



the Hastings Trust
People · Place · Prosperity



Trust Talk.

Spring 2012

www.hastingstrust.com



Alan Privett, Trust Chair (rt) with Martin Shillam Trust volunteer

In February Trust staff, Trustees & volunteers visited Brighton community hubs & creative centres to see what could be learned for the Trust's ambitious new plans to help Hastings. See page 2.



Phil Jones, Managing Director of Wired Sussex



Brighton Library



Mel Bonney-Kane, Executive Director



The Skiff, Brighton



Inside New England House, Brighton

Click on the captions to go to the websites



the Hastings Trust

People • Place • Prosperity

The Trust celebrates 21 years.

Welcome to the latest edition of the Hastings Trust Newsletter.

The Hastings Trust is coming of age – in some ways it's hard to believe that the Trust has entered its 21st year, but now when we look back at all the projects and initiatives we have been involved in over the years.

In preparation for our coming of age Trustees made the decision to bring in external consultants to work with the staff, trustees and stakeholders to review the organisation and look to the future. Thanks to funding from central Government's Transition Fund we were able to secure Nick Ewbank Associates who have been working with us since September 2011.

Part of this review led us to reconsider our Vision and Mission statements and Trustees have confirmed that:

Our Vision is of a place of connected, creative and sustainable communities that people are proud to be a part of.

Our Mission is to identify and create opportunities for people to work together, improving the quality of local lives now and for the future.

One of the exciting visual aspects of our 21st birthday year is the development of a new logo and strapline for the Trust – a challenging brief for any designer, but Danny Grando of Design Crew ably fulfilled the brief and we successfully launched our new public image at May Day in the town centre, thanks to the support of Howard Martin from Bike 1066 and Arrow FM. Our promotional film was shown on the big screen in Harold Place more times than I care to remember! The film was made by Fenella Dganje, a student at the University of Brighton in Hastings, and directed by Simon Hedges. It shows the staff and volunteers of the Trust articulating our new vision and mission statement. [Click here to see it.](#)

Our 21 years have seen changes in the way that charitable organisations are funded and can operate, the development of new models of social enterprise activity, the need for a more commercially aware and competitive 'third sector' and the need to seek our sustainable funding futures to safeguard and maintain core operational delivery. We need to develop an approach which both secures organisational resilience and community resilience, helping to ensure our own position in Hastings and

continues on page 8 – [click here to go there](#)





Community Enablers.

Funded by the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities fund our project provides supported volunteering, work placements and integrated training to community groups and small businesses. It connects local individuals, groups and employers to build community capital, confidence and aspiration.

Six paid workers, Heather, Steve, Ben, Sam, Dee and Jodie, are supported by trained volunteers and L-earn employees. We welcome more involvement in the activities below as well as new ideas and suggestions.

Employability

Visionary Soap Company

Sourcing volunteers for Visionary Soap fair trade enterprise to assist with all aspects of production. As this newsletter goes to press we are arranging with Avanta for a new intake of local people.

Pathways to Construction and Ecofab

Helping prepare for June 23rd at Alexandra Park incorporating the Ecofab competition to design an ecofriendly training pod (see page 7) to be based at The Bridge.

L-earn (ESCC funded multi-agency project headed by HFS)

Paid work with training for 16-18's to prove their employability with support in deciding their next steps, whether college, apprenticeship or other work. This year, following a successful pilot, 10 jobs with accreditation became available with six vacancies remaining. Currently employed is Jack Badrock, who works in our Resource Centre, and three others at HFS.

Community Learning

Support for Horizons Community Learning CIC and the wider 3rd sector helping to promote and fund accredited Teaching and Counselling courses, training for individuals and voluntary sectors reps.

Resource Centre activities See page 4

Heritage and Environment

Old Roar Ghyll

Sourcing volunteers to help with pathway extension for this local nature site.

Old St Helens Church Dig.

Staff and volunteer support for Easter Community Dig of one of the oldest surviving buildings in Hastings – Old St Helens Church.

Garden Project with Brighton Housing Trust

Teaming up with staff and young people at BHT to improve the garden of their supported housing. Two residents have designed spray art for the wall with input from Inspire Community Art & Design Studio. A barbecue and seating area are being designed and created. Paul Buck and Gerard from The Bridge are advising on a vegetable plot.

Arts & Culture

Hastings Marshals

Supporting MSL Projects, 18 Hours, & Sussex Coast College Hastings in a new initiative with other partners to recruit and train volunteer marshals for big events on the Stade and elsewhere over the summer.

