

hastings trust

working with and for the community

03/04 annual review



The  
Hastings  
Trust  
regenerating  
Hastings

# our vision

**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 to regenerate the town and, at the same time, conserve all that's good in it

# our strategy

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

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

- Obtained funds for development of social enterprises and support systems
- Developed a Social Enterprise Strategy
- Provide marketing and business advice
- Run job and training schemes
- Provide career and continuing personal development advice

**To improve the local environment we:**

- 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:**

- Provide local community facilities and services
- Support and enable community development
- Promote local arts and heritage initiatives



## director's report

Long term sustainability and security in community regeneration are not just a business necessity they are central values. Voluntary organisations such as the Trust face the challenge of maintaining their projects when central government funding stops. No matter how successful projects are, no matter how clear the need for them is, the changeover from one kind of funding system to another often means that the lengthy process of application and justification has to be gone through all over again. Months of worktime can be wasted, diverted from the projects themselves and other work on the ground. Two Trust projects have been dependent on funds drawn from the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB). The post of Co-ordinator at Silchester Mews community facility in central St Leonards was funded from SRB through the Community Building Initiative (CBI). Funding ended in December 2003. Although the post is virtually self-financing through the income Silchester generates, the withdrawal of a financial foundation from a post central to Silchester's busy and highly successful operation adds unwanted strain and, at the very least, a sense of insecurity. The other affected project was Environmental Enhancement. The project was socially, environmentally and financially beneficial. After consultation with local communities, volunteers, led by James Rose, the Environmental Enhancement Officer, worked on local enhancements around Hastings. The volunteers acquired new skills and produced outstanding results at a lower than commercial cost. SRB funding for the post of Environmental Enhancement Officer ended in April 2004. James, determined to maintain progress and not let what has been achieved slip back into disorder, continues the work as a volunteer.

On top of this, unexpected staff shortages added to the year's challenges.

And yet!...despite the strains the Trust's projects stormed ahead, as can be seen from the following pages. The acknowledged quality and value of the Trust's work ensure that there is always a well founded optimism about its future. Already burdens will be eased as a result of an organisational review by the board of Trustees which concluded that a new post of Deputy Director should be created in the coming year.

**Christine Goldschmidt, Director**



# chairman's report

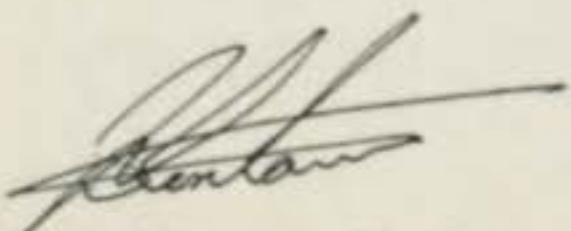
During the year I was pleased to welcome three new co-opted members to the board, Maureen Nelson, John Appleyard and Anne Brooks, each with new talents to offer the Trust

Two external influences on the Trust continue to cause concerns we share with the rest of the voluntary sector: 1) Delayed payments from stakeholders to projects seriously affect cash flow forcing the Trust to run an expensive overdraft; 2) Central Government needs to time limit the claw back facility allowing local councils to regain physical assets (buildings, etc) from the organisations that regenerated them. Claw back undermines community-based organisations' ability to free themselves of excessive dependence on central funding and plan for the future.

On a lighter note, in the garden at home, having a cup of tea and observing the progress of our extension being built, I was drawn to parallels with the Trust:

Foundations	Reputation and assets
Insulation	Quality Assurance
Windows	Transparency and vision
Stairs	Forward planning and ambition
RSJ	Support to partnerships
Doors	Open doors of opportunity for the community
Roof	Staff security and reassurance
Gutters and down pipes	Protection from malicious gossip
Painting and décor	Publicity and promotion
House insurance	Investors in people

My resulting smile of satisfaction wasn't caused by the lovely cuppa or a good build going up, it was from the confidence that the Trust Board considers all these parallel aspects, working always to improve them to ensure a sound organisational structure. So it was very rewarding to have our Executive Director invited to 10 Downing Street as a representative of an organisation exemplifying best practice in social entrepreneurship. A social entrepreneur inspires and stimulates others, wins support and backing for ideas and knows how to get things done - or someone who can (to paraphrase Alun Michael MP's words). The Trust will also be mentioned in a Defra (Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs) White Paper on social entrepreneurship.



