

Towards HASTINGS 2000

30p May 1995

Back from the future with the news that really matters

Editorial

"The god's red eye looks angry.
Why has everyone come to a stop?"

(from "Town with a hole in the heart" -
Margaret Rose, page 7)

Or have we? The articles in this paper for 1995 are based on real-life initiatives in May 1992. They are not utopian, unrealistic or without precedent elsewhere. There are many other local initiatives by Hastings residents for which we do not have space here, with more in the pipeline soon to see the light of day.

Hope is unfashionable in times of crisis, but these are times of opportunity as well as risk. This paper's "back to the future" vision of our town puts the present in a new light. As we all learn to work together, in partnership, increasing numbers of people will gain confidence and influence through co-operation at all levels. Local community and business initiatives are gaining support from the Borough and County Councils. Going, but not yet gone, are the days when community groups bickered between themselves, while community-based ideas and actions were hijacked by local authorities, dispiriting and impoverishing society. The most cost-effective way of using public funds is to promote and enable self-managed initiatives by local groups. For example, while Hastings Trust and BT took an enabling role in the production of this newspaper - local initiative, neither of them managed its actual production.

The apathy and resentment of local people results from poor communication and mystifying decisions and actions by remote authorities and professionals. This 'top-down' approach is being increasingly challenged by local people's initiatives world-wide, often in countries where active citizens risk violent suppression. Even our own privileged and tolerant society is becoming aware of the need for community-based initiatives, given the escalating costs of centralised services which so often ignore local needs and knowledge. Learning to form the three-way partnership between public, private commercial and community sectors is essential, if we are to make fuller and better use of our human, material and financial resources. Hastings Trust works on this premise. (See *Sleeping Beauty awakes*: page 5.) As the Hastings Trust is in negotiations for other project funding at this time, it is inappropriate to publish future projections.

Opportunities abound for Hastings, and for Rother too. How many relatively small places in the world possess so much natural and architectural diversity, such a wide variety of people and activities? And is Hastings not one of the most famous places in the English-speaking world? Now is the time to make a future that is worthy of Hastings' past!

The Editors

May 1992

Send your comments to the Editors c/o Hastings Trust

Acknowledgements

Our grateful thanks go to the following:
Sponsors: BT whose grant paid the newspaper's production costs. Hastings Trust, enabling organisation for this project.
Contributors of articles, photos, photomontages, cartoons and illustrations, whose work is credited individually.
Editing & Production: Beth Turner, Christine Goldschmidt, John F C Turner
Typesetting & Design: Chris Pyle
Advertising Manager: Andrew Griffin
Advertisers who showed their faith in Hastings' future.
Printers: Cinque Port Press, Unit 7, Castleham Road, Castleham Industrial Estate, St Leonards-on-Sea TN38 9NR
Special Thanks to Michael A. Franks for the original idea.
Publishers: Towards Hastings 2000 © April 1992
c/o Hastings Trust, 58a High Street, Hastings, TN34 3EN
Tel (0424) 446373/440909 Fax (0424) 434206

Printed on recycled paper



The proposals and ideas expressed here are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of BT or Hastings Trust



Watch This Space



Result of competition! Winning design to be unveiled in Town Centre next week

BIG BUZZ IN TOWN CENTRE

The Hastings Networking Centre in the ex-Observer building opened its new rooftop restaurant and conference facility last week with two floors yet to convert. The Centre's Manager said, "We opened in time for the Urban Regeneration Symposium, meeting in our new conference suite. The Centre is a shining example of what can be achieved by the right approach to partnership."

After a tour of the foyer, Coffee House, book shops, Urban Studies and Community office, and peering into some workspaces, the Manager explained the Centre's history.

A search for office and meeting space for Hastings Environment Forum grew to include facilities for business and voluntary bodies. The semi-derelict Observer Building in Cambridge Road was targeted, and the idea of managed workspaces included, as it offered 35,000 square feet of reusable space. The location is ideal: a nearby multi-storey car park, railway station and buses, and within walking distance of most homes. The layout allowed varying sized work units with space for community groups.

Research

Market research was required to show the need for such a Centre. BT offered a grant for an economic and resource study, which showed that many people worked from home - in spare rooms, sheds, broom cupboards - more through necessity than choice. Shops or workshop space were too big or expensive or inflexible. They valued informal trading links with near-

by businesses. Light industrial unit estates were too isolated. Local groups just couldn't afford set-up and running costs.

