

The Hastings Trust

21 Years of Energy, Ambition and Achievement



10/11 Annual Review



Our Mission

To create active partnerships between the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and to enable them to work together for the economic, cultural, 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 four years, will reinforce our vision and mission, and will enable communities to be at the heart of social, economic, cultural and environmental regeneration.



SUN	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY
MON	2	BANK HOLIDAY
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WISIERA
PANEL



Photo: Benjamin Carias

Director's Report

It's been an exciting year of opportunities and challenging changes – in the senior management team, in the development of new projects and ways of working and a very personal change in my life with the birth of my son, Nathaniel, in January.

We employed 20 new staff on six-month contracts through the Future Jobs Fund programme providing valuable support to staff. Future Jobs Fund was, in my opinion, a very promising Welfare to Work scheme and its scrapping was a great disappointment although it led us to seek development of paid work placements through partnership working as a contribution to local economic development and individual employability.

At the beginning of the year the Myplace project was in limbo, awaiting a decision post elections, and when we heard nothing we assumed that the funds had been cut. However, in December we were delighted to learn that the funds were still available and that we had an opportunity to review our submission. This was challenging due to my maternity leave but trustees, staff, the original project team and some external assistance rallied to ensure our submission was of the highest quality. Unfortunately we have now learned that our project will not go ahead. Our concern for the future of the building and the provision of facilities for young people remain: we are committed to working with others to support alternative plans.

We completed our ambitious eco-refurbishment of our property in Cambridge Gardens. This too had its challenges but the resulting apartments are a great achievement. The Trust has let three of the four apartments and other has been sold.

In May we were successful in securing funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a youth-led heritage project. Helping young people to explore the social, economic and architectural heritage of St Mary-in-the-Castle (the subject of our Myplace bid). In October we were awarded funding from the BIG Lottery's Reaching Communities programme for our Community Enablers project. In December we embarked on an exciting venture with the Visionary Soap Company. We hope to expand in the future to provide intermediate labour market solutions for those furthest from employment and we are in the process of exploring other enterprise options.

Every year sees change and development in the life of the Trust; we experience highs and lows but continue to make a positive contribution to the regeneration of the Borough and looking back it is incredible to think that we are reaching our 21st birthday. The coming year will be one of celebration of the life and work of the Trust and I look forward taking a lead role in those celebrations.

Mel Bonney-Kane Executive Director.

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The Chairman's Report

Another year, and the Trust is almost grown up: 21 this year. Slimmer perhaps than we have been at times in the past, but every inch fit for purpose, healthy, and addressing the needs of our community. In 20 years the borough has seen many developments, much new money in the town – yet, incredibly, Hastings is rated the 19th most deprived borough in the country: a community with many needs.

Managing the Trust from a strategic point of view is a continual balancing of different options. Our first job – the Trust's day to day work – is to provide much needed services focused upon those who most need them. But we have at the same time balanced our books, creating where possible our own income streams so as to be less reliant on other sources. Also we need to remain innovative and creative in our thinking – that's something the Trust has always aspired to, and often achieved.

Where should we focus our energies? We started this financial year expecting a decision on the Myplace project at St Mary-in-the-Castle: with a general election looming, would the entire scheme be cut in line with current economic expectations? A year later we were still waiting, having invested, with renewed hope of success, a huge amount more time and energy. Yet such investment of energy without guarantee of success – pursuing funding, floating new ideas – is part of what the Trust does, alongside the actual delivery of services. The Trust is a sometimes unpredictable but always stimulating environment; reviewing our work and looking for the right balance is an important part of our growing up. And the board of management is always looking for new trustees interested in what the Trust can achieve.

Alan Privett Chairman.

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THURS	15	
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SAT	17	ST PATRICK'S DAY
SUN	18	MOTHER'S DAY
MON	19	
TUES	20	
WED	21	
THURS	22	
FRI	23	
SAT	24	
SUN	25	BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS
MON	26	
TUES	27	
WED	28	
THURS	29	
FRI	30	
SAT	31	





The Hastings Trust Resource Centre

Resource Centre visitor numbers were higher than ever. For the Review period last year they were 6136 for this Review period they were 7274.