**Stephen Hinton, Chairman**

# the hastings trust working with and for the community

Here are just a few quotes we've collected praising Trust services and projects - we don't have room for the more than 100 others.

What a lot of work was entailed and all so interesting and worthwhile.

**Lady Croft**

wish we had one in our town

The Trust has provided an essential point of contact between transport, environmental and community groups keen to promote an agenda of sustainable transport in the east of the county.

**Derrick Coffee,**  
**East Sussex Transport 2000.**

Thank you for making the organizing and restructuring of my career change simple and so much quicker, very much appreciated

Best grant in town, met the purpose for which it's set up, well organised, well run, easy forms to complete and support to fill them in. Would recommend the grant to everyone that qualifies.

**Ark of Hope**

There are not sufficient words to show how grateful we are to associate with him [James Rose, the Trust's Environmental Officer]...We observed the efficient way he manages his troupe of volunteers and the enthusiasm he engenders in all around him.

**Mr N Bouras, Secretary,**  
**The Greek Orthodox Community of Hastings,**  
**St Mary Magdalen churchyard improvement.**

We don't have this in our country

As I have no internet access at my home, Hastings Trust has enabled me to have the necessary access for which I will always be grateful. I am on an HNC Multimedia course at Hasting College of Arts & Technology (HCAT) and I would not know what to do without access to the internet.

**Chris Fyfe – recovering from a severe brain haemorrhage**

It would be great if you could do outreach presentations

Excellent....even had a follow up call...genuinely interested in my situation. Great!

As a volunteer at the Trust I work on a wide range of community projects that utilize my skills in painting, sign writing, carving inscriptions and carpentry for the benefit of all. The Trust has also given me the time, flexibility and workspace to pursue and explore my art.

**Nigel Harvey, volunteer**

I found the staff helpful and very kind both in person and by telephone

To thank first Hastings Trust - they have been helping us every moment, giving us a grant to carry out our program. They were committed every moment.

**Hastings Bengali Welfare Association**

The grant enabled the film makers to work with our children and young people, improving their confidence and producing a film which shows off their humour, skills and talents in a professional and 'cool' way. The Ore Valley Forum supported the group by paying for a stretch limousine to take the young people to the films premiere in the Electric Cinema - which made a memorable event for them and their families.

**BUZZ Youth Project**

# the hastings trust resource centre

The Centre's strategy of building on its successful established services while offering new services in response to changing community needs, was vindicated by the volume of centre visits: there were 8855 visits in total compared with 7040 for the previous year.

The Centre's able volunteers handled general enquiries, took meeting room bookings, guided visitors, supplied general information, offered faxing, photocopying, printing, scanning and library services.

Chris King, the Centre Manager and Chartered Marketer, offered **business and marketing advice, community projects advice, careers advice, and funding advice.**

Funding, business, project development and advice services were expanded in conjunction with the Community Regeneration Unit as well as the Direxions service with Heather Smith. The Trust's town center HQ, open to all from 10 am till 5 pm, now offers the most comprehensive service of its kind in the area.

An inexpensive **web design service**, open to all, was piloted in December. In exchange for office space the designer Jeremy Cuthbert, offers IT maintenance, radio networking of the Centre's computers with the promise of a new website for the Trust.

Also new this year was a community surgeries kiosk – a free space for community organisations. Its weekly use by the Hastings and St Leonards Credit Union explains the dramatic increase in business sector visitors during the year – **see under visits by sector page 14.**

Although a social audit showed that the all the community goals set for the last three years had been achieved, new plans for the Centre's future will revisit the original conception of a meeting place where ideas are generated by people who want to do something practical to help the town.







Help  
and support  
for the  
people of  
Hastings

# environmental initiatives

For many, 2004 will be remembered as the year SRB ceased to finance Environmental Initiatives, thus bringing an end to five years of project work. This may be considered as not ill-fated but as an opportunity for reflection or as a new beginning and a breath of fresh air.

This sanguine approach may seem to belie the fragility of the Enhancement Team beset with a funding crisis and run purely by volunteers, but taking stock of an amazing year, we have accomplished everything we set out to do - the transformation of Wallinger's cemetery and St Mary Magdalen churchyard. The challenge is safeguarding the future of the projects. Sustainability, that most hackneyed word of environmental vocabulary, implies not just restoration but maintenance. This is something often promised but seldom realised but it is the goal we must strive for if green spaces we cherish, such as Wallinger's Memorial Garden, are to be our legacy to the custodians of tomorrow. Therefore, we must be confident if the values of sustainability that were supposed to underpin SRB were real, that new funding will be found.

