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HASTINGS TRUST

news

Phoenix



*How Linton
Road arches
could look*

The Trust's focus will be on social enterprise in 2004, says the Trust's Director Christine Goldschmidt.

If the timetable goes according to plan, Linton Road Arches, near Hastings railway station, will become the home of a new Social Enterprise Incubator Unit – the Phoenix Centre. A social enterprise, like any commercial operation, aims to make a profit and be self-sustaining, but it does so by meeting a social need and using its profits to improve its ability to answer that need. A variant is the community enterprise which seeks to serve a specific local community or interest group. Social regeneration

rather than profit is the primary driver of Social Enterprises.

Examples of social enterprises locally are: the Hastings Furniture Service, which redistributes donated furniture to those on low incomes, and the Residents Services Organisation (RSO) that maintains gardens, does decorating and small repairs and runs training courses, mainly for 1066 Housing Association.

Social enterprises can be helped into sustainability by grants of up to 50% of their income. Phoenix will not only offer a purpose-built workspace with the latest equipment but also training,

advice and access to low cost loans of up to £2000 at 1% above the Bank Rate. The Phoenix Centre's money is, at the time of writing, not fully assured. The loans, courtesy of the development community finance initiative (cdfi), will definitely be available.

Christine said that the Phoenix showed the Trust's skill at identifying gaps in social provision and its continued dedication to working at the grass roots. This is why on the national scene the Trust was a 'little beacon' and featured in *Fabulous Beasts*, stories of community enterprise from the DTA, and *10*, a history of redevelopment trusts.

Indoor activities have been the focus during winter. In October the Chess Federation contacted us with an offer to bring Chess into the community, making the pastime more accessible. For five weeks, pieces were moved strategically, heads were scratched with frustration and smiles stretched across players faces as they outwitted their opponent. Funding will be sought to continue the rematches – the game continues.

Classes have begun in English as a second language with transport and crèche available. The ever-popular craft classes will continue into 2004. Oasis continues to support and facilitate meeting space for Hastings & St Leonards Credit Union, Tomorrow's People (job advice, CV

creation, skills revaluation and job market needs), ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) Support Group and Cruise.

'Batch of Baking days' cooking sessions have been busily preparing and cooking winter casseroles and bread and butter pudding. The older residents had also shown the young people how to cook and decorate their very own Christmas cakes, which looked great.

There were four outings over Christmas. We took a group of 15 women (ages from 11 to 75 years) to a performance of Swan Lake at Eastbourne's Congress Theatre. For some it had been many years since they had attended a ballet, for others this was their first experience. We were all delighted at the wonderful

dancing, beautiful costumes and dramatic scenery.

Our over 50's Christmas meal at the White Hart was packed with over 30 people who tucked into a delicious 3 course meal. Residents attended from Broomgrove, Farley Bank, Ore village, Halton and The Ridge.

A few days after the celebrations we took an intergenerational group of 33 children and adults from 6 years up to 86 years to boo and hiss at the Jack and the beanstalk Panto.

The excitement doesn't stop there, January sees the Brighton Ice Show where 53 children and adults will be thrilled at the Ice spectacular.

*Jackie Gaunt
Co-ordinator*

Fundraising – a free introduction

A one-day seminar hosted by Andrew Devon in association with The Hastings Trust. Wednesday 25th February 2004 at 10.00am, Upstairs Meeting Room, The Hastings Trust, America Ground, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings.

The seminar is free and open to everyone involved in fundraising including chief executives, project staff and even fundraisers themselves! The seminar will look at various forms of fundraising including: statutory bodies; charitable trusts; companies; the public; legacies; events. It will also touch upon other aspects linked in with fundraising such as PR, communications and working with celebrities and patrons.

Andrew has 10 years experience in fundraising for charities in the fields of homelessness; people with mental health problems/ex-offenders; learning disabilities; HIV/AIDS; addiction; human rights; children/young people; regeneration. Andrew lives in Hove and set up his own charity consultancy in 2002. His clients include The Hastings Trust, Shelter Housing Action Hastings, Ravenscourt and Mildmay Mission Hospital.