The Centre consolidated its reputation as an information and advice hub for those seeking to improve their employment prospects in economically difficult times. The Centre was a regular drop-in for people joining HELP (Hastings Employability Link Project) and later, Community Enablers offered careers advice, help with CVs and job applications every Thursday and at the weekly Monday Club. The latest job vacancies were on display with free internet access for job-seekers.

The Credit Union continued to use the Centre as a collection point and Innovative Finance also offered a regular drop-in. HEAT (Hastings Energy Advice Team) advised 30 people on energy efficiency on Saturday March 12th.

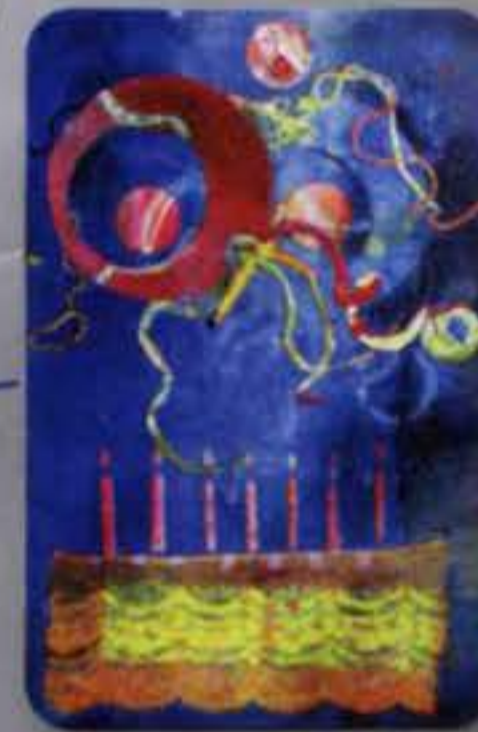
Inexpensive colour printing and internet access at 2p a minute all with friendly help was available and very popular during the centre's opening hours of 9:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

A range of other useful information on learning, volunteering, housing and health was available through our resource centre with up to date publications, a community notice board and popular shop-front window.

Resource Centre volunteers, (without whom the Centre could not function), put in over 1540 hours and there was invaluable help in reception, admin and IT support from our Future Jobs Fund employees.

We promoted a whole host of cultural opportunities and events happening throughout the town and Gina Lelliott (www.ginalelliott.co.uk) displayed her beautiful and original art works with their joyful zinging colours. The display space, in Hastings town centre, was and is available free of charge for all local artists and students.

Artist: Gina Lelliott



Artist: John D Robinson



SUN	1	PALM SUNDAY
MON	2	
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WED	4	
THURS	5	
FRI	6	GOOD FRIDAY
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SUN	8	EASTER SUNDAY
MON	9	EASTER MONDAY
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MON	23	ST GEORGE'S DAY
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Building on Success – A learning Community

We have had a busy and exciting year with some groundbreaking new initiatives.

We continued to build on the Vocational and Life Skills partnership helping to reach the most disadvantaged local residents in our community. The partners are represented on the Hastings Adult and Community Learning forum, which is working to secure resources for all local learners whatever their interest. We hope to become a stronger voice as time goes on, becoming known at local, regional and national level ensuring our town is at the forefront of best practice in learning.

The Future Jobs Fund programme proved highly effective and created 20 jobs. We also began setting up L-earn, a pre-apprenticeship pilot headed by HFS (Hastings Furniture Service), providing work and training for disengaged 16-18 year olds. Our employability link pilot HELP established new partnerships with employers in all sectors to deliver work placements as well as volunteering with work related training.

We are now 6 months into Community Enablers lottery project, building stronger communities, supporting enterprise and helping to upskill local people through volunteering, learning and work.

The projects prove a successful progression route into further learning, community activism and, in many instances, good quality jobs.

Key to our success is our Volunteers. They are hugely knowledgeable, dedicated, kind and capable with constructive ideas and suggestions to help enhance the work we do. They operate across the board – Trustees, receptionists, eco retrofitters, events stewards, advice workers, trainers and more.