I conclude, as on previous years, by thanking all those who have devoted their time and effort throughout the last twelve months. Hats off to everyone who has contributed towards our work, their alacrity, steadfastness and perseverance has not waned.

**James Rose**, Environmental Enhancement Officer



## community regeneration unit

The Community Regeneration Unit continued to build on the successes of its first year, delivering services to target communities in Hastings (older people, BME communities, asylum seekers/refugees and local residents moving into employment).

In partnership with HBC (Community Services), Age Concern Hastings and the WRVS, the Unit produced a strategy **Working with Older People in Partnership**, with recommendations on future work and development opportunities involving older people. In tandem, the Unit also produced a **Study of the Services and Amenities for Older People** and a **Survey of Older People**. Launched at the WRVS Isabel Blackman Centre, copies are available from the CRU.

August saw the Unit organise the First **Multi-Cultural 5-a-Side Football Tournament**. Eight teams from African, Asian and European cultures came together in a very closely-fought competition: the eventual winner was the Ark of Hope team. As a result of the Tournament, new friendships have been formed and planning for further matches is already underway.

The Unit supported Hastings Bengali Welfare Association's **Grisho kal Mela** on Hastings Pier, where people got the chance to experience Bangladeshi culture, food, music and dance. A very special event - the first Mela ever in East Sussex.

The Unit also supported Kivu Peace Initiative's **Community Integration, Information & Family Fun Day** in Warrior Square Gardens. There was information on local services available and entertainment provided by Chinese Dragons, African and Bengali dancers and a DJ playing world music.

The CRU continues to administer the Community Chest and Community Learning Chest funds. In 2003/4 we supported 42 groups to access £169,000 of grants.



# silchester mews

This year has seen several changes at the Mews. Clare Croft, who worked so hard at establishing the centre and helped so many community groups, left last August. We thank Clare for all her devotion and hard work.

MACA (Mind After Care Association) who rented office space, left in April this year to open their own centre in St. Leonards. We wish them the best for the future.

Annie Hunter is now Centre Co-ordinator and Sue Collins, Centre Assistant. Yvonne Graca-Da Silva is Volunteer Receptionist. We carry on, busy as ever, with Surestart using the creche for Mothers & Toddler Drop-in sessions in music and play.

Kamm (Kids & Muslim Mothers) continue with Book Study, Computer & Arabic lessons. The Tuesday Club for the over 60's, enjoy Cake-making, Belly dancing and Flower Arranging to name but a few of their activities!

FORASS- (Friends of Refugees & Asylum Seekers) are all volunteers who provide a weekly drop-in offering advice, clothes etc. and the PCT have a Health drop-in for this group. Hastings College provide Basic Skills, GCSE Maths & ESOL classes.

HCAAT, Health Visitors and Pulse continue to rent offices. Courses for the Parenting group, Care for the Carers, and ESDA are just some provided in the last year and the meeting rooms have been busy with various groups. These are but a few of the events taking place each week.

**Annie Hunter, Centre Co-ordinator**



# the ore valley forum

The Ore Valley Forum continues to build on its solid foundation of active community participation. Together with service providers, we have begun to learn how to make the annual process of Local Action Planning really deliver those differences that the community have identified as key to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in the Valley.



January 2004 saw the Priory Neighbourhood Centre close after 40 years as a familiar community building on Priory Road. But local residents are far from despondent as works on the £1.4 million rebuilding and transformation of the Centre will begin in the summer. The landmark curved roof will be repeated on a larger scale and planted with sedum that will change colour with the seasons. Beneath will be an environmentally friendly building incorporating innovative design and a home for services and activities for all ages, with a welcoming community café at its heart.

The closing of the Centre meant that the Forum office had to move to a community flat at 87 Farley Bank. We share the accommodation with Farley Bank Residents Association and it's already a very busy place. So much so that we are planning to take on additional flats in the block as they become available for youth activities and training.

Yes it's busy here in Ore Valley, sometimes frantic, often fun, but always fulfilling as friendships deepen, partnerships develop and aspirations grow with the confidence of the communities in this place.

