

issue 23

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# HASTINGS TRUST

news

## Hard work pays off

After bureaucratic delay, joint funding — SRB6 and Objective 2 — is promised late 2001 for the new Regeneration Unit which will operate from 34 Robertson Street. The Unit's team will be devoting a year each to four of the most deprived Hastings wards over the next four years. The Unit will supply information, provide support and promote capacity building drawing upon existing work by Clare Croft in Central St Leonards as well as information and work from complementary initiatives in other wards.

### LSPs & Neighbourhoods

The Trust has been a significant player in the setting up of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in Hastings. LSPs are the overarching cross-sector partnerships that will in future co-ordinate and determine strategy for service delivery and regeneration initiatives. Hastings is one of the first towns in the UK to have an LSP. Neighbourhood renewal — the new Government attempt to encourage people to have a stake in their neighbourhood's improvement and future —



*Early work on the new Community Resource Centre, Silchester Road, St Leonards (more details page 3). Trust Contracts Limited (TCL) is entirely renovating, refurbishing and redesigning Autoglaze House a former factory unit with offices above. TCL is the Hastings Trust trading subsidiary which covenants its profits to the Trust.*

saw the Trust helping to promote and present the extensive Borough-wide preliminary consultations for the (initially) three year project.

### Joined-up thinking

Three other new initiatives demonstrate the Trust's cutting edge approach to regeneration participation and better use of local resources: a successful joint bid with 1066 Housing Association will support a **Residents Services Organisation (RSO)** — a community enterprise

that allows people to compete for control over services local to them such as waste collection, grass cutting, etc. **Plugging the Leaks** is a pilot study with the NEF (New Economics Foundation) to map the local economy to see where money is spent, how it leaves the area and how it can be kept circulating locally longer. The Phoenix Fund is a new source of funding through the DTI's Small Business Service to set up a **community enterprise incubator** in Hastings.





Drawing on world-wide experience, the mission of TCR (Tools for Community Regeneration) is to release blocked local energy for sustainable development through access to tried and successful managerial, financial and technical methods for community initiatives.

TCR provides: a Database of tried and tested Tools for Tasks that have to be carried out in all projects with examples and additional information sources with e-mail and website links; a Support Service to help with installation, development and up-dating the information provided; a Website for up-dated information on selected tools

(contact & links in grey box); guidance alerting users to all stages and key tasks in their project; knowledge of appropriate tools for each key task; the ability to choose matched tools or methods; the capacity to plan and manage projects; help in finding and checking reliable assistance when needed; and TCR promotes community building by sharing experience, methods and ideas.

Sponsored by Hastings Trust and developed under the direction of Dr Renate Ruether-Greaves, funding has come from SRB, the Esmée

Fairbairn Trust and the Housing Corporation.

TCR is exploring its use in other localities and fields with partners including the Consortium for Neighbourhood Information, members of the European Network for Economic Selfhelp and Local Development, the Housing Corporation and associated groups, the Max Lock Centre at Westminster University, and the Thematic Group on Services to the Urban Poor at the World Bank.

TCR is an independent not-for profit association.

Website: [www.toolsforcommunityregeneration.org](http://www.toolsforcommunityregeneration.org)

Director's email: [renate@tcernet.co.uk](mailto:renate@tcernet.co.uk)

## News from the Ore Valley

Rain clouds are sweeping up, the Valley and the trees are losing the last of their leaves in the gusting wind. The year is on the turn but there are encouraging signs of new beginnings all around.

Any day, now the steeple-jacks will arrive to start work on demolishing the two power station chimneys. We hope it will mark, not so much an ending, as the beginning of the long awaited regeneration of the Broomgrove area.

Discussions are underway in the Forum to see how best to

manage its transition into the Neighbourhood Forum for the Ore Valley. This will enable us to play a key role in the planning of Neighbourhood Renewal initiatives and the shaping of service delivery in the area. It marks an important stage in the life of the Forum establishing the value of the work and commitment of its members over many years.