Hastings Youth Council

The Youth Council with Community Enablers raised over £230 in aid of sports relief on Saturday March 24th.

Reminiscence Writing

Reminiscence Writing workshops incorporating Dickens' bi-centenary year celebrations tutored by Maureen Connett at Hastings Museum.

Junkanoo, Inspire and F-ish writers

We promoted and supported community funding bid rounds and congratulate all 3 groups on their success.

Contact Heather for more info and to get involved.
heather@hastingstrust.co.uk 01424 446373

Innovative Finance.

Since 2007 we have agreed 2,016 loans with a value of £931,794. The value of the loans outstanding is now £395,778 (1,414 Loans).

We offer loans to those who cannot get loans from the main financial institutions.

Our first loan was agreed in February 2007. Demand remains high but over the last year the rise in the cost of living has reduced the number of loans agreed. To ensure our project's future, which depends, of course, on the ability to repay, we are strengthening our lending policy and building stronger customer relationships.

Our service meets a real need: we have helped all kinds of customers, both working and not, for a wide range of reasons (increasingly for rent deposits).

During the early days of Innovative Finance, we helped

a young homeless woman to secure accommodation. Her loan was repaid successfully; she became settled, has a family now and is working: she was able to turn her life around and she continues to borrow with us.

Many more have been helped towards training certificates like SIA, CSCS, fork lift truck test, driving lessons, and subsidising those returning to work for the first month, for example, with new clothes and travel expenses.

We are also looking at more Social Enterprise lending to help small business development.

Brian Tanner and Rhonda Ellard, CDFI Loans

Resource Centre.

The Centre provides a wide range of opportunities to local people in many different ways.

Jack Badrock, Centre Volunteer Receptionist

An all time high was reached for the number of visits to the Trust's Resource Centre during May 2011 to April 2012: 8703 recorded in comparison to 7369 in the equivalent 2010-2011 period, itself the previous highest number.

Why has the Centre more visitors?

The Centre is already an established community hub with

Everyone at the resource centre is here to help and they will go over and beyond to do all they can for every customer. The Resource centre provides so many services and drop-ins to help and improve the community, it also has a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Jay Hancock, Centre Receptionist

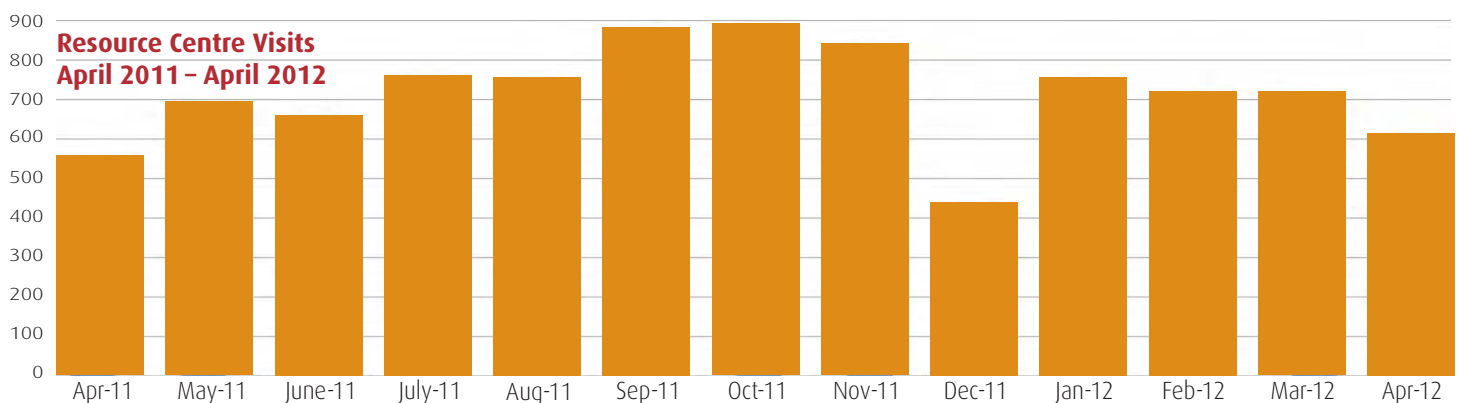
a reputation for friendliness and effectiveness, which has helped increase use of already existing services: **Community Enablers** (see page 3) has continued to offer weekly careers advice on Thursdays and at the Monday Club; the latest job vacancies are on display with free job searches on the web; there are many enquiries

about loans (see **Innovative Finance** above); and colour printing and internet access are very competitively priced.

