

The Hastings Trust

Passion, Unity and Achievement

07/08 Annual Review



Photo: James Rose



Our Mission

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.

Our Vision

When the Trust was established, its aims and objectives were set out in the company's Memorandum - these remain valid:

- To enable those who live in, work in or visit Hastings to protect and enhance their environment
- To promote and assist the sustainable economic and cultural development of Hastings and its inhabitants
- To promote and disseminate good practice in conservation and community regeneration locally, regionally, nationally and globally

Our Strategy

Hastings Trust has adopted a new Business Plan which focuses our activities on the five building blocks of a Community Anchor, built on foundations of financial sustainability and excellence in governance and management.

The five building blocks are:

- Asset acquisition, development and management
- Quality of life – environmental, social and cultural regeneration
- Routes out of poverty and worklessness
- Community development, cohesion and capacity building
- Lobbying, advocacy and partnership development

These building blocks will guide and focus our activity over the next five years, will reinforce our vision and mission, and will enable communities to be at the heart of social, economic and environmental regeneration.



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Photo: James Rose



Director's Report

The period of this review has brought a lot of changes for us, not least Christine's retirement to France after 16 years of dedicated management of the Trust. We have said goodbye to several colleagues and friends as the period of tight funding continues, but despite these challenges, the Trust continues to deliver in support of its aims and objectives.



Notable activities over the year have included the opening of the Linton Viaduct Construction Training Centre which has seen a great many young people and adults passing through its doors and receiving high quality training; the further development of the Community Banking Partnership and delivery of affordable loans to local people; our successful first stage bid to the Big Lottery's Community Assets Fund with Hastings Borough Council and Hastings Voluntary Action; Heather and the volunteers continuing to make our Resource Centre a great point of access for information and support for the community; and Jackie, Themabela and volunteers ensuring that Oasis continues to go from strength to strength with its shop in Malvern Way and its valuable Befriending Project.

Our new business plan will set us in good stead for the future and creates the building blocks for our role as a Community Anchor, embedding regeneration at the heart of our communities. Hastings continues to experience the challenges common to many seaside towns and by working together we can help to address disadvantage and inequality.

My first report as the new Director of the Trust must end with thanks for the dedication, commitment and support of the management team, staff, volunteers and Board of Trustees who have helped us to get through these times of change and who are poised to drive us forward to a bright future.

Mel Bonney-Kane Executive Director



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Sun	26	BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS
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Tues	28	
Wed	29	
Thurs	30	
Fri	31	HALLOWE'EN



Photo: James Rose

The Chairman's Report

Christine Goldschmidt's retirement from the Trust as Executive Director in October last year was not unexpected, but came nevertheless as a shock to the system. She had steered the Trust since it was established, and her personality and untiring commitment to the Trust's values and purposes had a huge influence upon the growth of the Trust, and its contribution to the regeneration of Hastings. She was instrumental in developing the Trust's assets, moving from one location to another until the purchase of the present headquarters in Robertson Street, and her imagination and flair oversaw the creation of one innovative project after another. She was highly respected nationally through her work with the Development Trusts Association, of which the Hastings Trust was a founder member, and ensured wide recognition for the Trust's work. She also provided valuable consultancy services to other organisations around the country. Her departure to Brittany left a hole that we feared would be hard to fill.

It's a tribute to her work therefore, that the Trust was able to attract Mel Bonney-Kane as her successor. In her first few months she has earned the total support of the staff and the Board, and the new Business Plan she has drafted in consultation with them provides the basis for a fresh start and a focused future.

It has inevitably been a year of further retrenchment and staff reductions resulting from the cessation of funding streams last year, but we are confident that the Trust's finances are viable (a word of thanks here to Eileen Masters, who has taken over as Treasurer). The role of development trusts has never been questioned as a mechanism for delivering services to local communities, and adaptation to changing circumstances has always been one of the Trust's strengths. The days of the monolithic five-year plan have gone (if they were ever there at all), but the Trust will continue to offer flexible and creative people-centred ideas, and the contribution of its staff and volunteers remain its strongest asset.