Potential tenants were extremely diverse: graphic artists, photographers, plumbers, carpenters, office services, optical instrument makers, dental technicians, musical instrument makers, upholsterers, jewellers, artists, weavers, print makers, computer technicians, designers, writers, a local radio station - the list goes on.

18th Century Coffee House

Under the guidance of Regeneration Limited, creators of 40 similar schemes in Europe and country-wide, the managed workspaces took shape. The central open foyer with direct public access invited people to enter the building and use its facilities without disrupting people's work. A revived 18th century concept, the Coffee House, was the first area to be

Turn to page 2



From Page 1

converted, along with the foyer. It is now a thriving meeting place where people exchange information.

Finance

Financial sources to develop the building were structured as a three-way partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors. The Borough Council endorsed the managed workspace as a suitable use for the building, but had no funds. Commercial developers were laid low by the recession. So the voluntary sector put the financial package together.

The Working Party set up by Robert Tressell Workshops and the Hastings Trust, combined their expertise in reviving buildings, management, and access to funding. Initial funding from the European Community, Department of the Environment and the Department of Trade and Industry, made full use of Hastings newly-acquired Urban Deprivation, Assisted Area status.

Informal Trading

A Management Team was created. Work began on the foyer and Coffee House with

a combination of professional builders and volunteers, a pattern to be repeated throughout. A carpenter offered his skills in exchange for reduced rental, as did an electrician and a plumber. BT provided a high-tech communications system - logging each call, taking messages, with Fax and modem lines for electronic communications. A security company part-financed a card-lock system, giving tenants 24 hour access to their units. Security guards were provided by a firm who wanted space in the building.

Within 6 months, the central office, foyer, Coffee House opened, decorated with works of art loaned by a sculptor and some artists displaying their work. A rehearsal and recording studio set up in the naturally sound-proofed part of the basement - with the engineer himself doing most of the work for reduced rental.

The "In" Place

A local restaurateur took on the Coffee House concession. Soon it was "the" place to go, equally for superb coffee and food, as for the information and social ambience. Potential tenants popped in for a quick look

and soon met other enthusiastic tenants. After an informal chat with the Centre Manager, they discovered the flexibility of units and finance, no premium, monthly license, servicing, equipment and advice on tap, it was usually a question of "How soon can we move in?"

Finances eased over the next 2 years, as developed units financed the next conversions. Local banks provided low interest credit, with the Borough Council as guarantor. Several major grants financed the Centre's staff, the Urban Studies Centre and the Community office, shared by local groups including Hastings Environment Forum.

Networking

As the building filled, the new buzz word around the town was: 'Networking'. People used each other's goods and skills without going outside the town - or even outside the building. Trading partnerships were easy: a graphic designer just popped down to the printer's to discuss requirements, combining it with a side-trip to the Coffee House - mutual territory - mutual benefit.

**Christine Goldschmidt
Hastings Trust**

works that support them. This was not understood in Hastings when we started.

3-Way Partnership

In 1991 the Observer Building was still unsold, and by 1992, seriously deteriorating. We made a proposal to maintain and use it for an initial period of two years. Finance was obtained from the local business community, an interest-free loan from BT and support from the Borough Council. We went into partnership with the Hastings Trust, Robert Tressell Workshops, Council officers and politicians, and formed the first management company.

Enabling Developer

My own company, the Regeneration Trust, Clerkenwell, is a specialist charity that acts as the external catalyst capable of bringing development partners together and carrying the original concept through its early management to the refinancing stage - at which point it sells its shares and moves on. In this way, Regeneration has developed many pioneering projects across the country over the last 20 years, from Portsmouth through Brixton and Clerkenwell to Toxteth, East Glasgow and Fort William. Indeed, our first development - in London's Clerkenwell, two recession's ago - won one of the first Business and Industry Awards.



Old Observer Building 70 workspaces with shared services for 200 working people

DIY DEVELOPMENT

This week, we, the founder directors and principal shareholders of the Hastings Observer Management Company, will sign the last of the documents transferring our interests to the new Hastings Community Development Corporation, which is to take a full lease on the Observer building. It marks an important stage in the life of a project that many said would never happen.

I was invited in 1990 to come to Hastings through a friend, and started working on the Observer building because of our shared belief in the strength of local initiatives. Five years ago, the big property companies were expected to be the saviours of run-down town centres. Less than two years later, those that were still solvent were all in serious trouble with their bankers..

