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# Trust Talk.

Summer 2013 [www.hastingstrust.com](http://www.hastingstrust.com)

## Message from the new Hastings Trust Chair



**I have been part of the board of Hastings Trust for over 3 years and during that time I have seen the community sector and local landscape the Trust operates within change. Hastings Trust has been around for 23 years and has adapted and changed**

**to the environment in creative ways. We have opened up a space to think about the direction the Trust, and caused the Trustees and staff to really analyse what is the role of a Development Trust in this Town. The Board needs to consider its roles, responsibilities and commitment to deliver for the people of the town. I love a challenge and so I have taken on the role of Chair.**

I am incredibly passionate about the role of community in the regeneration of the town and feel that the people who live here need to be at the heart of its decisions. I want to work with local people, agencies and groups to make things the way that THEY want them.

I was inspired by the Save the Hasting Pier campaign as it is a clear example of the local community coming together to act for change around an issue that was considered impossible to solve. I have been studying community engagement and enterprise as part of a PGCert run by Juliet Millican and CUPP for the Government's Locality programme. This has really opened my eyes to the opportunities that could be realised by the town and given me a renewed perspective by finding successful methodologies to support communities to change things for themselves.

The current environment is tough, the austerity measures (i.e. cuts) and changes to the benefit system are having a dramatic impact on a large part of the community in Hastings. With all that said, there is an opportunity for true collaboration and innovation in the sector. A social enterprise business model rooted in 'self help' would provide the area with a stable organisation to support community-led regeneration and development. It is not going to be easy, but I want to get stuck in and make the Board work!

The Trust is exploring a number of new partnership projects; the biggest of which is the regeneration of the old Observer building in the town centre. We are in discussion with the private sector owner to look at models of working that would see this building restored and in use for the people of the Town.

**Esther Brown**



# Community Enablers.



**Hastings Marshals**

MSL 18 years

South Coast College Hastings

the Hastings Trust



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# Community Enablers: Goals.

**In November 2010, Hastings Trust launched Community Enablers, a 3-year project funded through the BIG lottery fund's 'Reaching Communities' programme. The project ends in October this year.**

Community Enablers aims to build community confidence and aspiration by linking local residents to community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and private businesses to create active opportunities to improve the quality of community life, increase individual aspiration and employability.



The team has worked with local people to identify their aspirations, develop their skills and then link them, where appropriate, to opportunities within the community such as volunteering, work trial placements and community projects. To help provide these opportunities local organisations have also been supported through guidance with risk assessments, health and safety, insurance, funding and access to specialist help.

We welcome more involvement in the activities below as well as new ideas and suggestions

## Goals for November 2010 to October 2013

- At least 100 local residents each year would be helped to become more skilled and active, making a positive contribution to community life, through improved access to training and development activities.
- 100 local residents each year would be helped to make active contributions to community life through improved access to community based and led activities leading to stronger and more active communities.
- At least 15 local groups each year will benefit from increased involvement from local people leading to stronger community and more active/skilled residents working together to improve the quality of community life.
- At least 50 local people each year would be helped to improve their chances of gaining employment and overcome barriers to active community involvement through accredited training and structured community placements.

## Outcomes as of April 2013

- To date 243 local residents helped
- To date 258 local residents helped
- Already 46 groups have been supported
- To date 133 have been helped and over 50 have had some paid work.

# Community Enablers: Scope

Since the launch in November 2010, over 500 local individuals, groups and employers have participated in wide ranging activities such as developing their businesses, hosting and participating in volunteering and placements, undergoing training, learning and development, sponsorship and other activities . Here's a brief account of our work over the last 12 months

## Employability

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

Paid work with training for 16-17 year olds to prove their employability with support in deciding their next steps, whether college, apprenticeship or other work. Our new employees enthusiastically and creatively supported our Resource Centre and other projects taking up accredited and other training and development opportunities and already further work on leaving for some.

### **Job Centre referrals**

Continued referrals from Job Centre, to find work placements, volunteering and other opportunities.

## Community Learning

Providing a range of training for the community including Data Protection, IT training, Participatory Community Research with representation on the Hastings & Rother Adult and Community Learning forum feeding into the formation of a Learning and Skills Strategy for the area.

## Community Aid

### **Broomgrove Children Centre**

Every Wednesday volunteers go to the Centre to help carry out any tasks including indoors painting, cementing, and outdoors maintaining green areas, creating play areas, addressing health and safety issues, etc.

### **Ore Community Centre**

The Community Enablers team with volunteers are helping with all tasks to improve the centre through painting and decorating as well as attracting more users.