Alan Privett Chairman

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Wed	5	GUY FAWKES NIGHT
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Sat	8	
Sun	9	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
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Sun	30	ST ANDREW'S DAY



Photo: James Rose



The Hastings Trust Resource Centre

There were 5100 visits to the centre this year

New services were introduced in response to local demand: a digital high quality printer offering full colour A4 and A3 directly from digital media or as copies, it can also produce stapled and folded booklets; money advice from CAB; free access to Hastings Skillsmatch website and increased use of jobcentre plus outreach, and Innovative Finance's loans scheme. The Centre refurbishment is almost complete, ready for new IT equipment and we are looking to provide further resources to support people to become more financially independent and help them into employment. Artists and photographers are already queuing to show their work in a space much better suited for display than before following the submission of designs by Hastings College Students.

Free use of computers were available for assistance with CV's job search, fund finding. CAB money advice team, jobcentreplus, credit union, and Innovative Finance team were all operating from the Centre.

The Resource Centre had a record number of 10 volunteers to cope with demand, of which, half moved into employment.

For a breakdown of Resource Centre visits see the statistics page later in this Review.

Heather Smith Training & Development Co-ordinator



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Thurs	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
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Photo: James Rose

The Green Team

Despite the low cost yet high value of its work, this was the Greenteam's final year. Successful projects had ranged from the restoration of railings, balustrades and steps to the reuse and improvement of green spaces (eg the Trade Paints garden in the Old Town). These included areas of historic interest such as Wallingers Memorial Garden and the latterly the restoration of St Mary Magdalen churchyard in St Leonards. All were undertaken by volunteers led by James Rose, the only paid member, and would have cost far more at commercial rates. Volunteers contributed and honed existing skills as well as gaining new ones. James's deep knowledge of local history and sense of place, reflected in his fine prize-winning photographs of Hastings and St Leonards, ensured historically sensitive and informed restoration. James' integrity and sense of humour helped create a strong team spirit and a dedication to the work that endured until all funding streams had dried up. Here are James's thoughts on the last days of the Greenteam and the ending (at least for now) of fifteen years of service to the Trust.

My fifteen years devotion is woven into the achievements I see walking round town raising rich memories that trigger something special in me.

My coming to Hastings represented a fresh start in my life and, to my surprise, I found like-minded people all wanting to make a difference to their surroundings. Motivated and bent on putting these convictions into practice we began to make those changes and hundreds of projects ensued.

I am privileged to have worked with so many kind and gifted people and will always keep those memories close to my heart. Throughout the trials and tribulations it has been the spirit of the people that has shined through and this is testament to the ethos of the Trust. Looking back I am constantly reminded of the very best examples that contribute toward a harmonious society and am humbled to have played my small role in that. And I will endeavour to uphold those ideals in everything I do so please accept my warm wishes and gratitude for such a fulfilling episode in my life. It's been a great trip!

Adieu,

James Rose Environmental Projects Officer



Thurs	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Fri	2	
Sat	3	
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Photo: Kevin Caritas

Innovative Finance

Innovative Finance and the Community Banking Partnership



Innovative Finance

Innovative Finance is the Trust's Community Development Finance Institution, which originally started granting small loans to Social Enterprises, but now offers loans to individuals who are unable to obtain finance through the normal channels i.e. the banks.

The loans have been backed by the Department of Works and Pensions and in the last year we have:-
Received 452 applications, of which 224 have been agreed

Total applications requested £205,835 of which £107,396 was lent.

We have also introduced a "Return to Work" loan to assist those in returning to full time employment. Due the year we have agreed 3 loans totalling £2,500 from 8 applications received.

Community Banking Partnership

The partnership has been set up to provide advice and assistance to those in the community, who cannot obtain this, because they are financially excluded by the mainstream banking system.