Training and Workshop opportunities - usually delivered by local providers thereby helping the local economy – included: creative workshops; health and safety and first aid; IAG (info, advice and guidance); funding; personal development and employability; administration; bookkeeping; IT; and volunteer management.

We also encouraged e-learning and provided a wide range of on-the-job opportunities through the Trust such as events management, finance, admin, committee work and eco-refurbishment.

Heather Smith Training and Development Co-ordinator.

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THURS	31	



EAST BEACH
STREET.



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 after we successfully made a bid to the Department of Work and Pension Contract to extend the affordable loan scheme into the Shepway and Ashford area of Kent as well as Brighton, where we have opened a small office. The contract ended on 31st March 2011, but we can use the interest as income to continue the scheme.

During a busy year we have:-

- Received **1,116** applications, of which **853** have been agreed.
(Last year it was 601 applications of which 217 were agreed)
- Total amount lend was **£401,111** compared with **£92,498** last year.

The main reason for clients to request a loan was to enable them to pay the deposit on a privately rented property.

We continue to work very closely with Citizens Advice 1066, referring clients for whom a loan may not be the best option for their circumstances.

Other organisations we work closely with are Hastings and Rother Credit Union, HARC and East Sussex Credit Union.

Funding for the project that came from Hastings Borough Council and The Department of Work and Pensions, both ended on 31st March 2011.

Brian Tanner CDFI Loans Manager.

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MON	4	SPRING BANK HOLIDAY
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SUN	17	FATHER'S DAY
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WEDDING CAKES.
SOUPS.

ALL PICTURES
OUTSIDE



Oasis Community Project – East Hastings

Charity status for Oasis Community Project – East Hastings.

Following our name change last year, we became a registered charity in September 2010, enabling us to continue our independence.

A successful bid to the Tudor Trust meant that we were able to extend the post of Information and Communication project Worker for a further two years. The continuation of this post makes it possible for the Oasis project to increase the information sent out to residents, focusing on health campaigns and events happening locally, as well as promoting our services, supporting residents and remaining a community hub for information. Our full time information worker reduced his hours and in February this year we were joined by Gaye Feltham as a part-time information worker at our office in Broomgrove Community Centre. Gaye has been very busy, meeting residents, conducting evaluations of our activities and providing information of our services.



Oasis continues to deliver activities and outings that advance our work of community cohesion and, with extra funding, can help take away barriers to participation. Activities are aimed at all ages and abilities and promote and encourage physical activity and positive mental health and wellbeing. Activities include ten pin bowling, group walks, crazy golf, quiz nights, theatre shows, ice skating, over 50's craft club and group lunches.

In 2010 our volunteers and ESOL students attended training sessions to increase their knowledge, skills and abilities. Certificates were gained in first aid, health and hygiene and child protection. Armed with their certificates, ESOL students showed residents their baking skills in multi-cultural cooking sessions with some delicious dishes from each of their countries.

In March 2011, Oasis Community project was awarded funding from 'Active at 60'. The funding was to promote and encourage residents reaching retirement age to join Oasis activities to prevent inactivity and loneliness when they no longer work. This project is spearheaded by our community agents, Margaret Ellis and Elsie Jones and they continue to spread the word, championing the activities and outings we deliver.

Jackie Gaunt Co-ordinator.
Oasis Community project- East Hastings.

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TUES	31	



Community Enablers – Reaching Communities

Community Enablers builds local confidence and aspiration by helping individual citizens, community groups and businesses to become more interlinked and mutually supportive. It provides opportunities for volunteering and work place experience, training, business enterprise development and community building.

With a three year Big Lottery Fund award, Community Enablers began in November 2010. It builds upon the Trust's successes and experience over many years including the HELP (Hastings Employability Link Project) pilot project, which ended in the Review period, but with greater reach and ambition and a dedicated team of four supplemented by skilled voluntary help.

Between November and March the project had already aided over 100 groups and individuals in many ways including: updating CV's, setting up volunteer opportunities, arranging work tasters, supporting individuals back to work, helping local community groups with work place training, event planning and volunteer recruitment. An example is the collaboration between Community Enablers and Visionary Soap, the UK's leading Free trade body care company. Through the Future Jobs

Fund Scheme we provided six-month paid placements to two individuals and began recruiting L-earn employees.