Local Economic Networks

This development is a response to the frustration felt by many of us about the results

of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. Governments talked about ozone layers, global pollution and the problems of the Third World, but little was said about the growing economic role of the community sector in the First World - despite dependence of Third World development on reduced energy use in the First World. We wanted to prove that local economic networks, with their roots in the community, were both flexible and strong enough to make a significant contribution to the conservation of resources and the economic health and wealth of the whole town. I think that we have succeeded.

We have proved that the strength of Hastings' local economy - as is always the case - lies in its flexible trading networks and the links back to the community net-

ROBERT TRESSELL IS ALIVE AND WELL

Robert Tressell Workshops (RTW) began in 1987 by converting a former British Rail warehouse, near the Town Centre into 24 workshop units and renting them to new small businesses and voluntary organisations on affordable terms: low rents, monthly licenses, one month's deposit, and no premiums to pay

A similar project, the Southwater Centre in St. Leonards, occupied in 1990, accommodates voluntary organisations, training for disadvantaged people, and artists and craftspeople's studios.

In 1990, RTW enabled the development of several disused buildings, in co-operation with Hastings organisations and funders. RTW purchased the leaseholds or freeholds, renting out the spaces for multiple use, with tenants responsible for their own spaces.

The ex-Observer building in the Town Centre is the largest of these. Hastings Trust identified its potential in 1991, and negotiations started late in 1992. By 1995, the building was coming on stream, offering services complementary to RTW: flexible workspaces, a public Coffee House and shared services for businesses that had reached lift-off. (See **Big Buzz In Town**, page 1).

Acquiring Skills

Disadvantaged young people learn social, vocational and practical skills, combined with hands-on work experience, enabling them to hold down jobs. Hastings Borough

Commercial Premises

OLD OBSERVER WORKSHOPS

Hastings Networking Centre
Old Observer Building
Cambridge Road, Hastings

Small units on easy in easy out tenancy arrangements

Units range from
200-2500 sq. ft.

A unit suitable for two people
for around £50 a week.

No Premium. No long term commitment. No complicated legal paperwork. No credit enquiries. No hidden extras.

Inclusive rental covers rates, central services, building insurance, maintenance and repair, caretaking, parking, reception and message taking, use of canteen, meeting space, exhibition and display area and free advisory service. Photocopying and typing at cost.

You decorate, fit out and maintain your own unit - we look after the rest.

Award

A new refinancing package justified the hundreds of hours of time and effort that went into getting the whole project off the ground. It was quite a struggle, but last year, we received a coveted national Business and Industry Award and we knew we had made it.

The Observer building, now the Hastings Networking Centre, has over 200 people in 70 units, and is affectionately regarded locally. It demonstrated what can be done by any community when they are equals in a three-way partnership with the public and private sectors. I am proud to have been associated with such a worthwhile project.

**Michael A. Franks, Chairman
The Regeneration Trust, Clerkenwell**

Council funded the first session for 10 people in 1988, who found jobs in catering, garages, local parks, the Museum and with local builders.

By 1995 the scheme has 25 trainees with in-service training tailored to 1993 Euro-standards for catering, hotels and related service industries set out by the South East England Tourist Board, a consortium of Eurotunnel, 6 ferry companies, other tourist boards and 26 local authorities, including Hastings.

Small Business Advice

The RTW Community Enterprise Unit, funded by Hastings Borough Council, advises and trains people setting up small businesses. Each year, over 400 individuals receive free advice and many groups learn a variety of skills. Free services are sponsored by Hastings Borough Council and the European Social Fund, and a small charge must be made for other services.

New Co-ops

Despite the depressed climate of the 90s, RTW gave start-up support to 3 new co-operatives and a community business.

Women setting up in business are assisted through the European Social Fund. Childcare is paid for, opening the way for mothers of young children, who are highly motivated and committed. Women have set

Turn to page 3

From Page 2

up a health and safety consultancy, a nursery, a training service and a sandwich-catering round.

Riviera

The seafront Riviera Gallery, opened in 1991 in space loaned by Hastings Council was assisted by RTW. The ex-fish and chips bar is now a popular art showcase and a magnet for British and European art-lovers.

Who was Robert Tressell?

And who was Robert Tressell - he who lends his name to the RTW? His real name was Robert Noonan, a house painter, decorator, sign-writer and campaigner for social justice. His world famous book, "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists", written in Hastings in 1908, told of the impoverished house painters and decorators who sold their skills to the rich for next to nothing. One encouraged the others to change their lives. But convinced that being poor was their "place" in life, they felt powerless to do so. RTW takes up Robert Noonan's challenge, giving people the skills and confidence which enable them to take control of and to improve their own lives.