The main partners are:

- Hastings Trust
- Innovative Finance
- Hastings and Rother Credit Union
- Capitalise Business Support
- Hastings and Rother Citizens Advice Bureau
- Bexhill and Rother Citizens Advice Bureau
- 1066 Housing Association
- Rother Homes Housing Association
- Hyde Housing Association
- Rother Voluntary Action

They work to provide a one point entry of whatever financial service is most appropriate for the client.

We are looking to expend in the forthcoming year.

Funding for the project has come from the Local Economic Growth Initiative, Barclays Bank and also the DWP Growth Fund.

Brian Tanner
CDFI Loans Manager



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Fri	14	ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
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Mon	24	SHROVE TUESDAY
Tues	25	
Wed	26	
Thurs	27	
Fri	28	



Photo: Kevin Caritas

Oasis

Oasis 10th birthday was celebrated in August 2007 with an open day. Residents from the area joined us for fun which also marked the Big Lottery funding for three years for the Oasis Befriending Scheme and our 1st year in our premises in the parade of shops in Malvern Way. Oasis is a one stop shop providing community support, advocacy, individual support, information on health, activities and a community venue for residents to use for courses, social networking meetings, group activities and educational classes.

The range of activities we have been able to provide has increased due to the new property. These include smoking cessation sessions, ESOL sessions (English for Speakers of Other Languages), Over 50's Craft Club, Health information sessions and a weekly Pop In.

One of our volunteers Lauren and myself attended a walk leaders course and have organised walks and other physical exercise outings such as to Leonardslee Gardens and a sponsored walk around Alexandra Park. Volunteers and staff have completed training about diabetes, strokes, epilepsy and MS to increase their knowledge in working with residents on the Oasis Befriending Scheme who may have these conditions.

We were recently successful in a bid from the Capital Learning Fund, which has enabled us to purchase new

equipment that will help residents in their learning. Items we can now purchase include new computers, dual language books, a portable hearing loop, portable wheelchair ramp and voice activated software package. These items will mean that students can have more resources to help them in their studies and that we can deliver computer and Internet use. The hearing loop and ramp go towards increasing our accessibility at the centre.

Oasis supports Broomgrove Playscheme and last year the playscheme were successful in gaining funds to organise a week's half board holiday in Torquay, Devon for families that attend Playscheme. A really great time was had by all as the hotel was 5 minute walk to the glorious sandy beach and along with organised days out, families had time on their own to explore the Devon countryside.

Jackie Gaunt Oasis Co-ordinator



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Tues	17	ST PATRICK'S DAY
Wed	18	
Thurs	19	
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Sat	21	
Sun	22	MOTHER'S DAY
Mon	23	
Tues	24	
Wed	25	
Thurs	26	
Fri	27	
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Sun	29	BRITISH SUMMERTIME BEGINS
Mon	30	
Tues	31	



Photo: James Rose

Adult Learning, Volunteering and Skills Work Volunteers

An increasing number of essential services and activities were available thanks largely to over 20 volunteers who raised funds, dealt with enquiries, refurbished our premises, maintained green sites, cooked meals, edited and delivered our newsletters and assisted with numerous outings and visits to people in their homes.

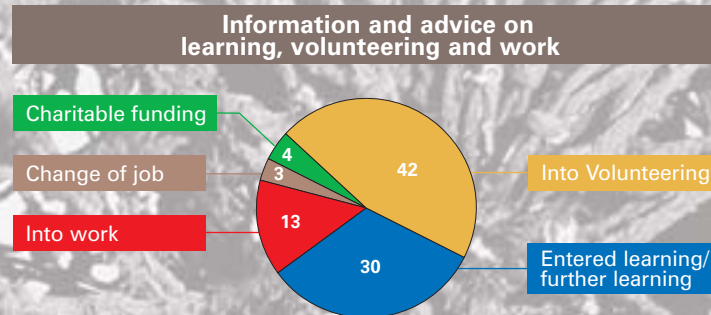
Volunteer Hours 07/08	
HQ	2,537
OASIS/Befriending	1,390
Green Team	1,472
The Bridge	1,752
Board of Management	600
Total Hours	7,751