The new L-earn Project saw a successful partnering between HFS (Hastings Furniture Service), Hastings Trust, Finding Futures, Lets Do Business and Rother Voluntary Action. This pilot scheme provided 6 month paid employment and training for ten young people aged 16-19 at HFS Hastings and Bexhill and at the Hastings Trust by the end of the Review period. Finding Futures began assessing these young people to help them to attain level 1 and 2 qualifications in numeracy and literacy. Other essential work place training will follow. Talks began to roll out this impressive scheme on a more permanent basis; offering young people who are at risk of exclusion the opportunity to gain real life work experience and ways into apprenticeships.

“I had great help with my CV”

“Brilliant and so friendly - helped me a lot especially with learning to be patient. Also helped my confidence”

“Definitely helped with skills via the training”

“I like Hastings and would like it to be the best place to live in England”

“...it has given me the opportunity to develop my employability”

“I feel anything is possible”

“...Hastings Trust, Community Enablers have helped me to connect with other people”

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THURS	23	
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SUN	26	
MON	27	SUMMER BANK HOLIDAY
TUES	28	
WED	29	
THURS	30	
FRI	31	



Eco-retrofit, Ecofab and Skills2Build

Enhancing the Environment

At the end of the year we heard that the Interreg Iva application for the EcoFab 2 project was accepted. This followed the successful two-year pilot that included working with local schools and contractors to organise the Pathway to Construction event. Once again the event took place in Alexandra Park with over 2000 people enjoying one of the hottest days of the summer participating in strawbale building, bricklaying and carpentry amongst many other construction-related activities and enjoying music from local bands. The French partners displayed the work they have been doing as part of EcoFab and gave presentations and demonstrations of traditional environmental construction methods, such as lime plastering.

Interest in the eco-refurb of the four flats in Cambridge gardens continued with presentations being given at meetings and conferences to share the experience and skills gained through this project that saw the refurbishment of the flats to a very high environmental standard resulting in low running costs for the occupants. We had very positive feedback from the people living in the flats as to their comfort and enjoyment of the space created.

We are now exploring ways that we can take the expertise gained from these projects to developing more long term eco construction related enterprises and will be looking for potential partners to work with us in achieving this objective.

Please contact Carol Biggs for further information on working with the Hastings Trust in enhancing the environmental development of Hastings and the surrounding area.

Carol Biggs EcoFab Co-ordinator.



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SUN	30



The Young Roots Project

The Young Roots project stemmed from the vital work of young people with regards to the Myplace bid for St Mary-in-the-Castle; it aimed to build on the foundations set and to continue to strengthen young people's stake within the town and its service provision. Young Roots aimed to give young people a stronger connection to their community – past, present and future.

The project set about exploring the social, cultural and architectural history of St Mary-in-the-Castle, Pelham Crescent and Pelham Shopping Arcade.

The project itself focused on the intuitive working practice of youth-led project management, allowing the learnt heritage, history, knowledge and skills to be shared with the wider community, whilst also being used as a tool to facilitate empowerment, build social capital and partnership working; these were at the very core of the project.

The young people not only decided on the route they would take, but also how they would deliver their findings and finally chose how they wanted to evaluate the project and publicise the outcome; this involved several workshops in skills such as archive research, feedback, exhibition planning and delivery and ways to

evaluate. A copy of their evaluation report is available from the Hastings Trust.

The project allowed the young people to work in partnership with various stakeholders across the town whilst promoting inter-generational and cross-community working; all of which are important for creating a cohesive community.

Jodie Cornford Project Manager.



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THURS	25	
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SUN	28	BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS
MON	29	
TUES	30	
WED	31	HALLOWEEN



SPECIAL FEATURE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS

Battle ahead for the Hastings Trust

Examining the progress of the recently established Hastings Trust, Kelvin MacDonald finds an almost classic example of a community-based trust in a time of recession.