As Forum Co-ordinator I have become involved in the work of the Steering Group for the Priory Neighbourhood Centre. This stands on Priory Road between Farley Bank and

Halton and an opportunity now exists to bring the Centre into community ownership. We are working hard to secure this building which has great potential for future use by both communities.

A final thought on new beginnings as we dig in manure, plant fruit bushes and plan and prepare for next year's crops. Why not join us on the community allotment at Pauls Field off Mount Road? Contact me for more information on 448141 or 07779 340282.

*Joy Collins, Ore Valley Forum Co-ordinator*



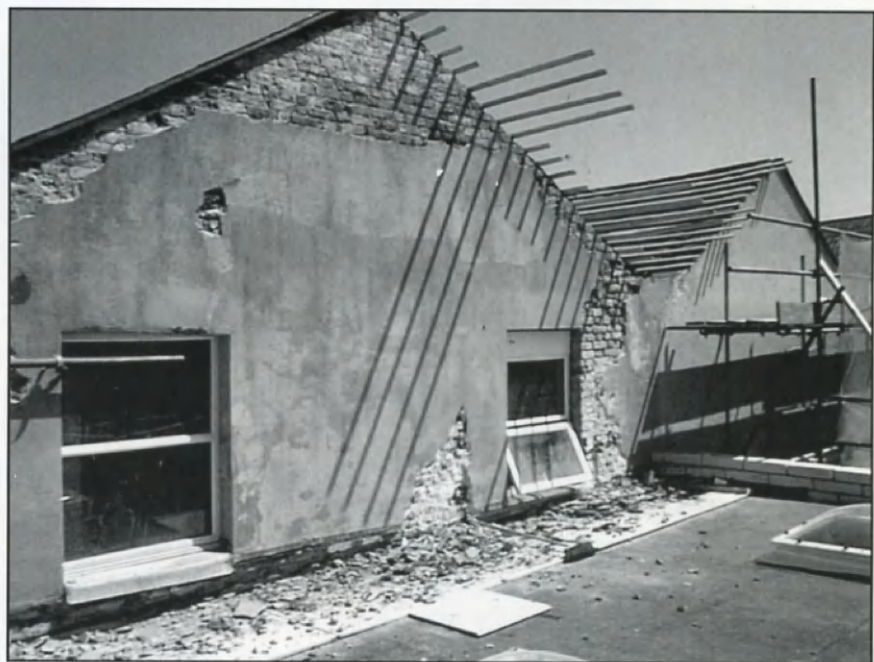
# Silchester Mews plus

Since April I have continued to be very busy working the the Central St Leonards area. A majority of my work is based around supporting local Asylum Seekers and refugees. During the summer holidays I supported a two-week family learning course. This was very successful. With a successful application to the Stepping Stone fund, I plan to build on this by providing three ten-week courses for the asylum seekers' families. The Drop-In that I have run for the last year continues to thrive and offers support and practical help to up to thirty people every week

There are exciting developments with the new Community Resource Centre in Silchester Road, St Leonards. We are hoping that this will be open by late November. Activities planned include many courses provided by Hastings College; a social club for the over 60's; a new family support project and many more. It is also hoped that it will be the

base for the new Sure Start project and the Healthy Living Centre. There are two large meeting rooms and a separate crèche available for rent to community groups. If you require any further details or wish to visit the Centre please feel free to contact me on either 448120 or 446373

*Clare Croft, Community Support Worker*



*Transformation challenges at Silchester Mews*







*Volunteers re-pointing following the insertion of a hand cut piece of stone.*

## Environmental Enhancement Update

This summer we embarked on extensive landscaping improvements at Wallingers Walk Graveyard. A major overhaul of key areas within the site now benefit from the introduction of plants that enhance the existing landscaping of this historic amenity. Successive training schemes have been facilitated in order to repair and restore the sandstone boundary wall, regarded as a priority and integral to this second phase of work. Highway improvements have also been undertaken at Wallinger's Walk which include the reconstruction of a retaining wall at Castledown Avenue and raising the pavement at the graveyard entrance to improve access. Further to this, surface dressing to both Wallingers Walk and the path within the graveyard will strengthen the relationship of the two sites and provide a sympathetic treatment beneficial to the conservation area.

