

issue 24

summer 2002

HASTINGS TRUST

news

New Priory Neighbourhood Centre

The Trust and Sure Start, Ore Valley, are partners in a new scheme to refurbish and revitalise the Priory Neighbourhood Centre, Priory Road. Following an Action Planning Weekend (pictured here) where the local community spent two days deciding what they wanted from the building, the Trust, using Sure Start capital, acquired the building from East Sussex County Council at 50% discount.

The building is being held in trust for the local community until it has been refurbished and its sustainability established. Plans are being drawn up by architects to include a

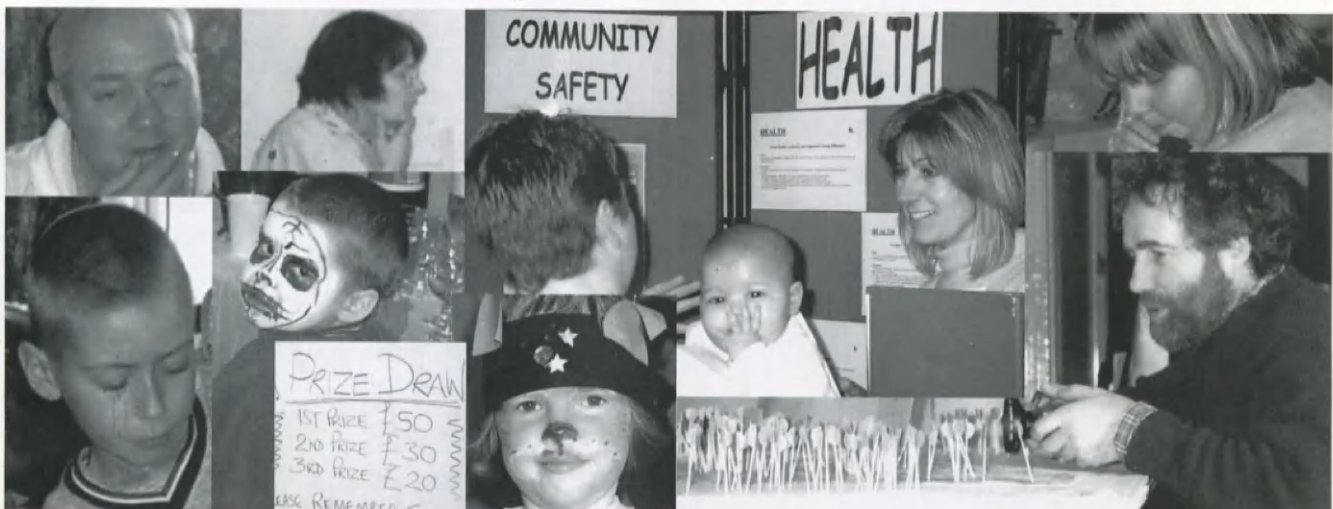


Community Café, space for life long learning and a DJ suite for young people, with offices for local organisations. Funds have to be raised to complete the refurbishment.

In the meantime, the building is being used by the

community and it will be the focus of a young person's video project over the summer.

For more information on the project, please contact Joy Collins, Ore Valley Forum Co-ordinator.



I am pleased to announce that the Hastings & St. Leonards Credit Union have gained six new members in the Ore area, this means that they have sufficient additional numbers for Oasis to be a new collection point. A representative is on hand Friday's 1 pm - 2pm to collect savings and enroll new members.

Along with our well established groups, ADHD support group, Tomorrow's People, Over 50's coffee morning and St Helen's Church Community Snacks, Oasis has hosted sessions for a Health & Hygiene course, Smoking Cessation programme, Girlz group, First Aid course, Relate and parents group.



Grandmother & granddaughter at community snacks

I have been successful in receiving a funding bid, to run a 'Batch of baking days' so older residents can pass on their cooking skills and knowledge to teenagers and young people, to provide a six week 'Extend' chair exercise course for older people, a short art and craft course and outings for older residents, which include the Kent and Sussex Railway, and a tea dance in Eastbourne. This month we visited Paradise Park in Newhaven, with 25 people attending from Broomgrove, Farley Bank, Halton Heights and a few visitors from Silchester Mews. I am also in the process of setting up English classes for residents where English is not their first language so the residents can attend classes run within walking distance of their home.

The Ore Valley website can

Credit Union signs in new members at OASIS



be found at www.orevalley.co.uk, this site is maintained by Oasis and is currently being updated to include more information, to add details on your group, please contact Jackie on 448141

*Jackie Gaunt
Co-ordinator*



Over 50's Christmas Party

Community Chest

Hastings is one of the 88 areas of England where Neighbourhood Renewal is being delivered. To support local communities of area and interest to get involved in regeneration and renewal, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU) is giving away £150,000 this year and about £100,000 for next year.