Added to these firm favourites is the Friday computer club created and run by Gail, a dynamic new volunteer. Her impressive success with the club helped her to go on to become a member of the Neighbourhood Enablers team. In addition Teresa from the National Careers Service will be extending the Thursday careers advice sessions by Community Enablers throughout the summer.

Resource Centre Staff

The Centre has also been blessed with outstanding volunteers and paid members of staff. Recently three volunteers, including Gail, have gone on to join the Neighbourhood Enablers team – see former volunteer Caroline Huey's comment on the next page. The Centre can provide: experience, training opportunities and confidence boosting that can be the springboard to a job for volunteers seeking work or an outlet for retired people with expertise to donate to the community.





Neighbourhood Enablers.

April 2012 saw the launch of the Neighbourhood Enablers initiative. This is a partnership project from The Hastings Trust, Hastings Furniture Service, The Rye Partnership and Rother Voluntary Action and is funded by HM government's Social Action Fund.

The project has employed a team of eight and has developed a Level 2 Award accredited by NCFE. The main focus of Neighbourhood Enablers is to recruit, train and support non-traditional volunteers, who will in turn recruit additional volunteers to develop projects for locally identified solutions to local needs and issues.

The emphasis of the projects will be on social action opportunities that could include, for example, community clean ups, befriending schemes or work clubs. There are four Community Capacity Builders situated across Hastings and Rother, two dedicated Training Officers, a Project Co-ordinator and Project Administrator. The enthusiastic team are already working with local groups on projects including; working with a group to secure funding to purchase and/or build flower boxes to display in communal spaces and on railings in their neighbourhood; to run parenting courses for parents in conjunction with the Parents Support Advisory Service, the courses are accredited Level

1 and Level 2 and will cover topics such as sexual health, behaviour management and communication skills; setting up a weekly drumming club seeking to improve music skills, confidence and to provide children and families access to affordable music tuition.

The Neighbourhood Enablers initiative is funded for 12 months and we look forward to bringing you many success stories throughout the year. To find out more please contact Deborah Townshend on 01424 446373.

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Battle & Rural: **Caroline** 07943 094303
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Training Officers: **Gail Lalljee & Barry Thomas**

Project Co-ordinator: **Kristian Garnett**
kristian@hastingstrust.co.uk



I'm delighted to be given the opportunity to be part of the new volunteering Neighbourhood Enablers initiative and look forward to seeing how the resulting exciting projects celebrate the spirit of pride and ownership that is currently flourishing in our unique community.

Caroline Huey





Oasis is now, since April 2012, fully independent from Hastings Trust having achieved its own charitable status as Oasis East Hastings Community Group - we wish them all the very best in the future

OASIS

We continue to deliver activities, health information, information on other organisations events and attend meetings, helping to make decisions on local community activities. One of our most popular activities in the last six months has been reminiscent sessions, followed by a lunch (provided by Sandown School) and afternoon table games. The sessions turned into fascinating discussions on what life was like years ago. Stories unfolded of what furniture people had when they had their first home, what clothes they wore in the sixties, their school days or who lived or worked around Ore Village. These sessions soon became a weekly event and we hope to bring them back along with family history sessions

In the last few months especially, we worked with more organisations to deliver services to residents, and attended many more meetings including coffee afternoons at sheltered housing blocks managed by Amicus Housing Association, Police Panel meetings for Baird and Tressell and Ore Valley Forum monthly meetings. We put in teams for quizzes run by 'The happy Crew' in the Ore Centre and run by 'Ore in Bloom'. We worked with the Fruit and veg project in running their weekly stall at the centre. We delivered joint cooking sessions of 'Cooking on a budget'; Gaye Feltham, our Information worker, gained the funding, and local residents who attended sessions learnt how to cook tasty, low cost food. Our staff attended meetings to help organise the Ore Valley Festival with Amicus Housing, East Hastings Children's centre, Hastings Borough Council, In2play, Orbit Housing Association and local residents. And talking of local residents, we would like to say that without the support through the volunteer work that residents give, Oasis Community Project could not deliver so many activities and assistance to the community, so we would like to say a big thank you to



Volunteers Val and Ann helping out at a Health Morning

those who have given their time to attend meetings, deliver newsletters to other residents, write and ask quiz questions or help at events that we organise.

