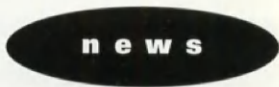


issue 25

spring 2003

# HASTINGS TRUST



## Community Chest



The Government has recognised the importance of community-based regeneration and wishes to support local groups by providing financial assistance for projects and activities. Community Chest funding is intended to benefit community groups and small voluntary organisations working at a very local level.

Hastings Trust has been asked to administer the funds and undertake outreach work to ensure the widest possible spread of the money within Hastings' communities.

Hastings Trust's new Community Regeneration Unit (CRU) has been administering the Community Chest during 2002. In this time, the CRU has supported 42 organisations to access 44 grants totalling £145,090 (average grant of £3,300).

Projects as varied as:

- activities for people with disabilities
- events to promote cultural identity and integration
- renovations to community facilities to bring them up to standard
- community arts and music projects that residents have identified
- support groups
- newsletters and publicity materials
- training

These 44 projects have supported young people, ethnic minority groups, women's groups, residents associations, parents and young children, older people, support groups for disadvantaged communities, faith-based community

projects, all who are resident and/or working in Hastings and St Leonards.

The Community Chest will currently run for another year (April 2003 to March 2004). We have £100,000 to be given away to community based projects next year. You can bid for £50 to £5,000.

If you would like to discuss applying to the Community Chest, for an application form or need help in filling it in, please call the Community Regeneration Unit on 01424 446373.

At work — *artworks* a Community Fund recipient

St Marys Terrace - its Preservation Society was awarded funding to produce an historical 'snapshot' of the Terrace

With spring approaching, groups such as play schemes and over 50's clubs were requesting help with applications for funding for outings and new courses such as craft, swimming, aromatherapy and reflexology.

Oasis is pleased to welcome residents to regular quiz nights that are held to raise funds for activities and to test your knowledge at a cost of £2 each and are held at Halton Heights lounge.

The over 50's in the Ore Valley can now also benefit from a new audio tape library that is available at Oasis (46 - 48 Chiltern Drive) Mon - Fri and at Halton Heights (Priory Road) Mondays 11 am - 1pm at a cost of £1 a week, of which 50p is returned to the resident when the tape is returned.

For the last two months, the Befriending Scheme pilot

project has been delivering a new service to the residents of the Ore Valley, with clients self referring or being recommended by other residents who recognised a need that the Befriending service can meet. The organiser has been requested to hang curtains, run small errands to the shops, make phone calls on behalf of residents and be company for half an hour over a cup of tea - services that are often missed in these busy times.

Oasis is setting up six-week multi-cultural sessions for young people in the Ore Valley, to be followed by six weeks of young people developing new cooking skills learned from the older residents of the Ore Valley who have a lot of precious knowledge to impart.

For the convenience of Ore valley residents, The Credit Union holds sessions at Oasis

on Thursday lunchtimes. Tomorrow's People are available all day Fridays for support finding a job, creating CV's and looking at your skills if you would like to change career. Tuesdays finds the ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) support group which welcomes all parents / carers who need a little extra help and information on on this condition — Isabel is on hand with a variety of books, videos and her knowledge every week in term time.

*Jackie Gaunt  
Co-ordinator*

## New befriending service

The Oasis befriending scheme pilot project is now up and running. We offer support, information, help with shopping and any small task in the home that the elderly, disabled or isolated residents of the Ore valley might find difficult to do. Just

give us a ring we are only too willing to help. The service is progressing at a steady pace and new faces are always welcome.

The service is friendly and confidential, we welcome new volunteers and look

forward to the residents of the Ore Valley using the service.

For more information, don't hesitate to contact Jackie Gaunt on 448141. We are based in the Sure Start building, 46-48 Chiltern Drive Hastings.

# Silchester Mews

Life at Silchester Mews continues to be very busy, with the start of a new group since Christmas, as well as the continuation of all the other activities available at the centre.