Volunteer 'in kind' contributions totalled £75,727 based on the average gross hourly pay of £9.77 for individuals working full time in Hastings in 2007) (Source ONS Ashe survey)

Info and Advice on learning, volunteering and work

172 people – a record number - used the info and advice service which is available for anyone over 20. With 227 advice sessions having taken place, the service is now being reviewed and funding sought to enhance and expand provision.

Following up of service users to date includes:



People also received help with CV's, jobsearch applications, accessing loans, using internet and email and were referred to over 50 agencies and orgs in line with their requirements including Fellowship of St Nicholas, Stepping Forward project. Learndirect, jobcentreplus and CAB.

Workforce Development

Our staff and volunteers spent over 200 hours on targeted learning and development activities at a cost of £2,000 this year. Community asset management, loan administration, welfare benefit advice, health awareness, and quickbooks for business analysis, were just some of the more recent options undertaken to help us deliver our programme for the year.

Adult/Community Learning Computing, ESOL, Local history, Catering and Art were amongst the wide selection of opportunities on offer to local residents.

Heather Smith Training & Development Co-ordinator

Wed	1	APRIL FOOL'S DAY
Thurs	2	
Fri	3	
Sat	4	
Sun	5	PALM SUNDAY
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Tues	7	
Wed	8	
Thurs	9	
Fri	10	GOOD FRIDAY
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Sun	12	EASTER SUNDAY
Mon	13	EASTER MONDAY
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Thurs	23	ST GEORGE'S DAY
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Photo: Kevin Carrias



Asset Base

As a Development Trust, one of our key roles is the acquisition, development and management of assets or the benefit of the community. Over the years the Trust has been successful in securing a number of physical assets, both for our own occupation and management, and also for transfer into the hands of the community.

Notably, the Trust worked with residents of the Ore Valley to secure funding and a site for the construction of the award winning Bridge Community Centre. The Bridge is now managed by the community and has established its own social enterprise. The legal title to the building is almost in the hands of this enterprise.

Alongside our Robertson Street headquarters, the Trust has also improved three road arches at Braybrooke Terrace which now provide valuable community assets – our own Linton Viaduct Training Centre, and the nationally recognized Project Artworks with whom we are cur-

rently negotiating a long lease to enable Project Artworks to further expand its activity – and our property at Silchester Mews in Central St Leonards now home to three key socially focused organisations – Migrant Helpline, Refugee Legal Centre and Respond Youth Academy.

And the work does not stop there – over the period of this review the Trust has been working with Hastings Borough Council and Hastings Voluntary Action to secure funding from the Big Lottery’s Community Assets Fund to secure the refurbishment and transfer of Jackson Hall on Portland Place to act as a third sector hub and incubation space which will aid the further growth and sustainability of the sector in Hastings.



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Mon	25	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
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Photo: James Rose

Skills2Build - S2B

Our construction training project, Skills2Build has gone from strength to strength over the period of this review, opening in July 2007, Linton Viaduct Training Centre has delivered construction training skills to young people and adults in partnership with Study Xpress. Phase two of the project was the purchase of a residential property from where trainees can receive on-site training in a real live construction environment and over the past year we have been planning for the conversion of this property.

How do we meet the challenge of climate change, reducing our carbon footprint and addressing rising fuel costs? We at the Trust, working in collaboration with Hastings Borough Council, social enterprise Parity Eco Solutions and other partners, believe that we may have an answer.

