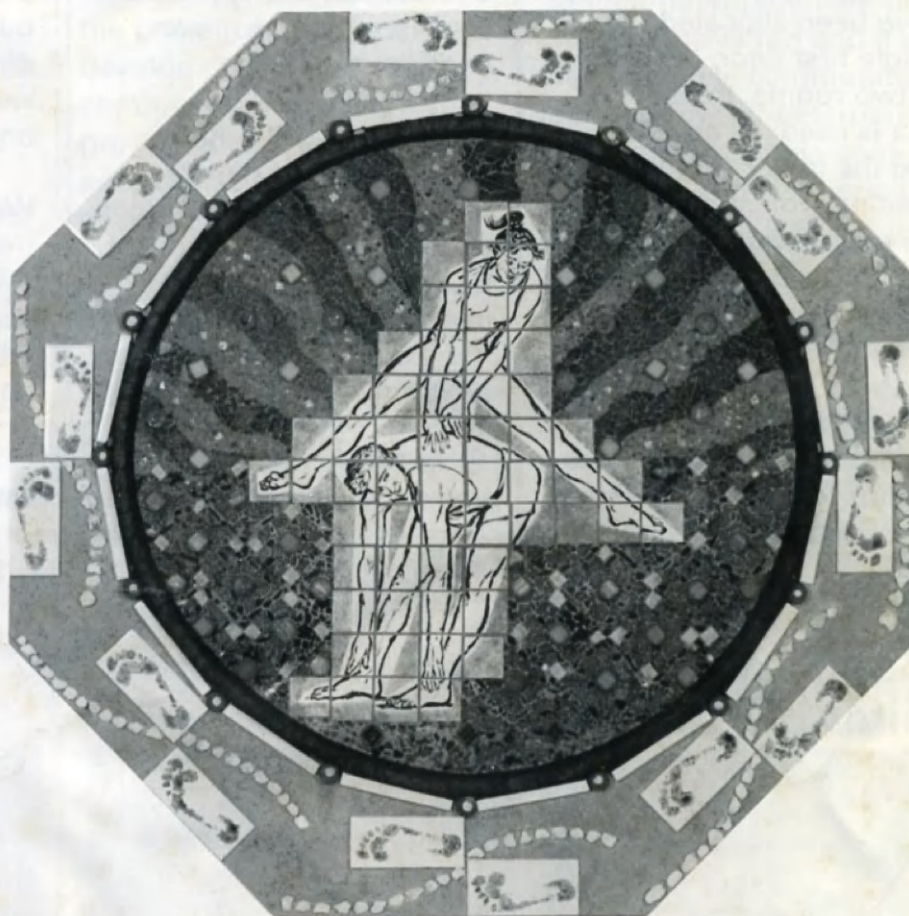
National Lottery Charities Board

The National Lottery Charities Board has awarded the Trust £164,645 over three years to strengthen its organisational infrastructure. Two new Trust posts, Operations Manager (Robert Firth) and Resource Centre Development Co-ordinator (Chris King), will enable us to improve the way we work and the services that we offer.

Appointments

As part of the restructuring, the Trust has appointed Peta McGarry as the new Admin/finance officer and Heather Smith as the Training and Development Co-ordinator.

Jean Hope was appointed Community Economic Development Worker and Clare Croft was appointed as Community Development Worker for Central St. Leonards (see page 3).



Leapfrog

Sand, stone, tesserae, glass, ceramic, paint 122 X 122 cms

A new work by Laetitia Yhap, now on display at the Trust Resource Centre.

SRB6

The Trust has been awarded funding by the Hastings Regeneration Partnership to set up a new Community Regeneration Unit to work in Hastings and St. Leonards. We will start recruiting for staff in the New Year, with the full team

to be on board by late Spring.

Watch this column for further developments.

Christine Goldschmidt

Tools for Community Regeneration

In February 2000, we moved into our own offices next door to Hastings Trust at 34 Robertson Street. We have been allocated the whole first floor, consisting of two rooms: the smaller one is used as an office and the larger room for running workshops and as a library, reading and meeting room. Our offices have been furnished solely from donations. Many thanks to all those who responded to our appeal for furniture in the last newsletter: Dennis Collins for providing shelving, Hastings Borough Council and Hastings Police

for desks and chairs. Since the opening of our new offices, we have had many visitors who have made use of the tools database, our extensive library and advice and support services. Overall, the interest in the Tools project has grown enormously.

In June, Russell Smith (New Deal) and Renate Ruether-Greaves were invited to attend a ceremony at EXPO 2000 to receive an award for the Tools Project 'Projects Around the World - Examples of the Future'. It

was extremely useful and impressive to meet with and share experiences with so many interesting projects worldwide. Publicity for the Tools project from EXPO is in the form of an official publication summarising our project, and entries in directories and pages on websites set up by the organisers.

