

news from the Bridge

Jobs, Partnerships and Social Enterprises

At the Green Fair on 11th September in Alexandra Park, a curious person was looking at the architect's model of the Bridge, first shown to the Ore Valley community groups 2 years ago.

'These ideas are great,' he commented, 'Solar power, green roofs, but when will they actually build one of these here in Hastings?'

'This one will be finished in November. And it looks like that, only better.' was the confident reply.

Hastings Trust has delivered on the community's aspirations for the building. Now comes the challenge of making the most of it. Not content with having supplied local jobs during the construction, the project has created another two jobs from October.

One of these, the Community Engagement Worker, will have the role of working closely with community groups and individuals to encourage them to make use of the meeting rooms, training centre and IT facilities. In turn, such use will create work for childcare professionals in the crèche and after-school clubs. This job arose from a partnership of Amicus, Ore Valley Forum and Horizons adult learning group.

The other postholder has the challenge of preparing to open a café in January, which we hope will see the creation of another four jobs. This will be the first social enterprise of The Bridge and demonstrates our drive to earn income from day one.

We are also working with artists in the community on fresh designs and thinking about partnering with Ore Valley RSO on the cleaning and maintenance contracts.

There is still much to do but this spirit of

enterprise and partnership has also seen the foundations laid for a new community company to run the building. With representatives on the board from people who work and live in Ore Valley, this company will have the confidence to run this asset from April next year.

So already The Bridge is more than a building – it's jobs and businesses too. And it's about creating the partnerships that make these happen.

James Leathers, Community Development Worker

A black and white photograph of Hastings pier by James Rose shown at his photographic exhibition at the Trust's Town Centre HQ. See inside.



Green Team

Spring heralded a refreshing start to an eventful first season for the Green Team. We befriended the pastor of the St Leonard's Congregational Church and helped him with plans to tidy the frontage of the recently closed building and thereafter sprang into action clearing weeds, brambles and litter. The appearance of this once blot on the landscape is vastly improved and we continue to be mindful of its upkeep.

St George's Day saw the launch of an appeal for the restoration of St Mary Magdalen Church. An eye-catching fund-raising leaflet was produced to entice people to contribute toward saving the crumbling edifice.

My expectations were great and rightly so; all the ingredients to attract funding are there, one just has to promote it in a way that cannot be ignored. Thus far we have raised more than £3,000 from individual subscriptions, the majority from relatives and descendants of those who played an important role in the creation of the church 150 years ago.

Flaming June triggered a riot of colour at Wallinger's Memorial Garden, crimson and cerise poppies provided a dazzling array of colour to the striking backdrop of verdant acanthus leaves.

It hasn't been plain sailing all the time. Volunteer absence and my having to battle with spells of fatigue meant that we were unable to devote as much time to our work as we desired.

Whilst we endeavour to maintain the constant high degree of care more could have been done with extra funding and resources.

On a brighter note, my return to the Royal Victoria Hotel for the AGM (my twelfth) evoked fond memories of my early days with Hastings Trust. The comments expressed about the work of the Green Team were encouraging and uplifting. I trust this was a good omen.

James Rose, Environmental Enhancement Officer

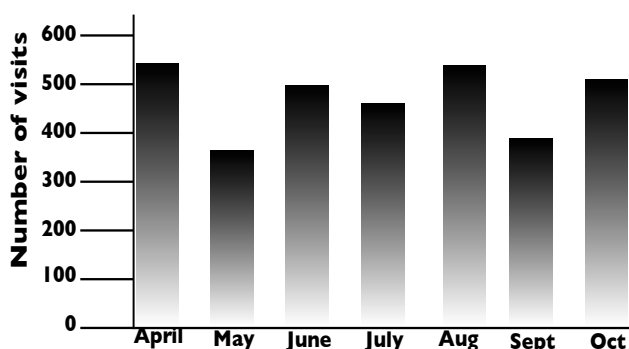


resource centre

The Resource Centre continued its successful policy of launches and exhibitions: including the launch of *Hastings Revisited*, a new book by Sue King of historic pictures of Hastings some never published before; a further display of Nigel Harvey's paintings and an exhibition of superb photographs by James Rose the Trust's Environmental Enhancement Officer and Green Team leader. James's pictures in colour and black and white were for sale. All profits supported Green Team environmental projects. (See right and cover for examples of his black and white work)



Resource Centre visits April-October 2005



Volunteering at Hastings Trust

Volunteers are essential to the running of the Resource Centre. They check emails and overnight telephone messages, place them in staff and volunteer pigeon holes, check all previous day's signed in visitors were entered on the database, manage the switchboard, take messages and answer enquiries as well as look after numerous visitors and their needs! They give a wide variety of advice and guidance including internet training for the elderly, the disabled or disadvantaged, setting up email accounts, shopping on line, searching for information and answering questions from frustrated new PC users! They take bookings

My name is Malvin Cane and I have been a volunteer at Hastings Trust for about 4 years now. As part of my role here I am often called upon to assist first time users, OAP's etc. introducing them to the computer and helping them get over their initial fear and trepidation.