### **WRVS**

Organising voluntary support, monitoring and addressing issues, agreeing action plans to motivate and skill the volunteers.

### **Participatory Appraisal Training**

Community Enablers hosted an introductory seminar for organisations in the Hastings and St. Leonards area to explain Participatory Appraisal (PA) the process that identifies the needs and wishes of communities and organisations using easy and democratic tools to gather the information. We are recruiting people for this and subsequent training opportunities.

## Heritage and Environment

### **TCV & Green Gym Volunteers**

Begun 5th November 2012 every Monday with other days available TCV (The Conservation Trust) & Green Gym volunteers help with environmental projects.

### **Pathway to Construction and Ecofab**

Helping prepare for Pathway to Construction on June 22nd at Alexandra Park and gathering more ideas for the Ecofab project (see page 12).

### **Old Roar Ghyll**

Completion of Old Roar Ghyll with Hastings Borough Council, with Park Rangers and volunteers. The public will now be able to enjoy this wonderful green space.

### **Garden Project with Brighton Housing Trust**

The Garden Project with Brighton Housing Trust continues to progress with Dee McRedmond (who replaced Jodie Cornford while Jodie was on maternity leave): residents Liz, Gail and Lucy are community volunteers growing garlic, onions and carrots and preparing for 'own grown residents meals'.

## Arts & Culture

### **Hastings Marshals**

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

### **International Women's Day**

The Community Enablers team supported a happy celebratory 10th March day organised by Junkanoo who promote inter-cultural understanding through carnival costumes and other forms of art. There were around 100 people, information stalls, music, dance, fundraising and lots more.

### **Printmakers Company**

Volunteers were busy painting and decorating ready for the official opening in March of the Printmakers Company, learning new skills along the way. Hastings' only fully equipped printmaking studio and workshop where users can practice screenprinting, mono, etching, lino, woodcut and litho printing.

**For more information & to get involved contact  
heather@hastingstrust.co.uk tel: 01424 446373**

**And click on  
[www.hastingstrust.com/Community-Enablers.html](http://www.hastingstrust.com/Community-Enablers.html)**

## The Community Enablers team



Heather Smith

Sam Skinner

Ben Browton

Steve Shonk

Jodie Cornford

Gail Lalljee

Caroline Huey

# Community Enablers: Stories.

*'...definitely helped with skills via the training'*

**Steve Abbott** ...

From volunteering on all these different projects I have found that I have a great sense of achievement and it makes me feel proud.

If I wasn't doing this I would start to doubt myself, with nothing to do.

These opportunities have made me feel so much better about myself, and it gives me the chance to bridge a gap, whilst looking for work.

*'...opened my eyes to the local arts community'*

**Neil Banks (aka River)**...being involved in volunteering has helped keep me active; it is nice to do work for the community, it gives sense of achievement, especially when we complete our task. It also gives me something to look forward to, and focus on.

Whilst not having a job, this makes me feel needed. From my volunteering at Old Roar Ghyll, I can use the Certificate received from Sussex Wildlife Trust, to say I have been volunteering for 6 months, which will help with future job prospects.

It also gives me the chance of meeting a lot of good people, professional and others in the same situation as myself. It helps to get your face known, people get to know you and how you work, and you get to know all the different agencies. And hopefully this could lead to me being considered for vacancies.

**Sam M.** started with Community Enablers in May 2012, having recently returned from working in France. He then attended the Hastings Marshals training at Sussex Coast College Hastings and volunteered during the summer on Stade Saturdays events. He gained his BTEC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision in August. He volunteered as Door Supervisor for the Trash Cannes festival in October, and has since been seeking full-time work. He now has paid work with a local digital printer and as a maintenance person for a local amusement arcade.