Nick Hutchinson

Robert Tressell Workshops



750

and an awful lot more to go . . .

Since 1991 Hastings Renewal have assisted over 750 owners to repair and improve their homes, many with grants from the Council. But we know there are plenty more owners still desperate to get their homes properly repaired and improved.

2000 by 2000AD?

HASTINGS RENEWAL SERVICE

Home Improvement Agency for the Neighbourhood Renewal Area and across the town.

- COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS
- TRAFFIC CALMERS
- PARTNERSHIP PROMOTERS

48 HAVELOCK ROAD HASTINGS TEL (0424) 721992



SUPERTRAM: SUPER SERVICE

The first timetabled "Supertram" began services between Hastings Old Town and Bexhill during October, 1995. It marked a turning point in transport planning and reversed a trend which was threatening to choke our town to death. Combining Supertram with a Park & Ride scheme has allowed private car users to take advantage of these super-sleek, silent, non-polluting tracked vehicles whose acceleration and riding qualities are second to none.

Green Light

The scheme, a mixture of private capital investment coupled with a rad-

ical new County Structure Plan, was initiated back in 1992, when traffic congestion in the town reached crisis point. So, along with many other towns in the country, such as Manchester, Hastings gave the green light to the project costing £44 million.

Supertram provides a vital link between the Old Town and Bexhill, with a stop at Port Saint Leonard, the new, £222 million Marina complex, to be built on reclaimed, derelict land in Bulverhythe.

Benefit for all

Now the full benefits of the combined changes are being felt, such as unclut-

tered streets, cleaner air, and a user-friendly service that makes life in the 90s that much more tolerable. With its platform entrance at near road-level and its wide sliding doors, entering is simple and smooth for pushchairs and wheelchairs. And don't worry if the tram is full, there is always another tram coming just behind!

Our traffic-calmed seafront offers reduced risks and more enjoyment for everyone. Families can once again walk briskly along the seafront taking in the fresh, clean sea air untainted by carbon monoxide, while delighting in our coast's unique visual beauty. Cyclists can safely pedal along their own cycle track between Hastings seafront and Bexhill, safely separated from both traffic and pedestrians.

Mike Turner



Fast, safe, cheap and environmentally friendly

DRAWING BY MIKE TURNER

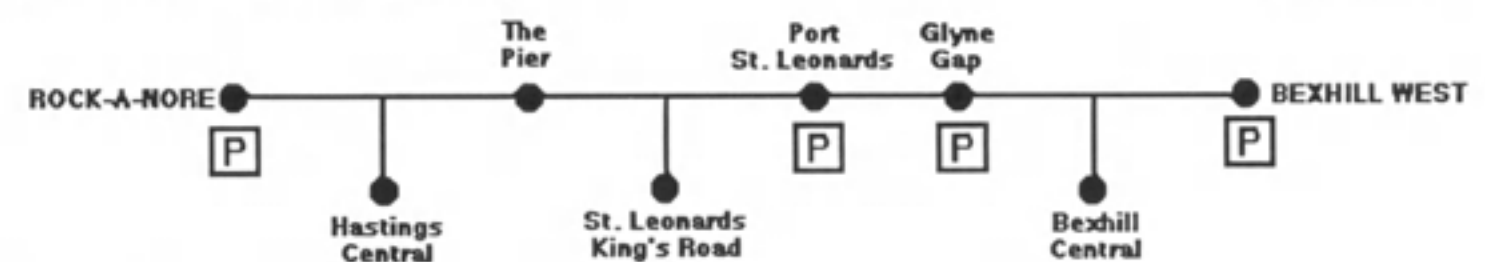
PARK & GLIDE

The Hastings Supertram Company have today lodged proposals with Hastings & Rother Council for the extension of their successful Supertram Route. The proposals describe a fully integrated transport system running from Rock-a-Nore in the east to the western end of Bexhill seafront by the Year 2000. The Supertram will link new parking zones to the main shopping and tourist areas.

Health

The Hastings Supertram guarantees its transit system will transfer you from your car to the shops in ten minutes. Gliding noiselessly along the attractive seafronts of both resorts, the Supertrams are an added amenity. Further reducing the volume of car traffic and fumes along the seafront road, along with further traffic calming, make it a healthful, pleasant promenade for all to enjoy.

Supertram Travel Vouchers are sold at nearby shops for a flat rate fare of just 50 pence, including parking - half the cost of the limited parking in the Town Centre. Each Supertram has an easily accessible storage rack for larger purchases. The Supertram serves not only car drivers but is a vital link in the public transport system moving shoppers, tourists, school children and language students in modern, comfortable, clean and silent tramcars.