Local groups and organisations can apply for grants of £50 to £5,000, as long as they meet the criteria for funding. Hastings Trust is the Local Organisation administering and undertaking outreach work for the fund and application forms are available from Hastings Trust Resource Centre.

A Community Network, about to be set by HVA, will decide who gets a grant. Until the Network is up and running, the Hastings Regeneration Community Group's decision making sub-committee for the SRB funded Community Fund, will decide on the grants in early August 2002.

Silchester Mews

Silchester Mews Community Resource Centre is proving very popular, with many different activities and opportunities available. So far Hastings College have provided courses on First Aid, Basic Food Hygiene and Creative Writing. Sussex Careers have been running a computer course. Arabic lessons for children and adults are also available. We also run English as a second language lessons.

The CommIT Centre will be bringing their mobile computer bus here on a regular basis for courses.

The Tuesday Club (over 60's) continues to grow. Activities vary and include computer tasters, craft, cooking, quizzes and talks.

Part of the Health Visitor team have moved in, and hope to be running various activities here.

The Hastings Day Centre (help for adults with mental health problems) have moved in and are using the meeting rooms for many different activities.

The new St Leonards Community Forum are also based here now. They welcome any comments or ideas from local residents.

For further details please phone the centre on 717770.

*Clare Croft
Community Support
Worker*



Investors in People

It's official — Hastings Trust invests in people

The Hastings Trust and Trust Contracts Ltd. have been awarded Investors in People and identified as organisations with a very strong ethos of encouraging personal development. The Awarding Panel said, 'The Organisation provides its people with many opportunities to learn and grow and enables them to have a high degree of autonomy within their roles'.

Chairman, Stephen Hinton, receiving the certificate from local MP, Michael Foster, said that he was proud of the Trust and Trust Contracts achievement. But everyone should remember that Hastings Trust had been investing in Hastings for 11 years, Investing in People,



Stephen Hinton, the Trust's Chairman, accepting the Investor in People Awards from Michael Foster MP

investing in our communities and would continue to do so. The Trust and its trading arm, Trust Contracts Ltd., were only able to undertake the work needed to win recognition with the aid of the Community Fund,

Hastings Regeneration Partnership, Sussex Enterprise and CITB. Without receiving such practical and financial aid, the human and financial costs would have been beyond a local voluntary organisation.

News from the Ore Valley

Summer has arrived and with it a series of regular Forum walkabouts on the Estates, green spaces, roads and footpaths of the Valley. The Farley Bank walkabout was the first and provided an opportunity for residents, Councillors, and service providers to see for themselves the problems, benefits and potential for improvement in the neighbourhood and to enjoy a lively and forthright exchange of views