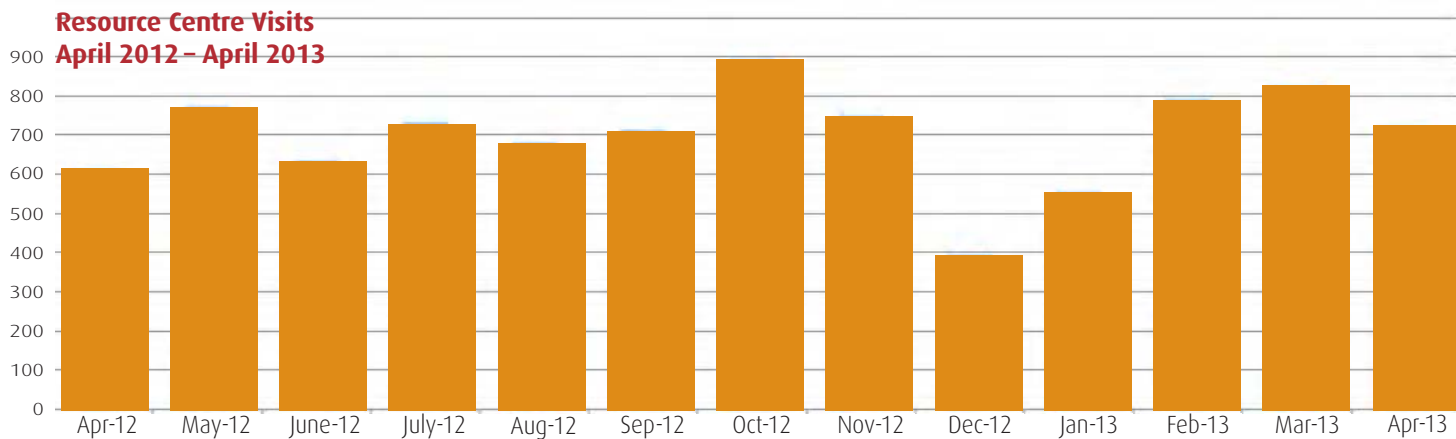
*'I've learnt creating a plan of action really does get things done'*

**Anon client** is volunteering at The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to help set up and organise their first official office and will be doing admin support for them once all is sorted. She is a recovering cancer patient who suffers from severe fatigue, and volunteering at TCV allows her slowly to prepare for her return to the labour market whilst indulging in her love of conservation.

*'...helped me connect with other people'*

**Lara Beadle**...Had been a stay at home mum for several years and wanted to start work but had no experience. She was given support to create a CV that highlighted the strengths, skills and experiences she had developed through being a parent, which gave her the confidence to start planning what she wanted to do. This led to her taking a food hygiene course through Hastings Trust and she is now a catering technician for local primary schools.

*'...the opportunity to develop my employability'*



# Resource Centre.

**In the period April 2012 to April 2013 there were 9083 recorded visits to the Centre.**

## Who uses the Centre?

Along with Community Enablers and Neighbourhood Enablers Job/Computer Clubs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, we also facilitated and accommodated FREE of charge the Centre to outside organisations: National Careers Service offered all day Thursdays; Credit Union Mondays am and Fridays pm; Home Work's and other organisations use our service to meet clients' help with housing problems, form filling, etc. We provided sign posting, information, guidance, grant applications, IT support, general assistance, training and skills for life. Job searches on the internet are free – between April 2012 and March 2013 there were 2718 job searches an increase of nearly 19% on the same period in the previous year. The Resource Centre is a welcoming, cheerful relaxed place where people feel comfortable in asking our help.

## Volunteers

We currently have 7 amazing Volunteers donating their time, skills, energy, passion, devotion and commitment in the Resource Centre and Projects who have contributed in excess of 1023 hours of service in the last year to the Trust. The Resource Centre could not function to the high standards of personal care and assistance we provide to service user without volunteers.

## L-EARN Trainees

The girls from the L-EARN Project have come on so far from when they started; all of them have lots more confidence and all love being at work. Most of the L-EARN Trainees that have just left us have found

Employment or apprenticeships. I am so proud of them and us.

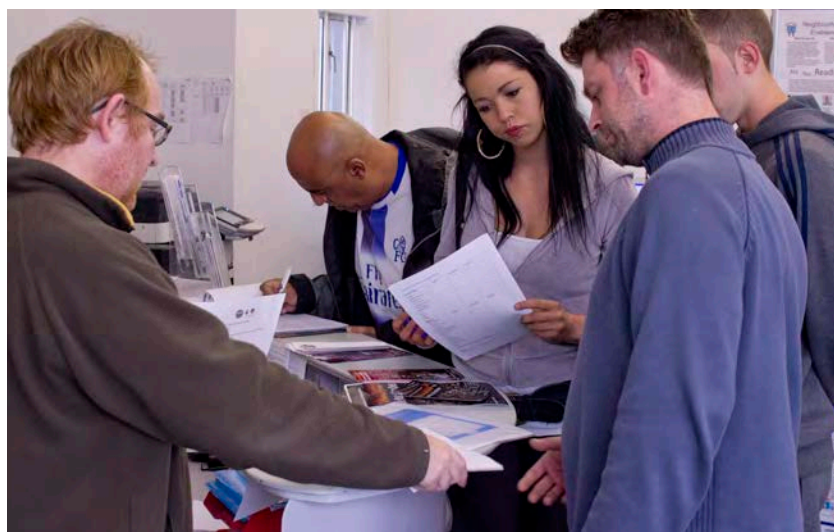
To learn more about L-EARN click on [www.hastingstrust.com/Community-Enablers.html](http://www.hastingstrust.com/Community-Enablers.html)