Supertram Routemap

Tramcar Code

Initial fears about safety have proved groundless, thanks to carefully designed buffer zones and strict observance by the drivers of the tramcar code which meant a smooth initial phase for this new age transport.

Trade Boost

The first stretch of Supertram has proved a tourist and shopping boon for Hastings with local traders delighted at the revived trade they are now enjoying. The Supertrams have lured people away from the multi storey car park and shopping mall - a concept increasingly rejected by shoppers, and towards this friendlier, more natural environment where they are not surrounded by concrete, neon and plastic trees.

The map shows the proposed route with main stops including Bulverhythe, site of the proposed Port Saint Leonard and main parking areas.

James Risbridger
Hastings Renewal Services

"Best Seafront" - Official!

Hastings has made the best improvements to its seafront of any other English resort, according to a report just published by the Civic Trust, assessing the work of the English Tourist Board (See Hastings wins tourism 'Leo', page 10). Widely regarded as "tacky, barren and soulless" less than five years ago, Hastings seafront is now "one of the most stylish, pleasant and interesting" it claims.

Seafront Design Guide

The dramatic improvements are partly the result of several major initiatives including a new Supertram, traffic calming made possible by the opening of the bypass, the Hastings Pier development programme and the proposed new port facilities. But an essential influence has been the Seafront Design Guide drawn up by Hastings Urban Design Group in 1992 and adopted by the Council a year later. Constantly updated in response to public comment, the Guide pinpoints opportunities for imaginative initiatives. It also introduces new, high standards of

design both for improving historic buildings and for new buildings and street furniture.

Public, private and voluntary sector initiatives since the Guide was published include:

- Lush evergreen landscaping, particularly in car parking areas
- Upgrading street furniture to quality cast iron and hardwood
- Replacing motorway-style streetlights with promenade lighting
- New floodlights highlighting the best buildings at night.
- New colour schemes for pavilions and bus shelters in blue, silver and white replacing reds and browns
- Removal of all roadside railings(replaced by cycle track buffer zone).
- Pavilions with cafes and shops on the beach side of the road
- Restoring features on Georgian and

Turn to page 4

From Page 3

- Victorian seafront terraces
- Restoring the best 1930s and 50s promenade architecture including the underground car parks.
- New flagposts and banners advertising the town's main events and attractions.
- New pavilion with audio-visual exhibition on Burtons' St. Leonards opposite the Royal Victoria Hotel
- Promenade link to harbour arm and back into the High Street
- Facade revamp of eyesore buildings
- Refurbishing Bottle Alley now used for summer weekend art markets

More improvements are in the pipeline. The Old Town boating lake and amusement area will shortly be transformed into a recreational water garden, fed by the Bourne stream.

Civic Trust

"The effect has been to make the seafront far more popular with both residents and visitors and to attract additional private investment", states the Civic Trust report. "The whole ambience has changed. It is now possible to really enjoy being by the sea instead of feeling cut off from it by noise and traffic fumes. Hastings seafront now rates as one of the best in the country."

Nick Wates

Urban Development Consultant

HASTINGS RIVIERA

For years, the many artists of Hastings had talked constantly of the need for a community art gallery where local people and visitors, artists and craftspeople, school children and adults, art lovers and the just plain curious could rub elbows and find out more about this thing called art. Workshops for school children and the public would help to draw in more people year-round.

But you don't get a chance unless you take a chance. By the summer of 1991, the recession had left its gloomy mark on Hastings - shops were closing down all over town, and the ex-fish bar was just one of many vacant shops which stared blank-eyed at passers-by. But its location in Pelham Crescent, below St. Mary-in-the-Castle church, made it stand out from the rest. "A smashing location for an art gallery," was the buzz among local artists. With initial help from the Robert Tressell Workshops, they organised themselves into the Riviera Gallery Association. They approached Hastings Borough Council who gave them rent-free use of the shop, temporarily until December 1991.

Art For All

Immediately the place was a hive of activity. With no external funding, artists and well-wishers banded together to donate materials and their labours. Stripping out, repairs, and lots of white paint inside and out, a new sign and a smart logo quickly transformed the old shop into the Riviera Gallery. A volunteer rota was organised, maximising the Gallery's opening hours. Administrative help was provided by the Robert Tressell Workshops.

The Riviera Gallery Association was set up as a non-profit making organisation, still without outside funding. An Administrator co-ordinated people, events and the running of the building. Representatives from Hastings Arts, the Southwater Studios, Hastings Museum, the HBC Arts Development Officer and Robert Tressell Workshops, made up their Steering Group.