Working in partnership with the new Sure Start for St Leonards, a new Music Group for parents and children has started. This is very popular, but new people are always welcome to come along.

The Tuesday group for the over 60's is as popular as ever with new people attending every week. Recent activities have included talks on the Alexander Technique and Steam Trains.

The Messy Play club is as it sounds, messy but great fun. Children of all ages are welcome but they must bring along a responsible adult.



photography Ariann Albans

The Drop In for asylum seekers still provides a valuable service. It is very much hoped to expand this soon by running a group for parents and babies alongside. This will enable this group of the community receive all the advice and help they need at the same time reducing the

amount of time they spend at the doctors surgeries who are now working at full capacity. Another new and exciting course starting soon is one that will combine drama, improving your English and also exploring various health issues and practical things like how to access medical help.

PULSE (previously known as the Healthy Living Centre) are now based at the centre and this is proving to be an excellent and exciting project offering a wide range of services and activities for 16-25 year olds locally.

For further details of activities please feel free to pop in or call 01424 717770.

*Clare Croft*  
Community Support Worker



photography Ariann Albans

# Community Regeneration Unit

## Working with and for the community

Hastings Trust has been successful in securing four year funding for a new, innovative, exciting and dynamic community regeneration project. Single Regeneration Budget Round 6 and European (ERDF) Objective 2 money has been used to create a Community Regeneration Unit (CRU). Over the last six months, new staff have been appointed to take on community economic development projects with local residents to set up community businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises. To increase their participation and sense of belonging to the community

of Central St Leonards CRU staff are also working with the following target groups: older people, BME (Black, Minority and Ethnic) communities, residents moving into employment and asylum seekers and refugees. Since starting work the CRU team has supported 42 organisations securing Community Chest grants totalling £145,090, and a range of other funding (see the front page). The CRU has also undertaken research, mapping and the establishment of new operating systems for the CRU including a community facilities database. The CRU was housed in temporary offices at 35 Robertson Street during renovation work by

Trust Contracts Ltd to the 2nd and 3rd floor of 34 Robertson Street. This work was completed in the first week of March. As well as new offices there is training and meeting space. The CRU held its official launch for Board Directors and key agencies across the Borough in April.

Further information about Hastings Trust's new Community Regeneration Unit and a copy of our new leaflet contact Community Regeneration Unit on 01424 446373 or email [caroline.cru@htgate.demon.co.uk](mailto:caroline.cru@htgate.demon.co.uk)



## Money for Social Entrepreneurs

UnLtd's millennium award scheme provides cash awards and support for social entrepreneurs to enable them to grow and develop their projects. UnLtd wants to support people who have the ideas and commitment to make a really positive change. This could be someone who either wants to start up a community project or a social enterprise. At Level 1 we offer,

on average, £2000 to help make people's idea a reality. As well as a cash award we will offer advice, training, mentoring and other support services for our award winners. Level 1 awards are available now.

Over the next few months our Level 2 awards will offer £10,000 to individuals plus a menu of support. We are also

developing a third level called UnLtd Ventures which will provide more intensive support for fully developed projects

Further information is available at [www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk) or call the Community Regeneration Unit on 01424 446373 and ask for a brochure.