To book the course please contact Andrew Devon either on 01273 207626 or e-mail salviacharityconsultancy@ntlworld.com

Silchester Mews

Annie Hunter has been Silchester's co-ordinator since August 2003 taking over from Clare Croft.

Clare was also a community support worker and helped to attract or set up some of the many groups using Silchester Mews. Clare, now working with SureStart, was a 'lovely lady' and is greatly missed, says Annie, who was once Clare's assistant. Annie works 22 hours a week with Sue Collins, as her own assistant, putting in 16 hours a week – Silchester's success means that their hours are often longer.

Busy and buzzing, Silchester regular users and facilities

include: KAMM (Kids and Muslim Mothers), SureStart mothers and toddlers drop-in, asylum seekers drop-in, Play & Learn group from the Fellowship of St Nicholas, HCAT basic skills classes, Commit (who make IT available for the community), ESOL, GCSE Maths and English with HCAT, The Tuesday Club (for over 60's), Terrence Higgins Trust drop-in, Gensing and St Leonards Forum, Tomorrows People, MACA (Mental Aftercare Association), a meditation group, and the crèche is used by social services.

PULSE, PCT Health Visitors, HCAT, and MACA all have offices at Silchester.

MACA is moving freeing up time and office space at Silchester. One and a half offices will be available from the end of March (enquire now on 01424 717770!).

Annie and Sue welcome visitors to pop in for a look round, a chat and a cup of tea. For all local community groups, Silchester Mews is open Monday to Thursdays from 9am to 5 pm and from 9am to 4 pm Fridays. Facilities include a reception area, one large ground floor meeting room, another meeting room on the first floor, two accessible toilets, a beautiful crèche, four offices, two kitchens and disabled parking.

Direxions

LEARNING & WORK ADVICE FOR ADULTS

Impartial and friendly, the Direxions service administered by Heather Smith has had 169 sessions with individual clients between April and November 2003. The target is an average of 17 a month. Direxions is, of course, the learning, employment and volunteering service that helps both staff, volunteers and external clients.

Heather operates Direxions with true flexibility, promoting the service for the Trust everywhere she

goes including exhibitions and events.

In the six monthly review of how Direxions was going, of 52 registered clients who used the service from April to September, 26 entered, were about to enter or had been offered learning opportunities, 2 had found work, 7 had found alternative work or a more fulfilling role, 12 had found voluntary work.

Heather is also responsible for volunteer care, recruitment, reviews and support as well as information and advice on

training and development opportunities for Trust personnel.

Heather's combined roles make for a challenging and complex job: there's the, forms to fill in, records to keep and reports to make, a staggering range of opportunities to investigate. But Heather, who never loses her mysterious capacity for balanced judgments combined with empathy, says she is always learning through her work and her engagement with an increasing range of agencies and partners.

Community Regeneration Unit

During the summer, the Community Regeneration Unit (CRU) helped different BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) communities organise community activities. The CRU organised a Multi-Cultural Five A Side Football Tournament, assisted Hastings Bengali Welfare Association with their summer festival Grisho Kal Mela and Kivu Peace Initiative with their Community Integration, Information and Family Fun Day.

The 5 A Side Football Tournament was a fun event, where teams brought along their families and supporters for an afternoon of football fun and a picnic, in the glorious sunshine. 8 teams from Asian, African and European cultures came together in what proved to be a very closely-fought competition. The 2 top scoring teams played a very tense final match: the Ark of Hope and Bengal Tigers rivaled any of the Premiership teams for competitiveness and sheer desire to win, with the eventual winners the Ark of Hope. As a result of the Tournament, members of the different communities who took part have begun to interact more and new friendships have been formed. Planning for further

football matches is already underway.

The CRU supported Hastings Bengali Welfare Association with the organisation of a Grisho Kal Mela (Summer Festival), celebrating traditional Bengali culture. The event took place on Hastings Pier and had live music, with Bengali dancers and singers to entertain the crowd. This marked the first open air event of it's type in the county. The HBWA Committee worked tirelessly to ensure all members of the Bengali community were included and that all residents of Hastings and St Leonards were welcome to the celebration. There were stalls offering traditional Bengali food, including hot food and fruits, Bengali music and clothing. Although the weather was not kind, the audience got into the spirit of the event and joined in, dancing along to the live music and dance.