An exciting programme of shows and events was quickly assembled, and the Gallery took off like a rocket. There were shows by local artists, travelling shows from Europe, crafts shows, arts

workshops for school children and adults - the list is long and varied. Local organisations used the Gallery as a special events venue, such as the formal launch of the Friends of St. Mary-in-the-Castle.

Paying Their Way

December, 1991 came all too soon, just as the Gallery was hitting its stride. The campaign to keep it open captured the public's imagination, inspiring massive local support. Petitions were circulated, signed and passed on to the Council at great speed. Public demand prevailed, and the Council agreed that the Gallery should continue until September, 1992. An Executive Committee was elected from the membership, at the first AGM in January 1992. The Gallery continued to be self-financing, paying its way with Membership fees, commissions from sales, rents from exhibitions and events, sales of postcards and books, and operating with volunteer staff. Meanwhile, they attracted the support of local business people, who were interested in helping them to get sponsorship and funding.

By September 1992, the Gallery had become extremely popular, and funding had been achieved by the Friends of St. Mary's. The Council viewed this magnificent bit of Regency architecture as one unit, so a special, reduced-rate lease for 5 years was negotiated.



Riviera Gallery draws the crowds

PHOTO MONTAGE JOHN F C TURNER

South Coast Magnet

By 1995, the Riviera Gallery, a firm fixture of Hastings life, was also a magnet for visitors of all types, from London, Europe and the wider world. Together with the converted St. Mary-in-the-Castle church, it has made Hastings the premiere arts centre of the South Coast. The Riviera's experience has much to teach about the three-way partnership between local

people, the council and business. The Gallery cuts across social barriers, attracting many who are put off by "Art with a Capital A". Its roots are deeply within the community, where local people took direct, positive steps to make their own dream come true. The Gallery has brought immeasurable benefit to the town's self-image, reputation and finances.

Beth Turner

Hastings Pier - Our Glittering Prize

Hastings Pier will soon take its rightful place as a first-class, all-round tourist attraction. Our Pier is being transformed into a magical and major feature of the town, dazzling to view either from land and sea, by day or night. There will be a wide range of entertainment, enjoyable by all ages and types of people. Top artistes will come to perform in its top-class venues.

Older visitors recall the days when a pier was a "must" in any family holiday seaside resort. Tradition and nostalgia are compelling themes and other resorts spend substantial resources restoring their piers.

Hastings Pier Preservation Society

In 1989, the Hastings Pier Preservation Society (PPS), started with an active programme for achieving initial improvements and a long term vision for the Pier. Happily, this is already taking shape, with the essential support of the Pier Company and many other groups and individuals.

Facelift

The beautiful Art Deco facade, once abused by much overpainting, advertising signs and sheer neglect, is once more fully restored to its former glory. The original colour scheme of turquoise, saffron and biscuit is so evocative of the changing colours of the sea at sunset. How wonderful once again to see the correct time on the integral clock (destroyed by wind and weather) now crowning the facade in its original position. No one can fail to admire our Pier's new face-lift, or resist the impulse to come on board for a visit. The brass band concerts in the new shelter centred in the forecourt provide a lively background for families visiting the Pier's entertainments and shops.

Paddle Steamer

The landing stage and reception for boat passengers at the seaward end of the Pier, closed for over 20 years, is once again restored. Now families can take to the sea in boats operated by independent companies which have sprung up. But these boats must steer clear of the magnificent Waverley paddle steamer as it docks at the Pier on its regular coastal cruises. The Waverley provides a magnetic tourist attraction - the sheer fun and enjoyment of sailing on her, not to mention generating much welcome additional local business.

Holidaymakers approaching the Pier from the sea are now greeted in a style worthy of a leading South Coast resort. The cheery cafe/bar, sheltered walkways and brightly coloured flags and awnings are a welcoming sight. It is painful now to recall the once hideous view presented by the Pier's seaward end; a tangled mass of twisted ironwork and builders' paraphernalia, backed by a forbidding corrugated facade.