# Enhancement Team Update



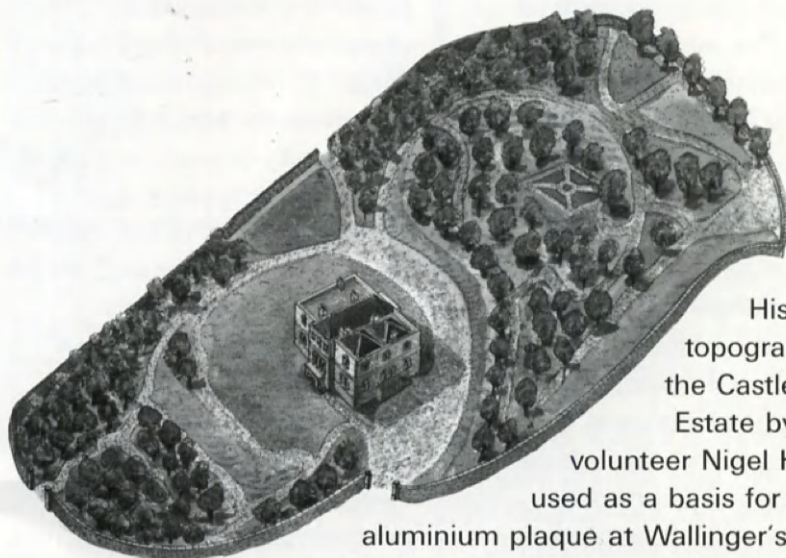
As 2003 began, we wasted little time and ploughed head-long into unfinished business at Stonefield Road (pictured above left). The embankment presented us with many challenges; the steep sloping terrain and poor accessibility exacerbated by the plummeting temperature promised to hamper our efforts but we prevailed. In time, dreary walls will be clothed with ivy, the backdrop to vibrant evergreen shrubs. The new improved entrance cut into the bank creates a level and safe gateway for maintenance. A stone's throw away you will notice something fixed to the wall at Wallinger's Walk. A plaque recalls the history of the Castledown Estate emblazoned with a 'bird's eye' view plan.

Contrary to opinion, we do focus our attention elsewhere

in the town. Westward to St Leonards lies the church of St Mary Magdalen, a fabulous mid Victorian edifice and home to the Greek Orthodox faith. A partnership initiated by Hastings Trust seeks to revitalise the unkempt churchyard and safeguard a thriving future. Work has started to clear the masses of litter and rubbish entangled amongst

the thorny brier that encompasses the site. Utmost praise is due to my industrious volunteers; their unfaltering commitment has been exemplary.

*James Rose  
Environmental  
Enhancement Co-ordinator*



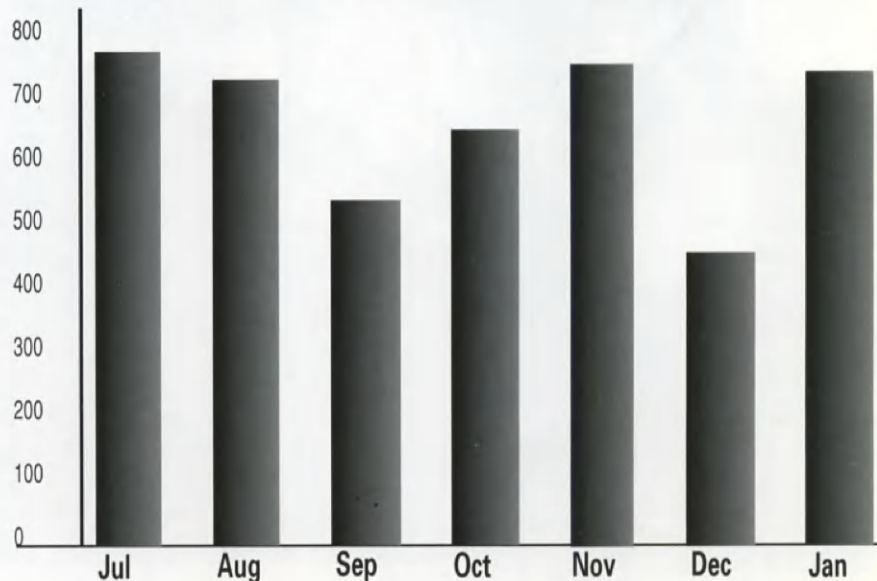
Historical topography of the Castledown Estate by Trust volunteer Nigel Harvey used as a basis for a cast aluminium plaque at Wallinger's Walk. Nigel is pictured above right working at Wallinger's memorial garden

The seven months from July 2002 to January 2003 saw 4496 recorded visits to the Resource Centre. Our range of services included basic IT training, internet access, business advice, career development, marketing and funding help (both for individuals and groups) and meeting room provision.