I then go on to give them basic instruction in the use of the Internet and perhaps set them up with an e-mail account so that they can contact friends and family members.

for the meeting room, handle payments for IT use, provide a faxing service and photocopying facilities and maintain the Trust's databases.

Although, Chris King, the Resource Centre Project Development Coordinator, provides the majority of Funding, Marketing and Personal Development advice and guidance, volunteers provide the day to day PC access for Funder Finder and on-line funding searches.

At the moment this is all done by just 3 or 4 part-time volunteers! Below we hear from one of our longest standing and most indispensable.

Sometimes customers who are unable or unwilling call upon me to type out CV's and letters. More recently this service has increased and I am beginning to think my reputation as an efficient typist is spreading.

I am enjoying my experience here and with the ongoing support of well-trained staff have gained many new professional and social skills. I hope to be able to use these skills in an administrative position which I am currently seeking.

Silchester Mews

A Community Resource Centre
in the heart of St. Leonards

Silchester Crèche

Silchester Crèche is a specially built crèche to cater for the needs of local children to play & learn. Painted with wall murals of the sea, sky, beach and boats by local artists, it is very comfortable and spacious. Crèche tables and chairs and lots of lovely toys and books are provided. Situated on the ground floor of the centre the crèche is fully accessible, pushchair and disabled friendly.

Adjoining the crèche, there is a kitchen, fire exits, specially built children's toilets and a ladies toilet with breastfeeding and baby changing facilities. Silchester Crèche is used by local playgroups and the Under 5's Association but is mostly used by Surestart.



The Breakfast Club – Surestart ladies prepare

On Tuesdays the Surestart Chatterbox Group encourages sharing, speech and improving conversation. For further information about this group, please ring; 460112

On Thursdays is Breakfast Club, 9.30-11.30am for breakfast with a difference, scrambled eggs, toast, fruit, yoghurt with play, music and singing to finish. Drop-in, no need to book, or ring 729470



Surestart@Silchester Crèche

Activities for Parents/Carers & Toddlers

On Mondays during term time, 10am-12 noon, is Music Group: children are encouraged to play musical instruments, sing songs and eat some fruit. All parents, carers and toddlers are invited to come along, no need to book, or ring 729470



The crèche is £6 per hour to rent and we have some spaces left for your playgroup. Please call in and have a look!

Silchester Mews has a range of spaces, resources and activities available for the local community. Call in to find out more or ring 717770

Annie Hunter, Centre Co-ordinator



information & advice

on learning, looking for work and volunteering

As Information and Advice worker, I'm continually having to research available options to provide clients with impartial advice. No two individuals have identical needs and different services are springing up and being cut back all the time. I maintain good links with other agencies and value opportunities to meet with other providers. I stock a wide range of up to date resources and make increasing use of the internet.

Since April this year, I've met with 44 new clients, – including an increasing number of people with no qualifications – and have provided 84 advice sessions.

During the summer, the Hastings Trust had a stand at the 'Volunteers Week' recruitment fair. Our volunteers joined together with other local volunteers to collect certificates of appreciation from the Mayor and we met with a wide range of other voluntary organizations.

I am generally available between 10 – 5 Mondays to Fridays (appointments are not usually necessary) at 35 Robertson street. Telephone 01424 446373 or email: heather@hastingstrust.co.uk.

Heather Smith, Training & Development Co-ordinator

Investors in People

Investors in People is a quality standard designed to help all those involved in the management and delivery of a service to professionally develop in line with their organisation's vision.

The benefits of working with Investors in People include enhanced productivity, increased staff recruitment/retention, better work-life balance and improved performance.

The Trust originally gained IIP accreditation in 2002. It was last reviewed in February of this year. The review highlighted areas of good practice and, in keeping with the standard, produced some recommendations for further development.

Following on from these, we have reviewed our induction process for new personnel, are producing a new Staff Handbook, are better able to evaluate the long term impact of any

training and development we undertake and have developed further competencies in leading, managing and developing people.

During Investors in People week, October 31 to November 6, we offered professional and personal development opportunities to our staff and volunteers including 'Life Coaching' and a drum workshop, for which bookings came in thick and fast.



new Deputy Director

Hello, my name is Janet Finlay and I'm the new Deputy Director of The Hastings Trust.

After 19 years living in London, I re-located to Hastings with my husband and three and a half year old son in July. So far the sun has shined almost everyday and we have really enjoyed living in the Old Town and getting lost!

My working life has been varied and includes ten years of charity management, two developing social enterprises with residents and several years in the public sector including two and a half years as the lead grant officer for a London borough.