## Planned activities

We have a rolling exhibition (about every month) at the moment showing the work of Adam Fisher (18) a young very talented local artist. We aim to hold about another 10 shows this year. All shows will also have a special guest visiting rather than a private view. East Sussex County Councillor Dowling visited our last Show by Rebecca Youssefi.

The Resource Centre is an integral part of the Hastings Trust, not only for the Community Resources Services we provide but as a place of hope, inspiration and success for people, local organisations and businesses in the local and not so local areas (Eastbourne, Brighton, Kent).

## Indra, Resource Centre





# Trust Charity Shop

After being given the go-ahead for my idea for a charity shop at 34 Robertson Street and we had only four days to get the shop opened, find stock, shop fittings, clean, sort and organise. My team of amazing volunteers did the most perfect job and it could have not been done at all without everyone working as a team, helping out where possible, both in the charity shop and in the Resource Centre. Many thanks to them all for all their hard work and dedication.

We are very affordable, friendly and well worth a visit.

We are open 10 am -4.30 pm Wednesday to Friday and 11 am-4pm Saturday

Donations are always needed.

**Indra**



All pictures from the shop's March 23rd opening day



# Neighbourhood Enablers.



Supported Living

The Bexhill Project, 181 London Road  
warmly invites you to our

## LOCAL COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

On Sunday 19th August 2012  
10am - 2pm

Come and join the team and residents at our open day to help raise money for local charities. There will be a table top stall, fancy dress car wash, lucky dip, treasure hunt, local firebrigade demonstration and an art exhibition.

If you have any further suggestions for fundraising please contact  
**Ron Daly on 01424 810301**

If you are interested in setting up a table top to sell some of your unwanted items, please contact Ron Daly no later than Monday 6th August 2012.





# 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.

Neighbourhoods Enablers supported 40 community led projects in its first 12 months. 344 volunteer enablers were directly recruited and trained who in turn recruited a further 650 volunteers.

The project employed a team of eight until end of March and developed a Level 2 Award accredited by NCFE. Community Enablers are continuing to deliver the project in line with the original application bid until end of August. 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 is on social action opportunities that could include, for example, community clean ups, befriending schemes or work clubs. Until March this year there were four Community Capacity Builders situated across Hastings and Rother, two dedicated Training Officers, a Project Co-ordinator and Project Administrator. The enthusiastic team worked 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; running parenting courses for parents in conjunction with the Parents Support Advisory Service, the courses were accredited Level 1 and Level 2 and 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.

Other initiatives include:

## Bexhill

### Thursday Night Youth Club

Developed by young people. There are 13 volunteers involved who will be running the club, providing support and maintaining it for the young community of Bexhill

## Hastings

### Learning Zone

Working in collaboration with 3 primary schools

the project provides extracurricular literacy & numeracy for children and is exploring ways to provide adult learning to parents so families can learn together. Six volunteers are involved directly.

## Rye

### Recycle swap shop

An opportunity for people to bring unwanted goods to community venues and take away what they need. Items pass hands locally rather than going to landfill outside of Rye.

## Battle

### Asten Fields

An Environmental initiative to plant trees on a housing estate with 6 volunteers looking at a maintenance and care programme engaging with residents to take ownership of this.

Other numerous projects included:

**Caravan project** formed by young people in foster care. It's official now ESCC are contributing £30K to buy a new caravan.

**Allergy Support group**... 'We now have aims, objectives and focus. Absolutely brilliant!'

**Driftwood Mirrors** Yes, mirrors made from local driftwood... 'So many smiling faces in one room.'

To find out more please contact Heather Smith on 01424 446373.