We are currently working on making 'tools packages' available to those unable to visit our offices and to give a taster of what the database does on our web-site.

Progress can be seen at www.toolsforcommunityregeneration.org
Contact us at 34 Robertson Street, Hastings TN34 1HT
Tel. 01424 446 362, e-mail tcr@uk2.net

Changes at OASIS

Oasis is now based in the top flat at 46 - 48 Chiltern Drive. The building was once a block of eight flats and is now home to Surestart, (which includes health visitors, occupational therapists, Playlink, Drop Ins and a family support worker) Sussex University, Oasis and, in October, a dentist.

Our newly appointed Co-ordinator is Jackie Gaunt who took over from Clare Croft who is now working in St. Leonards.

Oasis continues to offer the information library, computer, individual support, photocopier, meeting space, community launderette, benefit advice and sign-posting to other agencies.

For residents over 50 years of age, there is a Drop In held at the call office in Malvern Way every Tuesday morning. They have recently enjoyed two outings using the new Surestart minibus. Job advice can also be accessed here via

Tomorrow's People. Oasis puts together an Information pack which is given to new residents by Brenda Davidson who is our local community health worker and bi-monthly we produce a community newsletter which goes to all households in the Ore Valley.

For any information on these services please phone Jackie on 448 141 during normal office hours.

*Jackie Gaunt
Co-ordinator, Oasis Centre*

New Community Workers

As **Community Enterprise Worker** for the Trust, I am pleased to be involved in an exiting and challenging new project, thanks to SRB5. The main beneficiaries of the project will be unemployed residents of the Castle and Central St Leonards Wards, with focus upon the most disadvantaged groups:- women, lone parents, minority ethnic groups and the disabled. My role is to offer advice, support and training to groups and individuals, to help them into self employment, particularly into self employ-

ment that can be of benefit to the community in which they live and work. It is hoped that by support and encouragement of community enterprises, through all stages of development, local people will be given the power to change and develop their own communities through providing jobs and services, and to relieve the poverty of disadvantaged groups.

The Trust has, as one of its objectives, the regeneration of the local economy through the development and support of community

enterprise/social businesses. The core values of social enterprises are, democratic control, and social as well as economic aims. I will enable economic self help initiatives in the two areas of high unemployment and social deprivation and hand back to those communities a means of self determination via sustainable community enterprise owned and controlled by local people.

Did I say challenging?

Jean Hope

I have recently started working as the **Community Support Worker** for the Central St Leonards area. The post is funded by SRB5 and I am currently based at the Health Hut, which is in the grounds of the Fellowship of St Nicholas. Part of my role is to map existing Community Groups and Services and identify any gaps. I work closely with the staff in the Health Hut and have already helped establish an Extend Exercise class for the elderly. It is hoped we can alternate this with short courses in 'Cooking for One'. I have also helped and supported the Parent

and Toddler group and some of the Asylum seekers. The other part of my job is to help develop a Community Resource facility in the Central St Leonards area. It is hoped that this will be a focal point for local residents to access information, Support Services as well as being a base for Community activities.

Central St Leonards is an area of high need. Unemployment is much higher than the national average at nearly 20%. 79% of children are living in unsuitable accommodation

and 40% of households are in receipt of full housing benefit. With the input of SRB funding to the area and all the various local agencies working together there is much positive work being carried out in the area to help regenerate this part of the town.

I only work three and a half days a week and can be contacted at the Health Hut on 448120 or the Hastings Trust on 446373.

Clare Croft



Volunteers hard at work within Wallinger's Graveyard



Team Update

Work is currently being undertaken at Wallinger's Graveyard, the former burial ground of St. Mary-in-the-Castle in Castle Hill Road. It is envisaged that once the initial 'cleaning up' phase is finished, work can begin on soft landscaping enhancements to improve the site as an important and historical amenity.

Many volunteers are working hard on all aspects of this project which is financed by the Single Regeneration Budget round 5. Progress to date includes recording and restoring headstones, major clearance of rubble and litter and removing hazardous objects from the site.

This project is a Hastings Borough Council initiative lead by Hastings Trust in Partnership with many other organisations, anyone wishing to find out more information should contact James Rose, or if you wish to become an Enhancement Team volunteer, Heather Smith will be of assistance to you.

James Rose

Building Works

Trust Contracts [TCL] has been busy this year with works to classroom facilities at Linton Viaduct Training Centre and expects to complete these during October. The SRB has provided funding for materials but TCL has covered the cost of its labour/overheads with income earned from commercial, private and public works.