**Joy Collins,**  
Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Ore Valley



# oasis

35 people went on our two recent outings to Leonardslee Gardens and Ightham Mote. The sun shone as we delighted in the riot of colours and the wonderful perfume of the azaleas at Leonardslee. Our next outings to Petworth House and Leeds Castle are booked with over 40 people eagerly waiting to see 'below stairs' of Petworth and take in the marvellous views surrounding Leeds Castle.

Women's ESOL (English as a second language) classes take place at Oasis twice a week. The successful classes are supported by Hastings College who send an outreach tutor. Just a few months ago the class started with three students, it has now risen to eight with nearly 100% attendance rate. The classes have a crèche attached so mums with young children can attend.

Our Oasis Befriending Scheme is unique to the Ore Valley and possibly the whole of Hastings. Funded by Esmée Fairbairn and Lloyds TSB, the Scheme started over 18 months ago as a need was identified that some residents needed a little extra help such as changing lightbulbs, assistance to do the shopping, help to read a gas meter fixed in an inaccessible place, someone to accompany them to the hospital or just someone to pop in every now and then to offer company. The service is client focussed - during a first visit the befriender will encourage the resident to decide on what help they would like to receive. In some cases the service will only be required when there is a crisis, say when an elderly person has injured themselves and needs help for a few weeks, in other cases it may be that long term help is required.

**Jackie Gaunt, Co-ordinator Oasis**



# adult learning & skills development

**Quality:** April '03 Hastings Trust obtained the national MATRIX standard for Info, Advice and Guidance on learning and work.

**Workforce development:** Staff and volunteers undertook an increasingly wide range of Managerial, Organisational, Front-line delivery and Personal Development training. Generally **local** training providers were used. An evaluation showed high levels of participant satisfaction and workplace benefits.

A total 1,340 training hours (36 weeks) was clocked up, averaging 4 days per person. 8 individuals completed accredited learning and 20 received certificates.

**Volunteers:** The diverse range of opportunities equalled the wide ranging skills, aptitudes and backgrounds of our volunteers whose activities included:  
committee duties; befriending; fundraising and IT support at OASIS; interpreting; reception; caretaking and IT at Silchester Mews; environmental projects; research; and 'artist in residence' for environmental enhancement team; auditing; IT and internet support; web design; publications and DTP; info; advice and reception at the Trust's HQ.

## Information and Advice

261 Advice sessions on learning and work to 90 "Direxions" clients (95 to personnel, 166 to centre visitors).

## Heather Smith, Training & Development Co-ordinator

Hastings Trust is a member of the Sussex Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Network which is funded by the Learning and Skills Council and managed by Sussex Careers.