*James Rose,  
Environmental Enhancement Co-ordinator*

*A late flowering Hibiscus blooming in October*





# Coming soon – UK online

UK online centres are part of the ambitious government strategy to overcome the digital divide that has excluded some citizens from enjoying the advantages of the IT and internet revolutions. 1116 new centres will be open within the next few months bringing the total to 2840. The Hastings Trust has successfully bid for UK Online Centre status. In a second successful bid DfES (the Department for Education and Skills) have just awarded the Trust £20,000 TargIT funding to purchase ICT (Information and Communication Technology) equipment and

software. Special equipment will be available enabling people with disabilities to gain easier and in some instances first time access to the internet and related ICT activities. Over the next two or three months we will be busy installing the extra equipment and preparing to

open as an UK Online Centre in the new year. The Centre is already hugely popular with internet users.

*Heather Smith, Training & Development Co-ordinator*

## Hastings Trust on the Web

Thanks to the generous support of Hastings.uk.net the Trust has a presence on the World Wide Web. Go to [www.hastings.uk.net/hastingstrust](http://www.hastings.uk.net/hastingstrust)

The Trust looks forward to developing new online services to the community in partnership with Hastings.uk.net

## OASIS

The warm October weather, has reminded us of the summer outings that Oasis organised for the older residents in the Ore Valley. The sun shone, laughter rang out and a good time was had by all. We visited London Zoo (with the Broomgrove Play Scheme, bridging the inter-generational gap), Scotney Castle, Battle Market, and Eastbourne. We now eagerly await the Christmas party.

This autumn sees a new service available at Oasis, an Annual General Meeting and improved IT facilities. The Credit Union will begin their service in November and will offer a payment point for saving and low cost loans. The service will be available to all residents of the Ore Valley. The Oasis Annual General Meeting will be on 29th November, and will provide an opportunity to thank all members of the Steering group for their support and hard work, especially the voluntary

residents representatives who give their time freely to make the project a success. We have recently purchased 'up to the minute' IT equipment, which is free for all residents to use and will enable Oasis to become a satellite centre for 'UK Online' meaning the Internet will be accessible to all.

*Jackie Gaunt,  
OASIS Centre Co-ordinator*

Voluntary groups and projects helped by the Centre in the last quarter include the Salvation Army, Stumped (Substance misuse), Hastings.net, Hastings FC, HVA, Pestalozzi, Free Legal Aid, Social Services to name only some.

A project to help training and support needs of the voluntary and community sector through a web site began with Hastingsnet. Hastingsnet is also partners with Business in the Community, Department of Employment

and the Centre in investigating the creation of a free online community database for Hastings.

The Centre's growing popularity with all sectors and ages within the community — attracted especially by the internet access — is a response to the high numbers of referral and repeat visits, not through any advertising or promotional activity. The number of ethnic groups using the facilities is on the increase as word gets around the individual networks

Funder Finder continues to be well used coupled with the preliminary training on organisational structure and aims, given to users prior to any research.

Funding advice and management training is now provided to a growing number of community groups and projects often referred to us via HVA and other voluntary groups