In the same week, the CRU supported KIVU Peace Initiative, who held a Community Integration, Information and Family Fun Day event in Warrior Square to encourage community integration/cohesion, to promote local services and bring people together for better community understanding. The day-long

event included entertainment by Chinese Dragons, Karate demonstrations, global music and dance, as well as examples of international food and drink.

Other projects the CRU are working with and supporting include FORAAS (Friends of Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Drop-In at Silchester Mews.

In early February, the CRU are involved in a partnership meeting with Hastings Borough Council, Age Concern and WRVS. This meeting, at the WRVS (Isabel Blackman Centre) will launch the reports 'Working with Older People in Partnership (A Study of the Strategic, Political and Developmental Opportunities for Services for Older People Across Hastings Borough), Older Peoples Survey 2002 (updates a survey carried out by Age Concern in 1999) and A Study of the Services and Amenities for Older People across Hastings Borough 2003. Further information about these reports is available from the CRU.



Hastings
Regeneration
Partnership



Enhancement Team Update

We have restored the Wallinger Tomb, Huzza! To mark the occasion I invited Timothy and Josephine Wallinger to join us in our jubilations; it allowed me the opportunity to promote all the good work Hastings Trust does, perfectly evinced in our achievements around the town. During their absence, we have accomplished every goal to advance the project to fruition – a real benchmark of success.

At St Mary Magdalen churchyard we toiled through torrid conditions to prepare the site for re-planting. Our mission was spurred on by the grit and determination exercised in our Team Building Day (see page 7) – a splendid example of camaraderie and team spirit. Alas, the long hot summer caused drought conditions wrecking our chances of re-landscaping during autumn. Despite this setback we channelled

our efforts into improving accessibility on site by way of a series of timber steps built into the embankment. During excavation, we were fortunate to reveal original stone treads, these have been conserved for posterity. 2004 will see us primed to resume work on site whilst enhancing publicity to give projects more coverage.

James Rose, Environmental Enhancement Co-ordinator



The Ore Valley Forum is on the Move

Joy Collins, Forum Co-ordinator, writes

As I put the finishing touches to this article for the newsletter, I am surrounded by a growing pile of cartons of papers and my desk is looking uncharacteristically tidy! Viv and I are moving out of our office in the Priory Neighbourhood Centre that has been our home for the last year. We're not moving

far – just down the steps in fact to our new Forum Flat at 87 Farley Bank. This will give us a lot more room and we, together with Farley Bank Residents Association who will be flat sharing with us, have exciting plans for making it the home of some really useful services for residents. Please come and visit us in the New Year when we will have settled in. We are always pleased

to see people. Our phone numbers and E-mail address will remain the same.

Write to us at
87 Farley Bank, Hastings
TN35 5QA
E-mail us at
orevalleysforum@talk21.com
Talk to us on
721456 (Joy)
or 430440 (Viv)

Chris King, the Resource Centre Development Co-ordinator, was upbeat about the year's successes and newly launched projects.

Visits & volunteers

As the graph shows, the number of visits between April 03 and Jan 04 to the Resource Centre were excellent (in July visits soared past the 1000 mark to 1079). During this period Chris gave 187 face to face advice or counselling sessions and set going a number of new schemes to help the community. This is a remarkable achievement because, astonishingly, although Chris works from early morning he also leaves in the early afternoon. But then he's aided by some remarkably able and reliable volunteers who keep the Centre running after Chris leaves (with paid staff always on call). It helps that Chris is a master at enthusing volunteers (as well as those who need business, career or marketing advice). He's also a cunning collector of useful connections in the wider community and has many long established links to business. So it was that Peter Silk of Silk & Co Accountants undertook a social audit for Centre. This confirmed that the community goals it had set itself over the last three years had been achieved.

Lindiwe Hove began web design training to community groups as part of her work experience for teacher training. She also began work on a new Trust website.

New opportunities

As from December 1 community and voluntary groups can now have a free or partly subsidised website design by a professional.