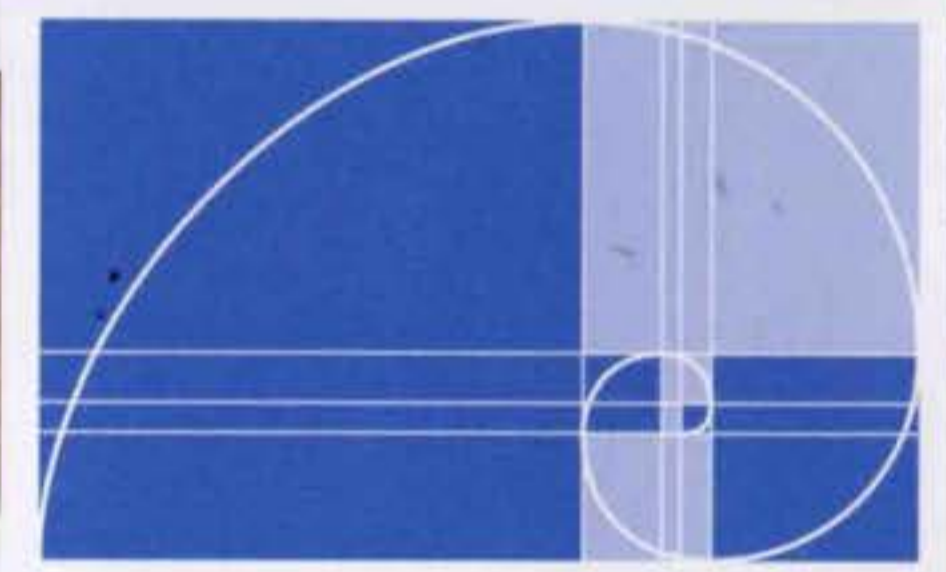
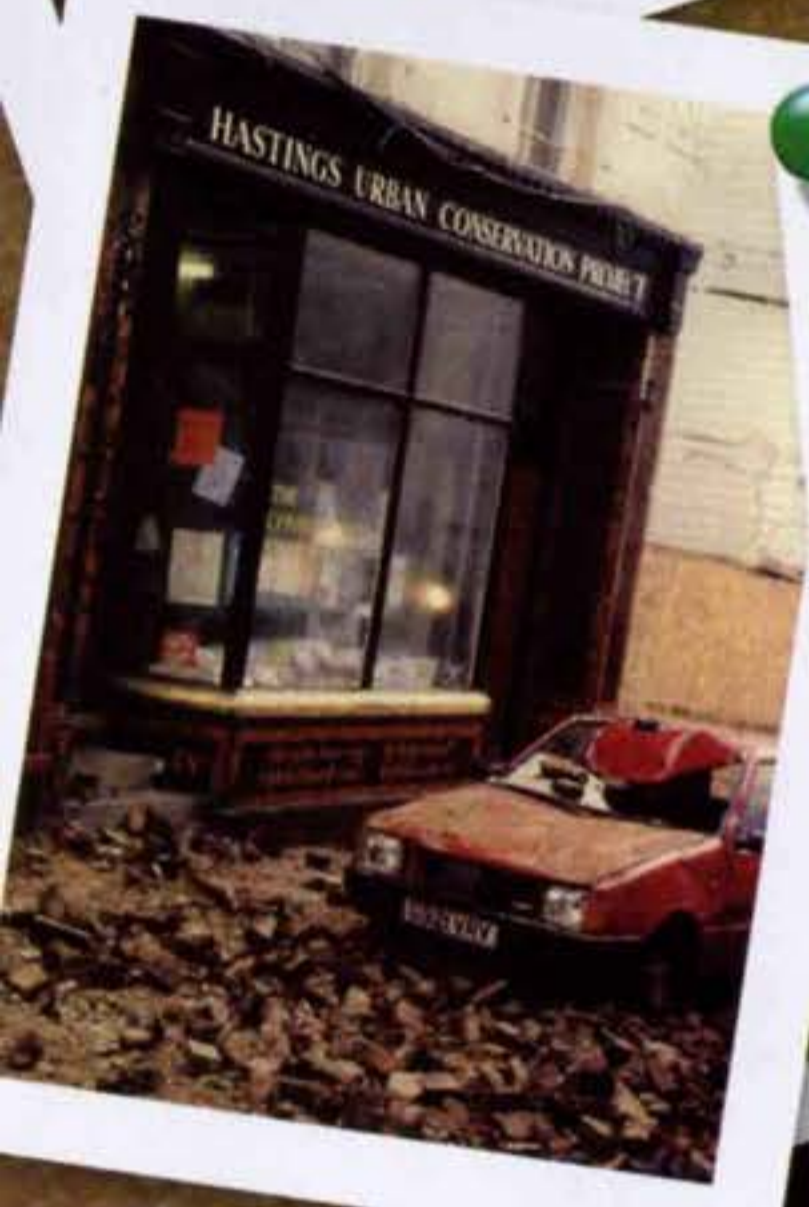
with new ideas, commitment, enthusiasm and, perhaps surprisingly, optimism. It has adapted its own practices to match circumstances. It has, for example, closed its Conservation Shop and turned the space into a Resource Centre. The impetus for this decision came partly from the recognition that the shop was continuing to trade while other, commercial shopkeepers were closing down. It is carrying out a host of seed-corn projects and provides employment training for local people. It is relying more on materials and time rather than cash. Yet funding — that vital ingredient — core