Other parties have expressed an interest in utilising the facility and, of course, the Trust/TCL hope to expand their training ser-

vices as resources permit. By way of a trial run, two Construction Industry Training Board certificated courses were offered to internal & external candidates at the end of the summer – Safe Use of Abrasive Wheels & Risk Assessment & Method Statement Training. Both were one-day courses and both were fully subscribed.

Next on the to-do list, after the Arches, are works to 34-35 Robertson Street. Temporary works to the roof of 34 and rendering/flashing renewal

to the outside of the Trust's DTP room are also to be completed in October. More extensive works to the fabric of both buildings will be undertaken in 2001, subject to available funding.

Pictured below, is Trust Secretary/Treasurer & TCL Chairman, Paul Smith, taking delivery of a new fleet vehicle from Tony Bourne of Birchwood Ford. Also the concrete roof on 35 Robertson Street that the Trust hopes to replace in slate as soon as funding permits.

Robert Firth



Development Trusts Association

Christine Goldschmidt was re-elected as South East Regional Co-ordinator and Board Member of the Development Trusts Association at the Annual Conference in Sheffield. She will be working to set up a new Coastal Forum to further the interests of member trusts working in coastal areas.

Resource Centre

Community capacity building efforts continue apace with a joint HVA (Hastings Voluntary Action) and Centre training programme. This will provide advice and guidance on planning and community development, fundraising strategies, completing and applying for funding and basic computer skills.

The Centre is also: advising Hastings Town FC on better use of their facilities and resources for the Borough; assisting Pestalozzi Children's Village in realising the potential of their Sedlescombe site; helping 1066 Housing Association's new Residents Services

Organisation; supporting community involvement in services and maintenance through personal development; linking the Hastings Credit Union with the local LETS (Local Exchange Trading System) to broaden awareness of the new economics; promoting community interests on the Hastings.uk.net website; aiding EF language schools to connect visiting students with community projects and HCAT (Hastings College of Art and Technology) to link local work experience with community projects.

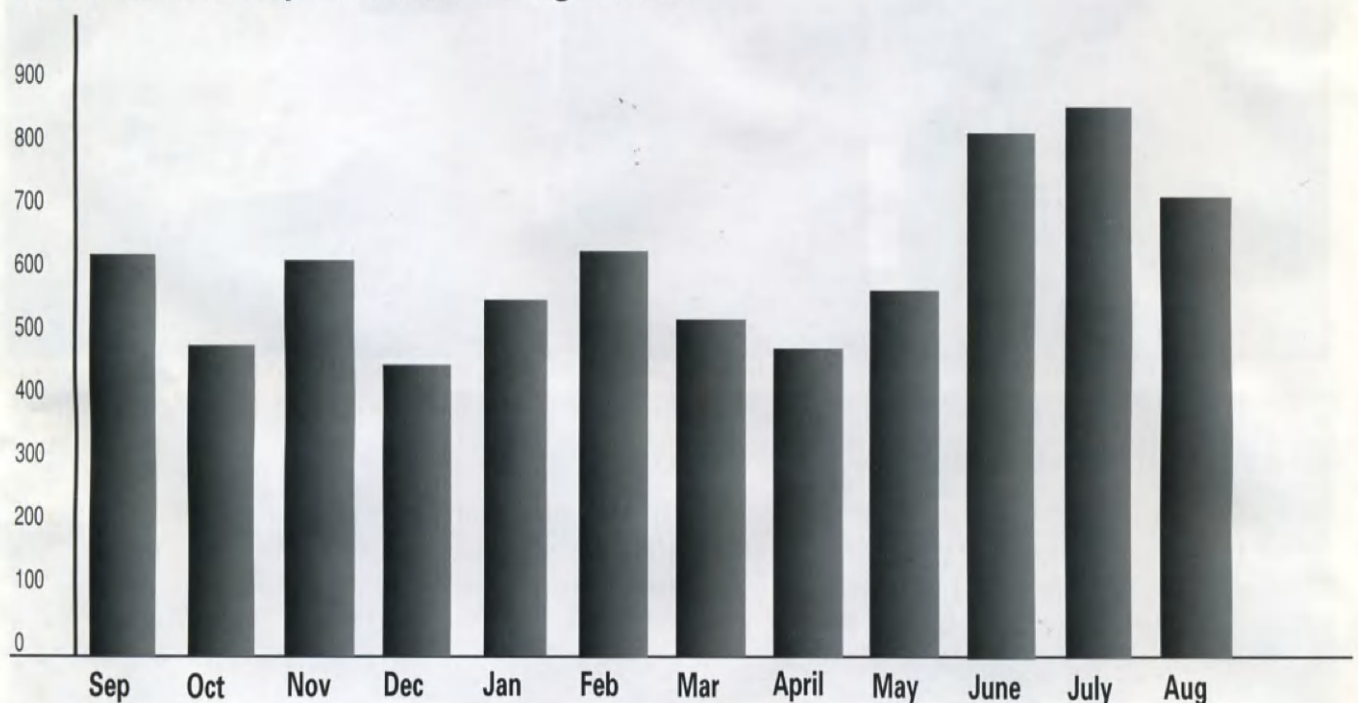
The Centre has introduced ADSL, an internet connection 40 times faster than the

fastest modem, and increased the number of PCs available.