When we talk about eco-homes we generally mean new build – but what about the existing housing stock, particularly the pre-1940s stock that is prevalent in Hastings? Following substantial development work over the period of this review, Skills2Build intends to deliver a demonstration project with the conversion of a residential property in the heart of the town centre. To be rolled out during 2008-09, we aim to convert this Victorian terraced property into four residential units which are energy efficient and environmentally friendly, reducing energy consumption (and therefore cost), creating a model of refurbishment which is of national significance.



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Photo: James Rose

*based on the average gross hourly pay of £9.77 for individuals working full time in Hastings in 2007 (Source ONS Ashe survey 96 Voluntary organisations supported)

Statistics

Measured Outputs for 2007-08

Volunteer 'In Kind' Contributions £75,727*	Info and Advice Service 172 people	Into Volunteering 30 people	Learning 30 people	Into Work 13 people
Change of Job 3 people	Charitable Funding 4 people	Learning and Development 200 Hours	Visits to HT Resource Ctre 5100	Internet Sessions 1720
Visitor Type. Individuals 3339	Visitor Type. Students 69	Visitor Type. Voluntary 474	Visitor Type. Charity 117	Visitor Type. Business 932
Visitor Type. Statutory 165	Visitor Type. Artists 168	Innovative Finance	Loan Applications Received 452	Loan Applications Agreed 224
Total Applications £205,835	Total Lent £107,396	'Return to Work' Loans £2,500		

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Photo: James Rose



August 09

Financial Report

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Mon	31	SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY



Photo: James Rose

Major Partners

1066 enterprise	Hailsham Trust	Ore Valley Forum
1066 Housing Association	Harley Reed Consulting	Project Artworks
Amicus Horizon	Hastings & Bexhill Economic Alliance	Parity Eco-Solutions
Age Concern	Hastings & Rother Community Banking Partnership	Residents Associations
Barclays Community Inclusion Unit	Hastings & Rother Credit Union	Respond Youth Academy
Big Lottery Fund	Hastings Local Strategic Partnership	Rother Voluntary Action
The Bridge Community Enterprise Ltd	Hastings & St Leonards Excellence Cluster	Rother Homes
Castle Ward Forum	Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust	Russell New
CDFA	Hastings Arts Forum	Small Business Service
Charity Bank	Hastings Borough Council	South Coast Money Line
Citizens Advice Bureau	Hastings College	South East England Development Agency
Claremont	Hastings LEGI	Southwater Community Centre
Coastal Currents	Hastings Regeneration Community Group	Stade Partnership
Department of Work & Pensions – The Growth Fund	Hastings Voluntary Action	Study Xpress
Development Trusts Association	Hastings Urban Design Group	Sure Start, Ore Valley
East Sussex County Council	Horizons Community Learning Project Impact	Sure Start, St Leonards
English Partnerships	Jewsons	Sussex Careers – now Connexions
ESOL	Job Centre Plus	Sussex Enterprise
European Regional Development Fund – ERDF Objective 2	John Hibberd Associates	Sussex Police
Fellowship of St Nicholas – Stepping Forward	KC Computers	Sussex University CCE
Fishermen’s Co-operative	Neighbourhood Renewal Unit	St Nicks-on-Line
Fishermen’s Protection Society	Newhaven Community Development Association	Sompriti
Gaby Hardwicke	New Economics Foundation	Timothy Jemison Associates
Gensing and Central St Leonards Community Forum	Old Hastings Preservation Society	Tomorrow’s People Trust
Government Office of the South East		Trade Paints Ltd
		Transport 2000 East Sussex
		Travis Perkins
		University Centre, Hastings

Tues	1	
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Thurs	3	Hastings Trust AGM
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Mon	21	FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
Tues	22	
Wed	23	
Thurs	24	
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Board of Directors

Cllr Roy Tucker
Anne Brooks
Pam Brown OBE
Christine Francis
Tony Haworth
Prof Michael Hunter

Eileen Masters
Maureen Nelson
Canon Keith Pound
Alan Privett
Cllr Joy Waite
Peter Armstrong

Photo: Kevin Carias



working with and for the community

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