The Hastings Trust was launched in November 1991 with an impressive brochure and messages of support from the Director of the Civic Trust and the Leader of the Hastings Borough Council. 'I look forward to seeing the Hastings Trust flourish and fulfil its very great potential,' wrote Councillor Pamela Brown, the Leader. Six months later the Trust is struggling to fulfil its potential as it is forced to rely on private sector funding at a time when the private sector has other priorities. The Hastings Trust presents almost a classic picture of a community-based trust in time of recession. It is bursting



Fishermen's net shops in Hastings traditional image

The Trust had its first manifestation as the agency operating the Hastings Urban Conservation Project. This was established in 1986 by East Sussex County and Hastings Borough Councils to encourage the regeneration of architecturally rich Hastings and St Leonards. The project relied almost entirely on public funding. According to the book *Turning the Tide* the two



HASTINGS TRUST



Hastings Trust Past and Present





November

The Hastings Trust Celebrates its 21st Birthday

This year, 2012, the Trust celebrates its 21st Birthday – 21 years of enriching and enabling the community of Hastings through an unmatched range of environmental, cultural, economic and social initiatives. It has never acted alone but has built local community relationships through active partnerships with the private, voluntary and statutory sectors. It's versatility promises a no less significant future.

As we move forward in uncertain economic times we know that we need to apply more innovative solutions and create new opportunities from shared challenges. We believe that our role in creating the right environment for community owned regeneration is needed now as much as ever.

Our very first report



America Ground 2010



Nate, our youngest member!