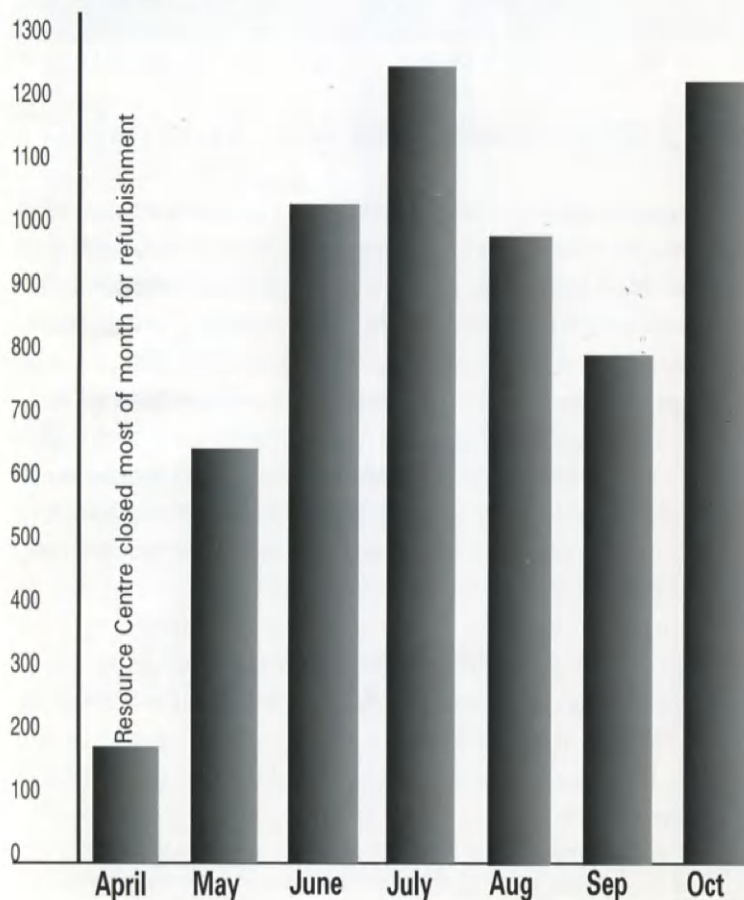
Individuals are still calling in for Career and Personal Development advice provided either directly from the Centre or as part of the new link with Sussex Careers.

The one to one IT and Internet training continues to grow — provided either by Roy Richardson or one of the other volunteers — a real attraction for all those suffering with computer phobia!

The Trust's reception database has been automated by Kevin Carías to produce monthly reports and statistics at the click of a button. The reports, together with their SRB outcomes, give a more detailed account of the Centre, its activities, volunteer numbers and outputs.

*Chris King, Resource Centre Development Co-ordinator*

Visitor numbers April — October 2001





Hastings Trust is now a partner in Direxions: an ESF project managed by Sussex Careers Services, to deliver information, advice and guidance on lifelong learning and work.

Direxions helps people to explore options, find a course, find a job, start up a business, retrain or volunteer.

This new opportunity will enable the Trust to enhance support services to external users and in-house personnel. A range of supporting computer packages and publications are being reviewed for use at the Trust. We are also working towards national accreditation with the Guidance Council.

As Direxions Co-ordinator, I shall be building on my previous work with volunteers, providing free information both to the Trust's personnel and Centre visitors on lifelong learning, looking for work and volunteering

opportunities. Appointments to see me are often not necessary between 10am and 5pm.

Chris King, Resource Centre Development Co-ordinator and Chartered Marketer, will complement my services with free personal assessments covering information to groups and individuals on marketing, business start-ups, career planning and re-packaging, personal development, community/voluntary sector project development and funding advice. This includes use of Funderfinder and the Persons in Need databases which, respectively, help find funding for community groups and individuals. Chris is available from 9:30 to 12:30 by appointment.

#### **Just Drop In**

A new drop-in service at the Resource Centre, Thursdays 2-4pm, is also offered. Lois Lee, Sussex Careers Outreach Guidance worker gives career advice and information on

lifelong learning. There is no charge and no need to book an appointment.

Lifelong learning and work support can draw on the many resources within the Centre: signposting to relevant agencies, groups and organisations; supported drop-in ADSL Internet access (first time users welcomed and supported); PC hire; printing and scanning; Mac Hire for experienced users; the Hastings Trust Address Database — over 2000 addresses, covering all sectors with especial emphasis on the voluntary and community plus many local lists; Funderfinder database; Persons in Need database; the Centre library of local and regeneration issues; and GEMS (the LETS or Local Economy Trading System for Hastings and Rother) which allows the exchange of local services and goods without the use of money.

*Heather Smith, Training & Development Co-ordinator*





# 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 after 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 Organisational 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)

\_\_\_\_\_ (email)

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.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Peta McGarry,

Hastings Trust,

35 Robertson Street,

The America Ground,

Hastings,

E Sussex TN34 1HT

Tel 01424 446373 Fax 01424 436740