OASIS

Since vacating our previous headquarters to enable Surestart Ore Valley to start building works on their Chiltern Drive office, I have been mobile around the Ore Valley conducting an increasing number of home visits, while our new premises within the shops in Malvern Way are refurbished.

With our successful summer events fading into a distant memory, I look forward to the exciting winter programme.

Once again, Oasis is providing intergenerational outings, combining our Over 50's group with Broomgrove Playscheme children and parents, starting with a new pilot venture for 2005: a three day trip to Blackpool in October, providing an opportunity to see the famous lights, ride on a tram or climb the Blackpool Tower. Outings booked at the White Rock Theatre include The Gruffalo, Spirit of Christmas, the Aladdin Panto and George's Marvellous Medicine, and to complement

these, we also have a spectacular performance of the Brighton Ice Show to look forward to in January 2006.

Even though we are waiting for our new office to be ready for occupation, Oasis ESOL classes continue to provide English classes on two levels to speakers of other languages, preparing students for exams next year. The Hastings College Tutor takes three classes a week at CJ's in Malvern Way, with a supporting crèche provided twice a week.

Our new office will provide a meeting room, accessible toilet, photocopying facilities, community launderette, over 50's craft sessions, ESOL classes, Over 50's coffee morning and lots more new groups.

Jackie Gaunt, Co-ordinator

Southwater

The Southwater Project from an SRB project perspective is now finished. The real work however is just begun. We are a small but lively Community centre in the heart of St Leonards, dedicated to providing a service to the greater community in both Hastings and St Leonards.

Three part time staff and some eight or so volunteers run this Company, which has Charitable Status. As well as being a facilitator for many, we also plan and run our own people centred activities. Increasingly people locally recognise the Centre is here for their benefit also, not just the few. This has been demonstrated by the numbers coming in to join our Gardening Group, many of which had not previously been through the door.

The centre boasts good facilities one of which is an IT Suite of nine machines. Whilst not used to capacity, the PC's are very helpful in training and for some retraining, which helps people get back to work. We work closely with many groups, often excluded from training such as those with disabilities. This work is of real benefit to many disadvantaged individuals.

Sadly the end of SRB funding has presented this Company with a financial situation it was not totally ready to handle. We will manage though, and there is a sustainable future for the centre in Southwater. Maybe not as presently structured, but as an activity centre none the less.

It is an object lesson for what can be achieved with regeneration funding, and an example of how good can come from involving local people in their communities. Still more could be learned by those responsible for setting up these projects, if they are prepared to, and able to use the feedback generated by the project development staff.

Digby Brodrick, Community Development Worker

community regeneration unit



What do an evening of cooking, drumming and music, an annual multicultural football tournament and an interpreting course have in common? They're all co-ordinated by the Community Regeneration Unit (CRU) and respond to the needs of the multicultural community, asylum seekers and refugees living in the town. Here are a few highlights...

The Asylum Seeker and Refugee Drop-In, developed with Pulse and Youth Development Service, is a chance for participants to cook dishes from their own countries, chat over their life stories and have fun drumming, singing and playing games. Regular members of the Drop-In formed Meli Melo (mish mash/mixture). The band has been involved in charity events, playing at the Four Corners Festival, Hastings Beach Concert and a charity event in Lewes. The band feel that this enables them to give something back to the local community who have made them feel so welcome in Hastings and St Leonards.

The CRU held its third 5-a-side multicultural football tournament. The tournament brought together 10 teams from European, Kurdish, Bengali and African communities. Kurdistan United was the worthy winner of the Cup, having been runner-up for the previous two years. Runner up this year was Ekota Seniors. Runner up for the Plate was



Storm with the winner being Kivu Peace Initiative (KPI). Kyle Munhawa from Ekota Seniors was named man of the Match. Many thanks go to Sam and Ade from Hastings United who presented the trophies.



The community interpreting and translation course (funded by the CRU last year) is being repeated this year. The ten week Open College Network-accredited course, delivered by Diversity Resource International, offers people from the black and minority ethnic communities in Hastings and St Leonards the opportunity to be trained in interpretation and translation skills. The course provides much needed professionally trained local interpreters and it is hoped will open up opportunities for employment, which are sometimes lacking within the town.



The CRU continues to administer the small grants scheme – grants between £50 and £5,000 – for community, voluntary and new start-up social enterprises. The closing date for next round is midday Monday 30th January 2005.

The CRU is launching the Community Development Finance Initiative (CDFI) a loan scheme for local community groups and social enterprises who can't access funding through more traditional routes. For details, please call the CDFI Worker on 01424 446373 and the same number for more information about any of the CRU activities.

Claire Harris, Community Involvement Worker

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 phone 01424 446373 or call in at our Resource Centre (open 10am to 5pm Mondays to Fridays), The America Ground, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings, TN34 1HT

hastings **trust** membership

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/we enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I enclose cash totalling £ _____ I do/do not require a receipt

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

E peta@hastingstrust.co.uk