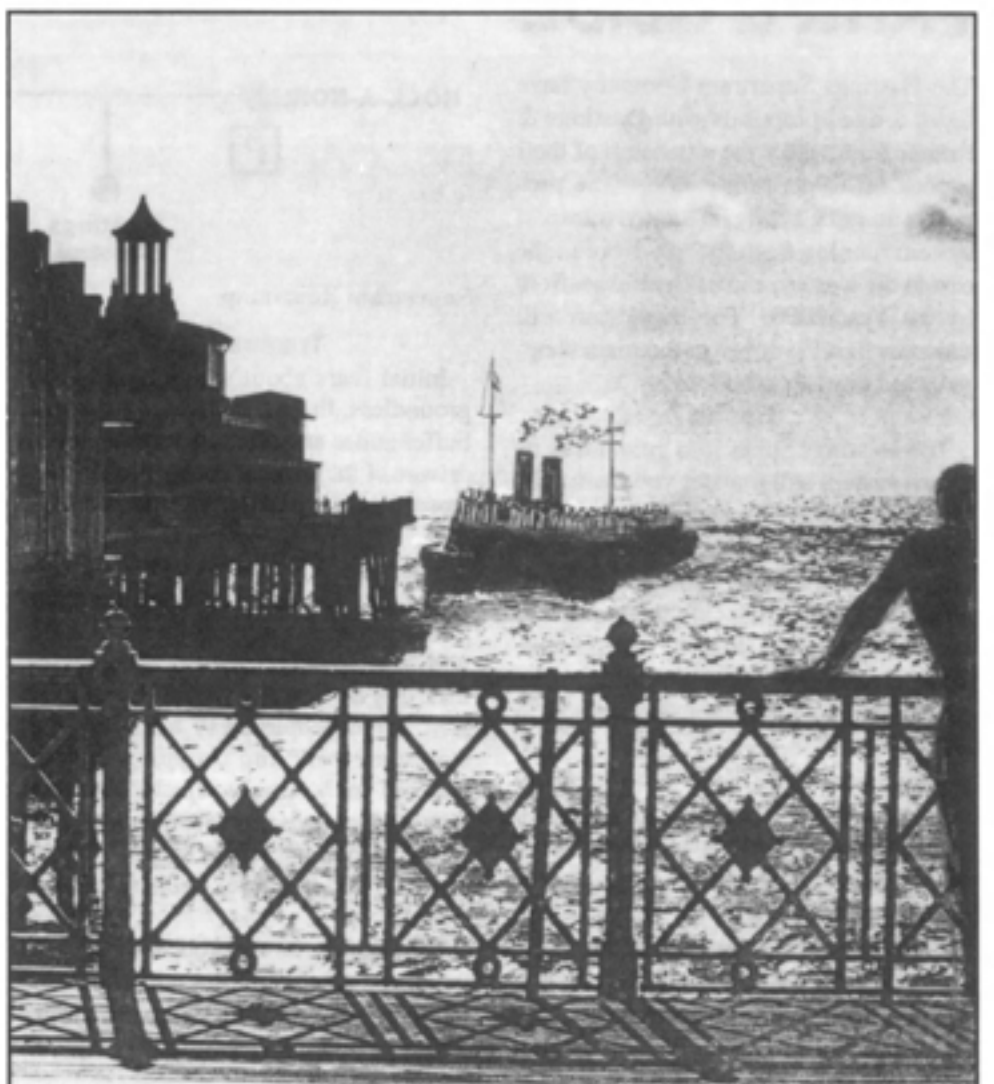
Cinderella's Ball

Looking into my crystal ball to the turn of the Century, the Year 2000, your seaside soothsayer sees a complete, dramatic transformation. Given the financial and physical support that the Pier Preservation Society has enjoyed so far, a wonderful prospect unfolds.

Our Pier is a Cinderella, completely revamped, glitteringly dressed with an illuminated outline by day and night, in full structural, decorative splendour. Amusement and entertainments, restaurants and loos to international standards. Everything redecorated in colour and style appropriate to the original design. The Pier is, once again, a centre for all kinds of family entertainment, from Try-Your-Luck gaming machines to the latest bands or theatrical events - from Bingo to Shakespeare. People are visiting Hastings from far and wide just to see and visit the Hastings Pier, our crowning jewel.

Stan Lodder

Hastings Pier Preservation Society



Coastline cruises from Hastings' revived Pier

MONTAGE SARA PAYNE

SLEEPING BEAUTY AWAKES

St. Mary-in-the-Castle

Sipping a cool glass of white wine in the bar of the renewed St. Mary-in-the-Castle on a warm, sunny June evening, I reflected on the transformation during the 1990s of the popular image of Hastings. Changes had not occurred overnight. Indeed, they were slower in coming than many would have liked. Perhaps the turning point was early in 1992, when a controversial attempt to convert St. Mary-in-the-Castle, a splendid Regency building into a "1066 Experience" with talking dummies relating some rather dubious history, collapsed when the promoters pulled out for lack of funds. It had been a near thing.