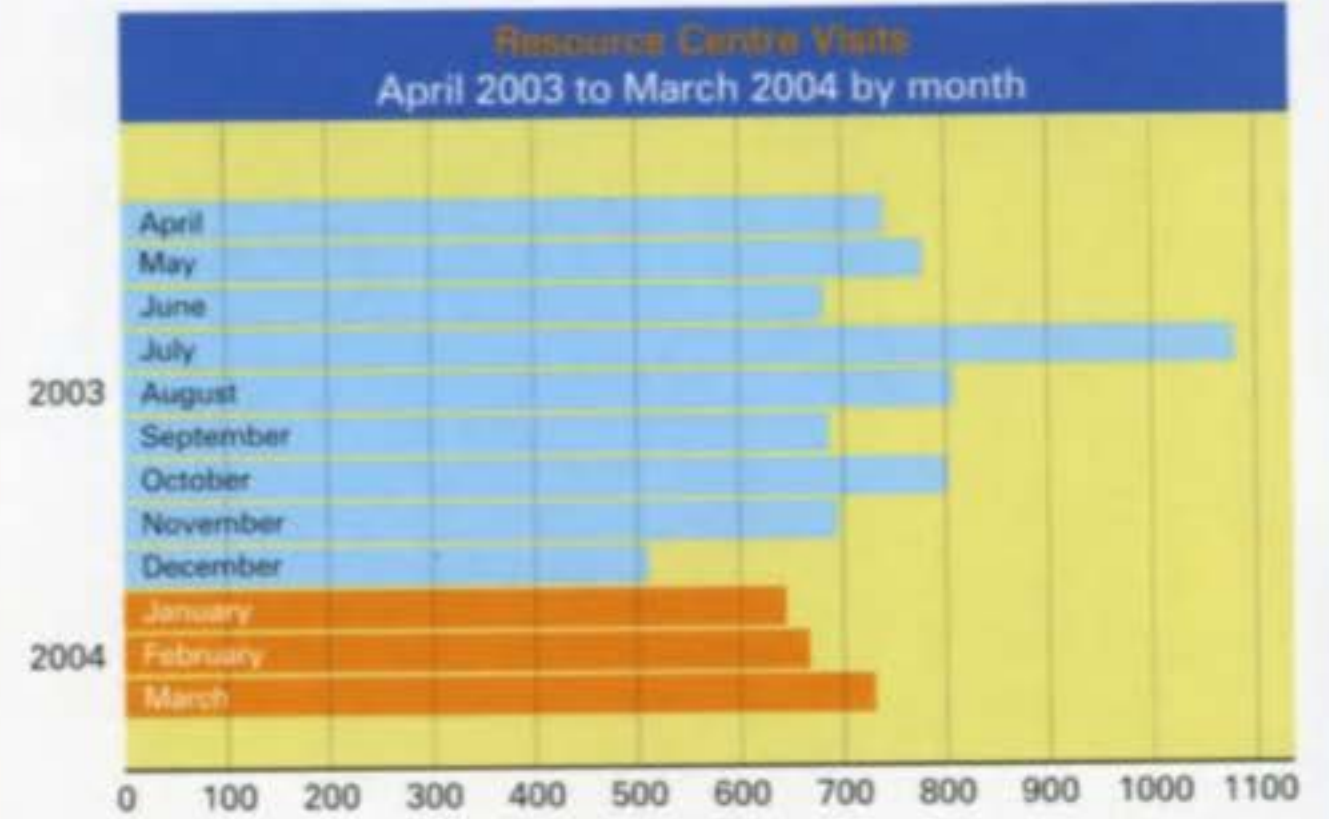
### Volunteer Hours 03/4

HQ	3926
OASIS	1,392
Silchester Mews	346
Environmental Initiatives	1554
Board of Management	<u>1,170</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,388</b>

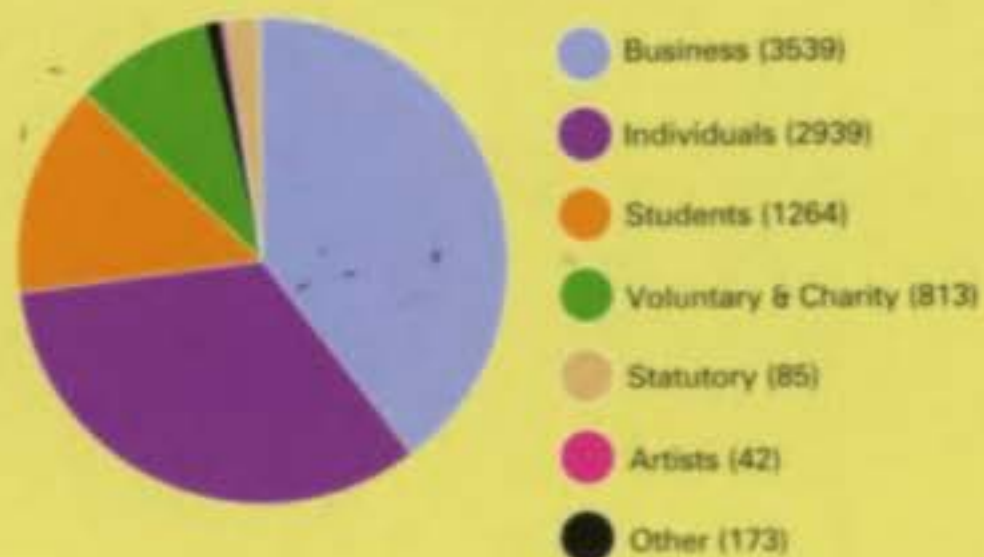
Total hours x £10.12 East Sussex average gross hourly full time wage (new Government earnings survey 2003) = £84,886.56 in kind

## CRU Stats

Jobs created	9
New businesses supported	9
Voluntary organisations supported	16
Community groups supported	41



**Resource Centre Visits by Sector**  
April 2003 to March 2004



## Resource Centre Stats

Business advice sessions	138
Career counselling sessions	60
Marketing advice sessions	73
Resource Centre meetings	176
Volunteers in Resource Centre	18



# financial report

The Summarised Accounts are a summary of the information which appears in the full accounts which have been audited and given an unqualified opinion.