The Centre has contributed to community capacity building through partnerships with a variety of groups helping local regeneration, including management consultants, accountants, BME (Black, Minority and Ethnic groups) groups, drug and alcohol rehabilitation organisations and internet access providers. The Centre will be giving those who want to develop their career the opportunity to obtain interest-free educational loans with funds provided by SEEDA. With HCAT (Hastings College of Arts & Technology) the Centre is providing premises for courses in Basic English. The Centre is now also a town centre access point for the Credit Union.

The Hastings Trust Resource Centre has played an active role in the development of IT Learning and Internet Services across the whole spectrum of community - from its earliest participation in the Hastings Library

Numbers of Centre visits July 2002 — January 2003



discussions through to research and development of independent commercial Internet Kiosks such as Mahavis and the latest Internet Junction (in Queens Road) and the ongoing support for Southwater project's IT services.

Funding guidance and especially use of the Funder Finder database, that eases searching for funding for community groups, continues to be regularly requested, as are the services of the new Community Regeneration Unit, which has greatly expanded the help we can give.

Interest in Personal Development (including positive CV creation) is showing signs of an increase

and is currently part of the Volunteer induction programme to ensure adequate support is provided for their long-term career/employment prospects. This concept has also been taken up as a possible separate project funding opportunity by those interested in BME.

We would like to once again express our thanks to all the volunteers and especially Lyndon Potter who has just joined Marshall Tufflex in their Customer Care Department, after many months of great work for the Centre - we wish him every success.

*Chris King*  
Project Development  
Co-ordinator

As a member of the East Sussex IAG ( Information, Advice and Guidance) Partnership, Hastings Trust helps to ensure that individuals gain the support they need in accessing life-long learning, volunteering and employment opportunities.

The partnership includes Jobcentre +, voluntary organisations, libraries, colleges and Sussex Careers. All organisations and

individuals who promote life-long learning and employment can become members. By becoming part of the network, the Trust has been able to improve on the quality and consistency of its service to adults.

Our internet front page and Direxions resource library provide a wide range of information on learning, volunteering and employment alongside data on careers and labour market trends.

Free, impartial and confidential Direxions individual adult advice interviews are also available between 10am – 5pm weekdays. Appointments are not often necessary.

To find out more or use the service contact me on 446373 or call into 35 Robertson Street.

*Heather Smith*  
Training & Development  
Co-ordinator

## News from the Ore Valley

Ore Valley Forum is busy working on developing its Local Action Plan in conjunction with service providers so that it can become an effective tool for real change at the neighbourhood level. This process is also happening in the Fora in other priority wards and the learning curves are steep for all of us. However the enthusiasm and determination of the Fora members and key managers

across the sectors is moving things in the right direction at some speed. An important part of the structure at Forum level are the Action Groups who will concentrate their attention on delivery of the Action Plan within areas of special interest. Ore Valley Forum Action Groups include Environmental Planning; Transport; Community Safety; Youth; Education, Employment and Training; Health; Residents Associations and Housing

Issues. If you are reading this and have knowledge, skills or a passion for any of these themes and would like to find out about working with us in the Ore Valley we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Joy Collins for more information on 01424 721456 or e-mail to [joy.surestart@virgin.net](mailto:joy.surestart@virgin.net)

## New Trust Brochures (and why there are so many)

Eight new brilliantly coloured and designed Trust brochures are now ready. The number indicates the scale of the Trust's expansion over the years and increased awareness of development trusts' power to undertake regeneration work with a freedom not open to other bodies.

As the Trust's own brochure says:

*The Trust attracts money to the town by a uniquely flexible and unbureaucratic approach to working for and with individuals and groups from all sectors of the community. Hastings Borough Council recognises this and gives a support grant of*

*£60,500 to the Trust, which brought an additional £760,000 worth of funding into the town last year.*

Especial thanks to designer Danny Grando who has produced work that stands out even in today's plethora of images.

# 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

Working to Regenerate Hastings