Environment week 1990



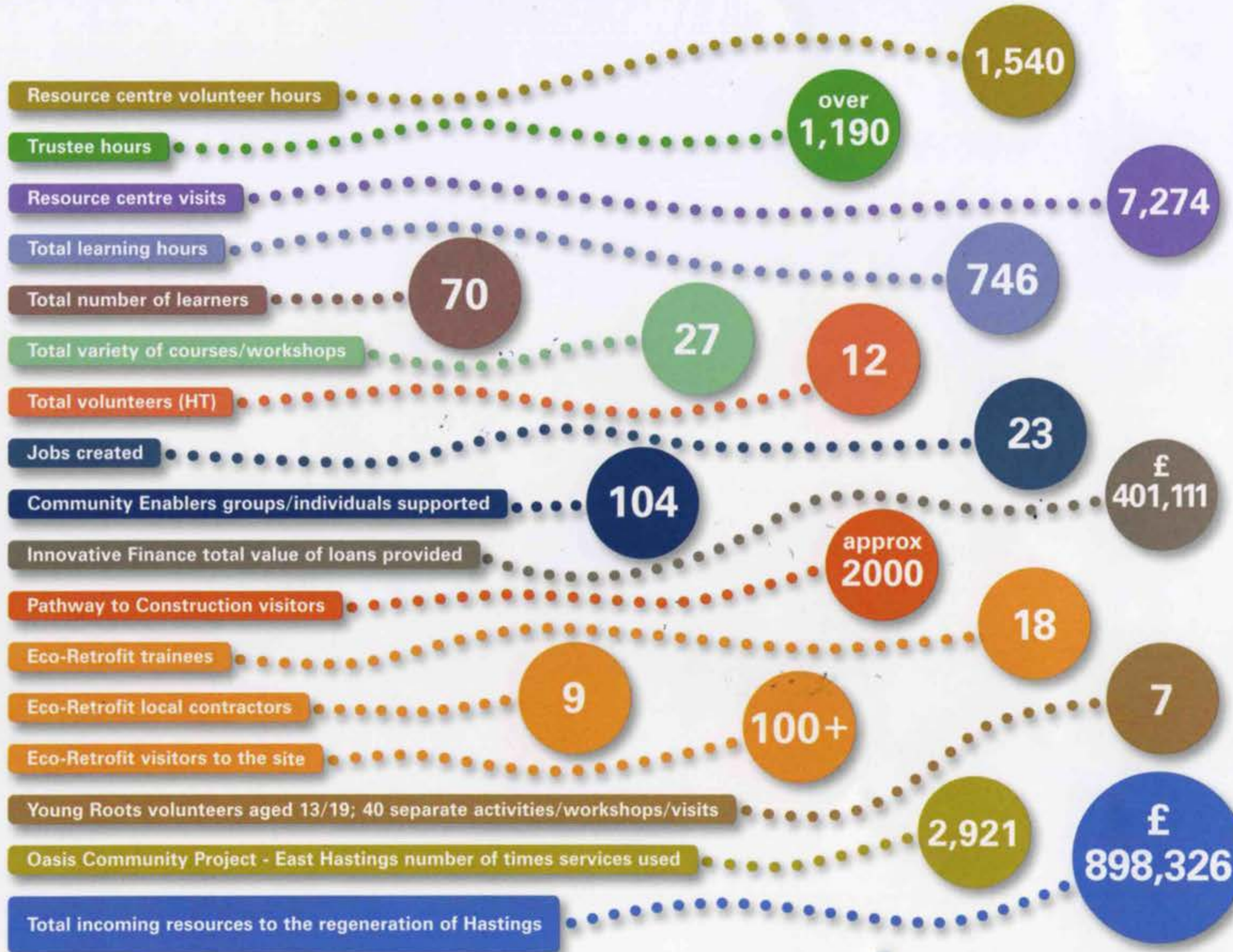
Crowds enjoying the festival

THURS	1	
FRI	2	
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MON	5	GUY FAWKES NIGHT
TUES	6	
WED	7	
THURS	8	HASTINGS TRUST AGM
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SAT	10	
SUN	11	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
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THURS	29	
FRI	30	ST ANDREW'S DAY





Statistics Measured Outputs for 2010-2011



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THURS	20	
FRI	21	SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR
SAT	22	
SUN	23	
MON	24	CHRISTMAS EVE
TUES	25	CHRISTMAS DAY
WED	26	BOXING DAY
THURS	27	
FRI	28	
SAT	29	
SUN	30	
MON	31	NEW YEAR'S EVE