All of our activities will soon be able to be seen on our new website that Gaye, one of our Information Project workers has been developing. Gaye has been working hard on the website to show all of our outings, events and activities. The website will be updated to show our range of activities.

Along with regular mail-outs sent to residents giving details of our activities, we also send out health information to support health awareness campaigns. This is backed up with regular changes of health displays in the reception area. One of our information workers, Lauren, researches the health subject and puts up an informative display, so please do take a minute to look on the Oasis notice board when you are next in the Broomgrove Community Centre.

Many of the outings are featured in our new leaflet, which was printed in November 2011. We designed the leaflet to show the range of activities we deliver and the range of age groups we work with. For those that have known Oasis for many years, you may also notice that with our new charity name, we have a new logo, chosen by the Trustees. Our Trustees and staff are also sporting this logo on our new T-shirts and fleeces.

**Jackie Gaunt Co-ordinator
Oasis Community Project – East Hastings**



EcoFab

On Saturday 23rd June from 10am-4pm Pathway to Construction returns to Alexandra Park, Hastings. This is an action-packed day for all the family that celebrates and showcases the skills and opportunities in the construction industry and the built environment – focussing on eco construction and sustainable technologies. Hastings Trust takes a lead on co-ordinating the event as part of the Interreg Ecofab project – a cross-channel project that facilitates local contractors, students and traditional craftsmen from the UK and France to come together to demonstrate their skills and share best practice.

There will be more than 30 exhibitors from both the UK and France and lots of hands on demonstrations like bricklaying and plastering, flint cutting and straw bale building and information about solar power and energy conservation – in fact something for everyone!

Our French partners will be bringing their model eco-house to illustrate practical eco construction and will be participating in the Eco-pod challenge – a cross channel competition to design an Eco-pod training room for the Bridge Community Centre. Teams from England and France will have just 24 hours to come together and realise their ideal model before presenting it to the public on 23rd June.



schools and sponsored by local contractors to build a scaled house. Schools confirmed so far include William Parker working with George Stone, Hastings Academy working with Westoaks, St Leonards Academy working with Booker & Best and New Horizons working with Willmott Dixon.

And finally for primary schools the 2012 challenge is to design a 'Model' School using recycled or re-used materials – the finished models will be on display throughout the day and prizes for both the competitions will be presented at 3.30pm.



There will be diggers and dumpers, workshops and demonstrations, challenges and play activities, delicious food and lots of entertainment and music from local young bands. There will also be a special 'pop up' performance by the internationally acclaimed company Close Act who will be presenting their spectacular Pi Leau on the Stade later in the evening – Pathway to Construction 2012 is back even bigger and better!

To find out more visit www.pathwaytoconstruction.co.uk



The day also sees the welcome return of the school House Build challenge – the culmination of a competition held for local secondary

All pictures from last year's EcoFab event



Director Overview.

(continued from page 2)

St Leonards, which in turn enables us to continue to build community capacity, develop local skills and employability, create work opportunities and contribute to the ongoing regeneration of the Borough.

We are in the process of working with partners to explore options for a new physical development for the Trust, which will provide flexible work and social networking space, sustainable income streams for the Trust and its communities, spaces where people can come together, share ideas and inspiration, learn and work and socialise in a high quality but accessible and usable environment conducive to collaboration and innovation.

Trustees, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders have been undertaking study visits to similar 'hubs' or creative energy and activity – on our annual 'everyone awayday' we visited Brighton where we saw the **Basement**, the **Jubilee Library**, the **Skiff**, **New England House** – all very different options, but all providing inspiration to what could be achieved. We have also visited spaces in the North – **Woodend Creative in Scarborough**, the **Round**

Foundry in Leeds and the **Fruit Market** in Hull (not yet developed but raw space with exciting aspirations).

We are devoting much of our time to developing a strategic partnership to develop our outline vision for this 'hub' into a feasible project proposition for which we can then seek to generate the necessary investment – this is not something that the Trust can or would seek to do in isolation – stakeholder and community buy in is imperative if we are to create a focal point for community innovation that will inspire to achieve.

Times are hard for organisations such as ours as we endeavour to support improving quality of life for the people of Hastings and St Leonards but we know that there is an ongoing and pressing need for our work and therefore staff, trustees and volunteers are committed to doing whatever it can to secure the future of the Trust for at least the next 21 years.

Mel Bonney-Kane, Executive Director
May 2012

Click on
the **blue**
organisation
names to go to
their websites



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