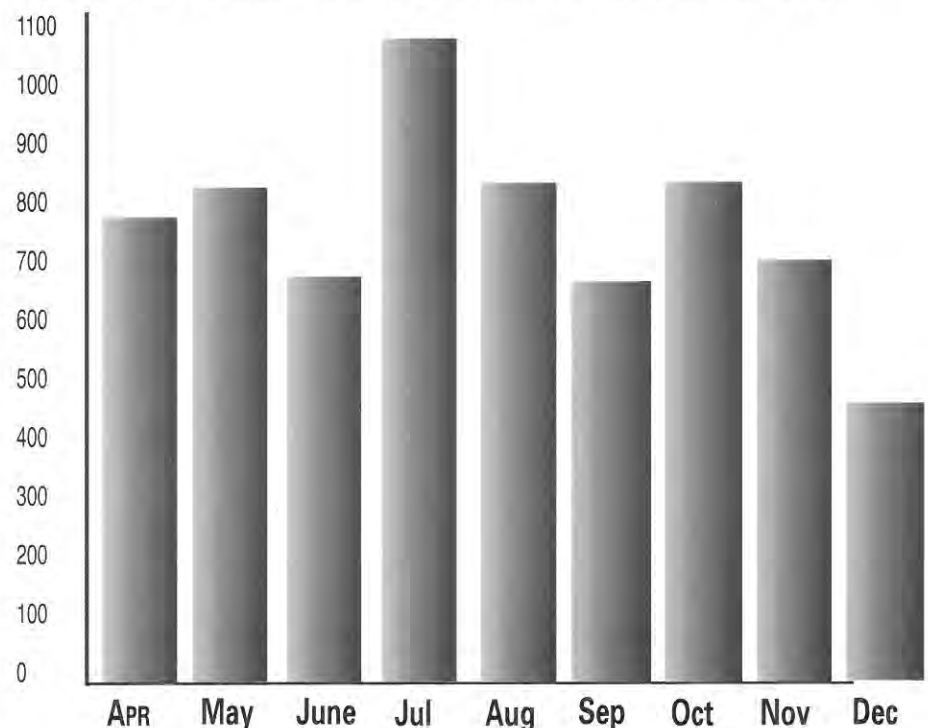
Also from December a special community services kiosk will be offered free to community and voluntary groups. This will allow the groups to draw on all the Resource Centre services and facilities as well as providing a regular slot for them to reach the public in an easy to reach and fully

accessible town centre venue. So far the kiosk has been booked by the Hastings Credit Union, Alex Ntung (who will be advising on ESOL services), with interest shown by GEMS, the Local Exchange Trading Scheme for Hastings & Rother.

Early in the new year a series of funding seminars for voluntary & community groups will be led by Andrew Devon, a professional funding consultant (see page 2).

Congratulations to Roy Richardson, the former volunteer IT expert who maintained the computer network and gave IT training at the Centre. Roy now has a paid job at the Southwater Area Community Centre.

Number of Centre visits April 2003 — December 2003



Portrait of an Artist as a Volunteer

Nigel Harvey is a prodigiously talented and prolific artist in many media. Born in Wales in 1961, he studied and trained in Germany, the Barbican House Museum London, and Hastings College, where he designed and produced handcrafted furniture. He has worked as a volunteer for the Hastings Trust for eight years, the last four with Trust's Environmental Enhancement Team – he is the Trust's artist in residence.

Working at remarkable

intensity and speed, Nigel has recently produced a series of watercolours of Hastings and St Leonards. They show some of the outstanding architectural heritage of the area painted in a detailed and realistic manner.

A committed environmentalist, Nigel has worked for local environmental groups and the environmental magazine *Here & Now*, illustrating in cartoons with biting surreal imagery the folly of planetary

destruction, its consequences and the blind greed that drives it. His gift for finding a memorable image that sums up what hundreds of words could not has also been turned to illustration for children's books. Besides all this he is a fine portraitist in colour or pen and ink. And he paints signs for the Trust!

The Trust intends to have an exhibition of his work early in 2004 at the Resource Centre in Hastings Town Centre.



All the Trust staff worked, as part of a Team Building Day, on the St Mary Magdalen Churchyard restoration, one of the Environmental Enhancement team's projects (see page 5). Nigel Harvey is a regular member of the team, he also painted the picture.

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 Hastings Trust, tel: 01424 446373, or call in at our Resource Centre, 35 Robertson Street, The America Ground, 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