Photo: James Rose

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2011 £	Total 2010 £
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	11,361	58,261	69,622	70,823
Activities for generating funds - rental income	83,319	-	83,319	47,088
	<u>94,680</u>	<u>58,261</u>	<u>152,941</u>	<u>117,911</u>
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Regeneration of the Borough of Hastings	55,761	842,565	898,326	566,324
Innovative Finance	120,556	-	120,556	38,670
	<u>270,997</u>	<u>900,826</u>	<u>1,171,823</u>	<u>722,905</u>
Resources expended				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising costs	4,923	5,248	10,171	10,401
Trading subsidiary	-	-	-	25,923
Finance costs	22,567	-	22,567	7,934
	<u>27,490</u>	<u>5,248</u>	<u>32,738</u>	<u>44,258</u>
Charitable activities				
Regeneration of the Borough of Hastings	201,168	417,200	618,368	851,432
Innovative Finance	-	51,251	51,251	-
	<u>201,168</u>	<u>468,451</u>	<u>669,619</u>	<u>851,432</u>
Total charitable expenditure	201,168	468,451	669,619	851,432
Governance costs	15,270	-	15,270	12,289
Total resources expended	243,928	473,699	717,627	907,979
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	27,069	427,127	454,196	(185,074)
Gross transfers between funds	(31,668)	31,668	-	-
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(4,599)	458,795	454,196	(185,074)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Disposal of tangible fixed assets (The Bridge)	-	-	-	(525,000)
Impairment of fixed assets	-	-	-	115,516
Gain on investment assets	37,000	-	37,000	210,000
	<u>32,401</u>	<u>458,795</u>	<u>491,196</u>	<u>(615,590)</u>
Net movement in funds	32,401	458,795	491,196	(615,590)
Fund balances at 1 April 2010	286,534	47,321	333,855	949,445
Fund balances at 31 March 2011	318,935	506,116	825,051	333,855

All income and gains for the period are recognised above. All of the charity's activities are classified as continuing. The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

Financial Report

Auditors Statement to the Trustees of Hastings Trust – We have examined the summarised financial information set out here.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors – The trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable UK law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement with the full annual financial statements, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of s.427 Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

Basis of Opinion – We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the company's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion – In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full financial statements of Hastings Trust for the year ended 31st March 2011.

Mr Mark Cummins FCCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor), For and on behalf of
Russell New Limited, Statutory Auditors,
The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding,
Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN

Our Major Partners & Trustees

1066 Enterprise
Amicus-Horizon
Baxi
Big Lottery Fund
The Bridge Community Enterprise Ltd
British Gas
British Heart Foundation
Campaign for Better Transport
East Sussex
Care Co-operative
Castle Ward Forum
CDFA
Claremont Studios
Coastal Currents
Community Fruit and Veg Project
Creative Media Centre
Citizens Advice 1066
DC Cleaning
Department for Children Schools and Families
Development Trusts Association
East Sussex County Council
Ecofab
Energise Hastings

Emmaus
Fellowship of St Nicholas
F-ISH Creative Trust
Gaby Hardwicke
Gensing and Central St Leonards Community Forum
GRETA, Normandy
Hastings and Bexhill Economic Alliance
Hastings and Rother Credit Union
Hastings and St Leonards Excellence Cluster
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust
Hastings Advice and Representation Centre
Hastings Arts Forum
Hastings Borough Council
Hastings Community Network
Hastings Adult Community Learning Forum
Hastings Furniture Service
Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust
Hastings Voluntary Action
Hastings Youth Council
Her Majesty's Courts Services (Hastings)
Horizons Community Learning
Isabel Blackman Foundation

Job Centre Plus
Kenward Pullen
Low Carbon Trust, Brighton
Mencap
Ore Valley Forum
Ore Valley Action
Ore Village Community Land Trust
Parchment Trust
Project Artworks
Pathway to Construction
Poundland
Respond Youth Academy
Rother Voluntary Action
Rother Homes
Russell New
Scope
Sussex Coast College, Hastings
Tesco
Timothy Jemison Associates
Tivoli Auto Services
Tomorrows People Trust
Travis Perkins
Tudor Trust

University Centre Hastings
Visionary Soap
WAVE Co-operative
White Rock and America Ground Business Group
White Rock Hotel
WRVS
Xtrax

The Hastings Trust Trustees

Richard Beeching
Anne Brooks
Esther Brown
Christine Francis
John Hodges
Arthur Kitson
Dean Morrison
Sue Musgrave
Maureen Nelson
Alan Privett

Photo: James Rose



working with and for the community

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t: 01424 446373 f: 01424 436740 e: post@hastingstrust.co.uk w: www.hastingstrust.co.uk



Special dedication to Steven Potter 1959-2011 sadly missed, fondly remembered.

Registered Charity No: 1007410. Company Limited by Guarantee: 2540333.

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