The Neighbourhood Enablers team comprised until March 13th

Hastings & St Leonards: Barry Cooper

Bexhill & Rural: Pete Relfe

Rye & Rural: Flora Williams

Battle & Rural: Caroline Huey

Training Officers: Gail Lalljee & Barry Thomas

Project Administrator: Jay Hancock

Project Co-ordinator: Kristian Garnett

The project is supported by Community Enablers until August 13th

# Innovative Finance.

**Innovative Finance is a Community Development Finance Institution, offering small low cost loans to those who may have found themselves financially excluded from normal banking channels. Applications are open to those on low incomes, we lend responsibly, and are a cheaper alternative to doorstep lenders.**

The past year was one of the most challenging for us. In order to keep our expenditure to a minimum we reduced staff even further, we strengthened our lending policy, and reduced our drop-in sessions from two days

**Innovative Finance has lent £576,000 to 1,950 people over the past five years**

to one, but despite being inundated with enquiries and applications for our loan scheme, the Board of Trustees, and Management team, decided that we should for the foreseeable future cease lending.

I continue working alongside our volunteer, Rob, in an administrative role, collecting money owing and recording data.

**For the year beginning 1 April 2012 we completed on 243 new loans, totaling £93,242.10, making the average loan around £383.71.**

**Rhonda Ellard, CDFI Loans**

Hastings Trust has held many exhibits over the years often showing how human-made and natural forms interact





# EcoFab



## Pathway to Construction

part of the Interreg Ecofab project returns to Alexandra Park on Saturday June 22 from 10am – 4pm.

This annual event is co-ordinated by Hastings Trust and showcases the skills and opportunities available in the construction industry with a focus on eco-construction and renewable technologies.

We are very pleased to have the continued support from local business including George Stone Ltd, Booker & Best Ltd, Westoaks Builders and Trade Paints as well as sponsorship from Jewsons, Parker Building Supplies and Amicus Horizon.

With lots of hands on demonstrations and activities Pathway to Construction is a fun-filled day for all the family, with a particular highlight being the School House Build Challenge. So far four schools have signed up for the challenge: William Parker, Hastings Academy, Bexhill High and Blacklands Primary but it isn't too late if you want to get involved – for more information

contact [sally@hastingstrust.co.uk](mailto:sally@hastingstrust.co.uk)

[www.pathwaytoconstruction.com](http://www.pathwaytoconstruction.com)

[www.hastingstrust.com/EcoFabulous.html](http://www.hastingstrust.com/EcoFabulous.html)



All pictures from last year's Pathway to Construction



# The story continues.

**We find it difficult to see the connections between the things we do and their relationships to the place and time in which we do or observe them. Not only do we find it difficult to see the pattern of things done or ongoing in the context of space and time but even more so to see them in relation to the wider problems that we have to confront: in society, the economy, in our own environment and in the relationship with nature, in or through our own work, locally, regionally and globally.**

The thought of trying to do so boggles the mind. But we get glimpses when we see reflections of the wider scene, whether a local context or even the world. How can we get better at seeing the things we do as microcosms? As reflections of the world that are also agents of change? And together with other closely related activities; in housing, for example, as one aspect of place-making, together with infrastructure and complementary land uses?

In order to see any particular set of actions in context we need to identify, talk and work with those with whom we have to cooperate to gain a shared understanding of what those interrelated actions are – and how they work together within the particular field of action and with other fields involved, energy, tools and material production and distribution, money and the law, for instance.

As John Turner describes, what we believe about the world creates our lives. The Board of Hastings Trust has agreed to plan a Legacy Process. The Trust will capture the learning from the last 23 years of the Trust's impact in Hastings and St Leonards-on-Sea. We are lucky to have the Trust's first Director, Nick Wates, as a Trustee to lead the process. We want to hear what your experience has been of the Trust, its work, how it did it and who with. Collectively, we have created a story about the organisation, Hastings Trust, in its context, the Borough of Hastings – let's tell it to the world!

**Leslie Brissett, acting Trust CEO**

In other words, we need to see a pattern of the interdependent things we do in space, time, our own culture and made environment and nature. With a basic vocabulary we have a structure: the 6 elements of a coherent story of

which we should all have been made aware at primary school: What it's about (the subject), Where and When (the context) and Who, How and Why (the process). We all know that a story is incomplete and unsatisfactory when any one those six 'honest servants' as Kipling called them, are absent. Whether

aware of an absence or not, we tend to fill in the gaps from our own imagination, changing the story, of course.

This evidently built-in mental story making structure is also the basis for any scientific explanation or hypothesis. So my suggestion is that any programme of action must adopt a framework based on this fact as the base for practical work which provides the vehicle for doing so – and avoiding A N Whitehead's warning of 'displaced concreteness' in which the model becomes the reality.

**John Turner**

**John is a former Trustee with a global reputation in housing development – for more information click on <http://globalurbanist.com/2012/01/24/inspiring-urbanists-john-turner>**



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