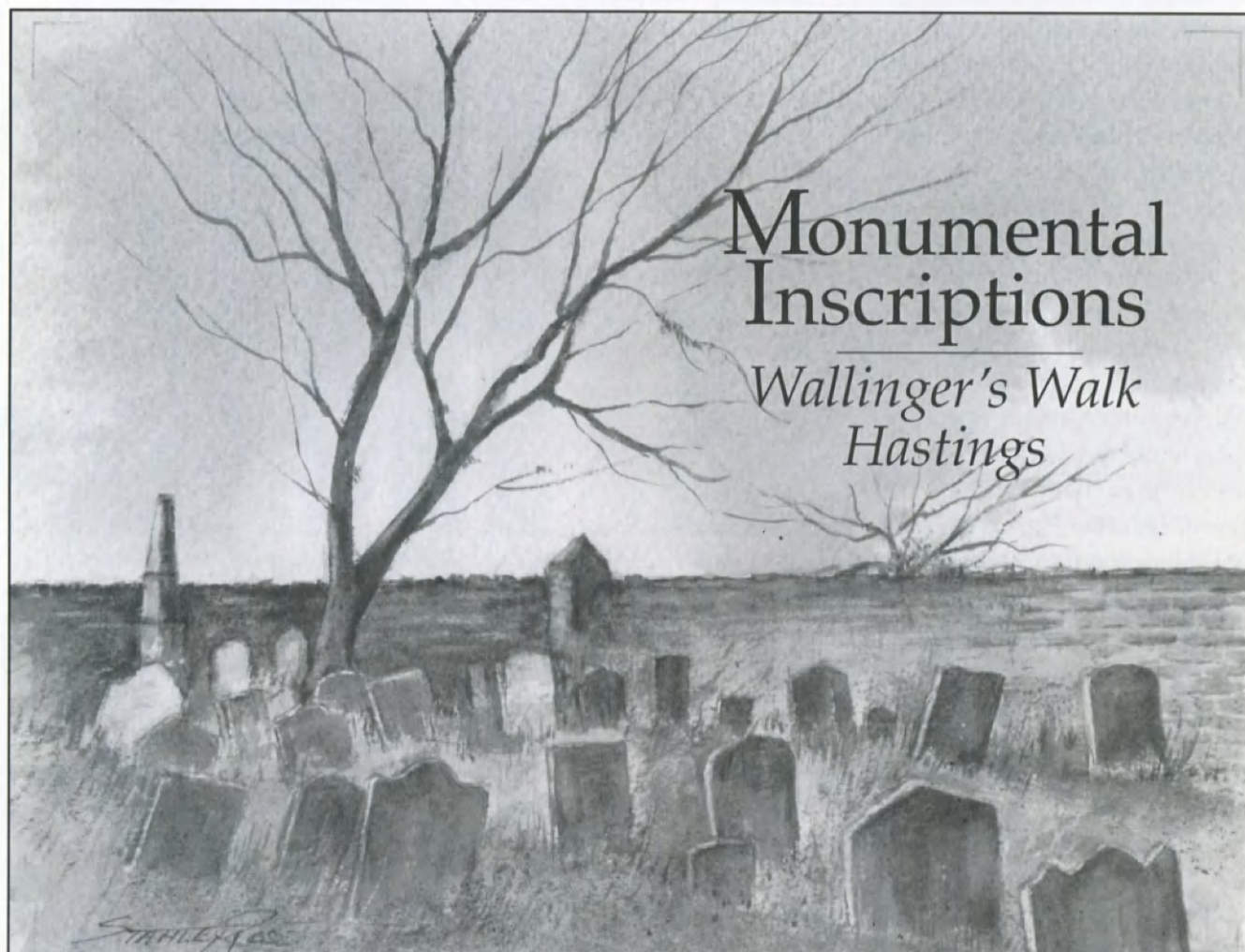
and ideas over lunch.

The Forum has been successful in attracting funds for work with children and young people in the Ore Valley. BUZZ, a dynamic youth programme based at the Priory Neighbourhood Centre, has got off to a flying start with a grant from Neighbourhood Renewal's youth diversionary fund. In addition Children's Fund monies will soon be provid-

ing innovative after school and holiday sessions on both sides of the Valley.

Meanwhile the Forum continues to work on adapting its constitution and ways of working in line with the aims of Neighbourhood Renewal, which is bringing opportunities for resident-led improvements to services and facilities in the Valley.

Joy Collins, Ore Valley Forum Co-ordinator



Monumental Inscriptions

*Wallinger's Walk
Hastings*

- *With full colour cover, cream leaves, over 20 original illustrations plus historical background and many notes. Any profits from its sale will help improve the cemetery and its historic vicinity.*

Following months of laborious work undertaken on and off site during 2000 by a voluntary workforce under the direction of Hastings Trust, we were able to transcribe, collate and document all the monumental inscriptions carried on the gravestones discovered during the renovation of this neglected graveyard. Whilst this was not the first occasion the exercise had been conducted, it was

deemed crucial to revise and expand the previous sketchy records. For the first time it combines the burial date and the inscriptions (many of which have not been recorded before), which will benefit genealogists and local historians alike. Within the book are numerous illustrations that will enlighten the reader whilst portraying details of the few remaining stones; all data and photo-

graphic material has been electronically archived and stored on a database which can be retrieved at one's leisure.

The book is **now on sale priced £3.50** at the Hastings Trust and selected local bookshops.

*James Rose
Environmental
Enhancement Co-ordinator*

April and May has seen the continuing development of the Centre's ICT services with the provision of a specially equipped area for people with disabilities together with extended training and presentation facilities.

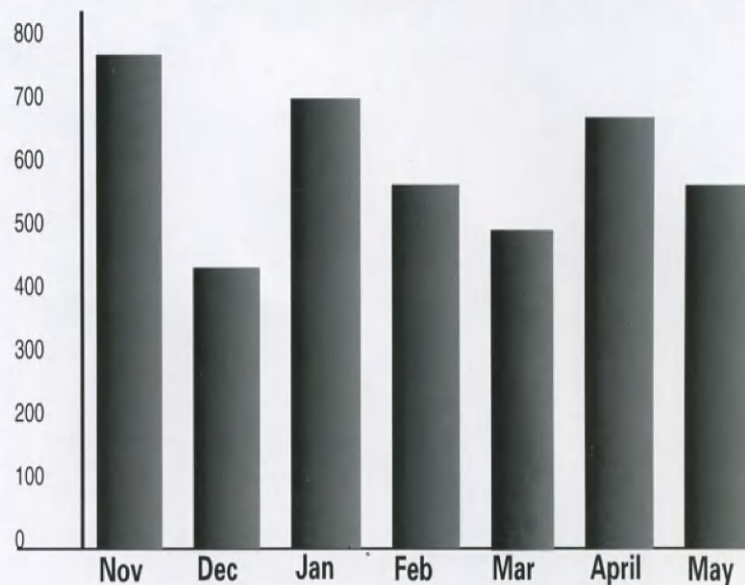
To launch the new facilities the Trust provided free access over 3 weeks for both the disabled and those adults and elderly persons wishing to add to their skills. The promotion was linked to adult learning week.