Volunteers continue to be attracted to the Centre and form a major part of the plans for the future – including specifically created projects designed to harness their desire for personal development. Without the enthusiasm and efforts of this highly talented group of individuals such places as the Centre would find it impossible to flourish – our grateful thanks is small reward for such sterling efforts.

Chris King

Visitor numbers September 1999 - August 2000



The Reception area is obviously the first place that anyone visiting the Hastings Trust comes into contact with. So it is quite vital that that it is run efficiently and politely as first impressions are very important.

The main jobs for the reception staff are to respond to general enquires, to deal with any incoming phone calls switching them to the required member of staff or, if they are unavailable, to take messages and make sure that these are passed on. Bookings for the meet-

ing room and Resource Centre are also dealt with here. Stationery for the various departments in the building are also ordered by the Reception Staff.

Visitors wishing to use the Internet facilities are informed where to sign in and shown to the appropriate area. Members of the Reception staff are also on hand to assist Internet users with advice.

Leaflets and posters that come into the Trust are kept updated and displayed in the Reception Area.

Application Forms are sent out by the Reception Staff and also some Letters to Hastings Trust members or other people who require information.

*Written by Roz Joines –
Administration Support
Receptionist, Lyndon Potter
– Administration and
Information Technology
Support*

New Deal Progress

Congratulations to Natalie and James – our latest New Dealers to obtain employment following their time with the Trust.

New Dealers are aged between 18 – 24 and support the Trust's staff with their work. In return they receive NVQ training, help with jobsearch, and other support appropriate to their needs.

Since the Trust commenced delivery, just over one third of its 32 participants have found full-time work, five have completed NVQ's and others have gained accreditation and 'top up' training and certification in subjects as diverse as First Aid, Book Keeping, Driving and Ufology,

The efforts of local Environmental Task Force New Deal Option deliverers were rewarded, with a grade 2 following inspection by the Trading Standards Council last year.

Heather Smith

Hastings Trust Vision

'To create active partnerships between the public, private, voluntary & community sectors and to enable them to work together for the economic, environmental & social regeneration of Hastings'

The Hastings Trust, a registered charity, has these aims:

- To help those who live, work or visit here to care for the environment.
- To help the local economy to flourish in ways which won't spoil the place for those who come to us.
- To spread the word to all concerned about how best to regenerate the town and, at the same time, conserve all that's good in it.

If you would like to know more about the Hastings Trust, or would like to help in some way, please contact Heather Smith Tel: 01424 446373, or call in at our Resource Centre, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings, TN34 1HT

Membership Form

Membership of the Hastings Trust is open to both individuals and organisations.

Individuals - anyone aged 18 or over in the Borough of Hastings District or Rother or any other place at the Board's discretion. **Organisations** - any organisations at the Board's discretion. The Board of Management comprises up to six members elected by the Individual Members, up to six elected by Organisations Members, one nomination by Hastings Borough Council, one by East Sussex County Council, and one by English Heritage. Membership benefits include:

- Entitlement to vote at Annual General Meetings to elect Board Members and determine policy
- Receipt of annual report
- Receipt of newsletter and other information on Trust activities
- Invitations to Trust events

I/We _____
(name of individual or organisation)

of _____

_____ (address)

_____ (telephone/fax)

apply to become a member of the Hastings Trust, a company limited by guarantee. I/We agree to be bound by the company's memorandum and articles of association (available for inspection at the Trust's offices) and any

rules made under these. In the event of the company being wound up whilst I am a member, or within one year thereafter, I agree to contribute such amounts as may be required, but not more than £1.00.

Dated this day _____ 2000

Signature _____

Position in organisation (if relevant) _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash

Individual membership £10 per annum £ _____

Students, Senior Citizens, Unwaged £4 per annum £ _____

Organisation Membership £20 per annum £ _____

Donation £ _____

Total £ _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash:

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I enclose cash totalling £ _____ I do/do not require a receipt

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I do/do not require a receipt (Please delete as appropriate)

Please return this form with your subscription to:

Hastings Trust,

35 Robertson Street,

Hastings,

E Sussex TN34 1HT

Tel 01424 446373 Fax 01424 434206