The full accounts were approved by the board of directors on 12th July 2004 and copies submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies. However, these Summarised Accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Charity.

Copies of the full accounts can be obtained from the Hastings Trust, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HT.

**Auditors Statement to the Trustees of the Hastings Trust:** We have examined the summarised financial statements set out here.

**Respective responsibility of trustees and auditors:** You are responsible as trustees for the preparation of the summary financial statements. We have agreed to report to you on our opinion on the summarised statements' consistency with the full financial statements, on which we reported to you on 12th July 2004.

**Basis of opinion:** We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements from which they have been prepared.


**Opinion:** In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2004.

McPherson & Partners, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 19th July 2004

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2004 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>			
Donations	73,005	52,382	125,387
Activities in furtherance of the charity's activities	7,054	530,014	537,068
Activities for generating funds	594	-	594
Investment income	24,873	13,787	38,660
Other incoming resources	26,259	32,101	58,360
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>131,785</u>	<u>628,284</u>	<u>760,069</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>			
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>			
Fundraising and publicity costs	7,449	3,303	10,752
	<u>7,449</u>	<u>3,303</u>	<u>10,752</u>
<b>Net incoming resources available</b>	<u>124,336</u>	<u>624,981</u>	<u>749,317</u>
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>			
Grants payable	-	185,838	185,838
Support costs	194,100	354,520	548,620
Management and administration	(58,560)	83,963	25,403
<b>Total charitable expenditure</b>	<u>135,540</u>	<u>624,321</u>	<u>759,861</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>142,989</u>	<u>627,624</u>	<u>770,613</u>
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>	(11,204)	660	(10,544)
Fund balances at 1st April 2003	995	476,536	477,531
<b>Fund balances at 31st March 2004</b>	<u>(10,209)</u>	<u>477,196</u>	<u>466,987</u>

# major partners

1066 enterprise  
1066 Housing Association  
Artworks  
Association of Preservation Trusts  
Astec  
Ark of Hope  
Age Concern  
Better Braybrooke  
Castle Ward Forum  
Chartered Institute of Marketing  
Community Fund  
Community Service Volunteers  
Connections  
CommIT  
Development Trusts Association  
DfES  
Direxions  
East Sussex County Council  
Education Business Partnership  
Employment Service  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
ESOL  
European Regional Development Fund –  
ERDF Objective 2  
Fishermen's Co-operative  
Fishermen's Protection Society  
Gaby Hardwicke Eaton Sagar  
GEMS  
Gibbons & Mannington  
Greek Orthodox Church of St Mary Magdalen  
Government Office of the South East  
Hans & Mārit Rausing Charitable Trust  
Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust  
Hastings & Rother Youth Justice  
Hastings & Rother Youth Service  
Hastings & St. Leonards Credit Union  
Hastings Borough Council  
Hastings Regeneration Community Group  
Hastings Regeneration Partnership  
Hastings Sustainability Network  
Hastings Voluntary Action  
Here and Now Magazine  
Harley Reed Associates  
Hastings Urban Design Group  
Impact  
Isabel Blackman Foundation  
John Hibberd Associates  
KC Computers  
Lloyds TSB Foundation  
New Economic Foundation  
Old Hastings Preservation Society  
Ore Valley Forum  
Phoenix Fund  
Residents Associations  
St Mary Star of the Sea  
Small Business Service  
South East England Development Agency  
Southwater Community Centre  
Stade Partnership  
Step-On Project  
Sure Start, Ore Valley  
Sure Start, St Leonards  
Sussex Careers  
Sussex Enterprise  
Sussex Police  
Sussex University CCE  
Stumped  
Salvation Army  
St Nicks-on-Line  
Sompriti  
The Charity Bank  
Think Office Products  
Timothy Jemison Associates  
Trade Paints Ltd  
Transport 2000 East Sussex  
Underwater World Hastings Ltd  
Youth Clubs Sussex



*Wallinger's Memorial Garden*

## board of directors

Pam Brown  
Dennis Collins  
Tony Haworth  
Stephen Hinton

Sue Musgrave  
Canon Keith Pound  
Alan Privett  
Stuart Rumsey

Paul Smith  
Cllr Joy Waite  
Cllr Clive Jackson