The Centre has seen a marked increase in the number of persons and groups taking advantage of the one to one support and advice sessions (104 sessions during the period November 2001 to May 2002). Among benefiting organisations is the new Arc of Hope. With the help of the Trust, Arc of Hope has gained charitable status

Direxions

Over 150 individuals have now contacted the Trust for information and advice on lifelong learning, volunteering and work. The free, impartial and confidential service helps everyone to take part in learning and self-development to provide real opportunities for fulfilment.

Numbers of Centre visits November 2001 — May 2002



and is well on the way to provide much needed aid to both asylum seekers and refugees.

The last 3 months has also seen a welcome increase in the number of IT skilled volunteers as a result of an article in the Hastings & St Leonards Observer.

Heather Smith, the Trust's

Training Development Co-ordinator, has been able to provide an almost full rota of Centre volunteer support and has initiated tailored training programmes for all participants.

Chris King
Project Development
Co-ordinator

The service seeks to meet the needs of every individual not least those who feel 'the system' may have failed them.

Thanks to Sussex Careers Services' managing agent and Hastings College, a partner in the project, for inviting the Trust to share *Direxions* exhibition space at local superstores and Priory Meadow shopping

centre during Adult Learners Week in May.

For further information on Volunteering and 'Direxions' call into the Trust or contact me on Tel: 01424 446373.

Heather Smith
Training Development
Co-ordinator.

Trust Volunteers

There are around 22 Trust volunteers — not including Trustees! Volunteers are indispensable for all the Trust's activities and, of course, their work enhances their abilities and CVs. The Trust also offers volunteers many opportunities to choose from a wide range of courses with local trainers to gain or develop skills.

National Volunteers Week in June enabled the Trust and other voluntary organisations to raise the profile of volunteering and celebrate local successes. 'Volunteers Together', representing local voluntary organisations, mounted an exhibition to promote and encourage volunteering. Featuring local

volunteers in action, it went on show on 12th June in Priory Meadow shopping centre and the newly elected Mayor, Cllr Phil Scott officially thanked all local volunteers on behalf of the town.

Heather Smith

What (some of) the volunteers say

Roy Richardson
I have built and expanded an Ethernet network realising my personal desire to improve opportunities for the disabled. I have used my training skills to work with members of the general community, providing basic informal support. This has improved my interpersonal and communication skills boosting my self-confidence by giving me a sense of purpose.

Dave 'Sax' Weller
From 1993 I've worked as a voluntary Projects Officer for the Trust. The event that I'm most widely known for is the Hastings Free Beach Concert, in aid of the Hastings Lifeboat. Through the Trust I was able successfully to apply for grants etc, which enabled me to build it into the major local event that it is today. Also, on a personal note, I found the focus and sense of purpose of doing voluntary work to be

invaluable in enabling me to overcome some severe personal problems.

Ray Border
I joined the Hastings Trust, to put some of the knowledge and skills I've achieved back into helping others. The Trust Volunteers come from all walks of life and have so many different skills to offer. I'm gaining teaching skills and confidence, also I feel good when people ask me for help. After your shift has ended you go home knowing you've helped someone and that's what the Trust is all about.

Ian Attwood
I have been at Hastings Trust for six years and I still enjoy it. I help on reception, post letters and do some shopping. Everybody is very friendly. I have been on a Volunteer Development Course, a short Internet training session at the Trust and will soon be doing a 20 week IT course at

Fellowship of St. Nicholas. Volunteering has helped me quite a lot. My confidence has improved and I can now do things that I used to ask other people to do for me.

Tracy Mcleen
I think being a volunteer at Silchester Mews working with asylum seekers and refugees has helped me in many ways, such as getting my confidence back after I was made redundant. I have often felt being a volunteer is a good way of finding out whether you are suitable for a particular type of work.

Lyndon Potter
I enter information about Trust visitors onto the Resource Centre database, put calls through and take messages. I give advice and guidance to first time Internet users. I have also administered funding courses.

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