FOSMIC

Fortunately, the townspeople had built up a head of steam and an alternative plan was drafted by a voluntary group, Friends of St. Mary-in-the-Castle, to use St. Mary's as a multi-purpose centre for meetings, conferences, music and drama and various competitions. Creating the Centre had been a slow, step-by-step process. The Borough Council, had spent more than a million pounds to save the disused building from collapse, and were desperate to find a financially viable use – in extremely difficult economic times. The voluntary group, FOSMIC, took on the job of finding sponsors who would share their faith in the future and finance completion of the building, giving it a new life.

Up-Market

This signified the turning point. After decades of decline, Hastings was to shake off its reputation as either a day-trippers resort, or where visitors spent no more than a night or two. Hastings was moving decidedly 'up-market'. Gradual improvement in hotel facilities coincided with the realisation that visitors were now more sophisticated, and able

to compare what Hastings offered with other experiences abroad. They wanted something better than burgers, ice-cream and plastic souvenirs. A more civilised, realistic approach to what resort towns ought to offer at the close of the Twentieth Century also brought a better quality of life for those who actually live here all the year round.

White Elephant

But was St. Mary's doomed to be an under-used white elephant, a splendid piece of architecture for which few practical uses could be found? Once the restoration work had been completed, people flocked in to use it in a variety of ways, from professional seminars held under its astonishing plaster dome to youth clubs and language schools meeting in the basement. At last the town had a suitable setting for an event known around the world – the International Hastings Chess Tournament. St. Mary-in-the-Castle's central position on the seafront, the large car park opposite, its spacious interior, its marvellous acoustics – all played a part in making it not only easy to get to, but a positive joy to be in. How many public buildings, in Hastings or elsewhere, can boast that?

I looked around the Centre's bar-restaurant, a thriving undertaking, open from ten in the morning and serving good food and drink until late into the evening. At a nearby table sat contestants from a badminton tournament which had taken over the main auditorium for that evening. At another were artists whose work was being exhibited in the Gallery on the seafront, a conveniently-located show-place through which visitors must pass on their way into the Centre. As always in June, there were plenty of foreign students who found the Centre a convenient meeting point. A student

youth orchestra from Holland had performed here during the week, following in the footsteps of many other ensembles for whom the White Rock Theatre's auditorium was simply too big.

The latest issue of the magazine, "What's On At St. Mary's?" listed a three-day meeting of travel industry representatives to discuss ways to attract more visitors to South East England. All evenings during the following week were taken up with a variety of performances. A Theatre in the Round, for which the Centre might have been purpose-built, would be on for three nights, followed by a brass band concert and, for those with quieter musical tastes, a string quartet. A pop group was performing at the week-end and the regular Sunday lunch-hour pianist provided a relaxing atmosphere for visitors and those local residents who pop in regularly for a drink and a snack.

Unique Qualities

The glories of its late Victorian and Edwardian past cannot be recaptured. But Hastings has at last gained confidence from its unique qualities. And it has taken the lead in learning to work in partnership between the local authority and publicly-generated ideas. It has now taken its rightful place as the thriving artistic, cultural and sporting centre of the South Coast – a region with more to offer than anywhere in England. What a far cry from the 1970s and 80s when the jewel that is Pelham Crescent, with St. Mary's at its centre, seemed doomed to rot behind a facade of seafront shops, overshadowed by an amusement arcade!

David Wheeler

Major Gallery

Redesigning and refurbishing the Hall was planned and completed in just over a year. The impressive result provides the town, and the South Coast, with a new major art gallery with extensive wall space, free-standing display panels, and flexible and appropriate lighting. It also makes an ideal setting for the Museum's permanent art collection, and most travelling exhibitions.

A unique and useful feature is the multi-media visual arts reference library now available for use by local schools, students and visitors to Hastings. Private sponsors who do not wish their names to be made public have financed this welcome addition.

The simple, welcoming reception and shop area stocks an excellent range of books, posters and postcards on the arts. And the upgraded coffee bar makes a pleasant place to take a break.

Art of the Sea

The Tate Gallery travelling exhibition, 'Art of the Sea', features an extensive range of famous paintings showing how British artists have responded to the sea. Also featured are key works from the Tate's own Turner collection, along with works from 20th century artists, many of whom have either visited or lived in Hastings. The exhibition is wide ranging, and the catalogue well presented. The exhibition is a must for anyone who loves the sea in all its moods. And that includes just about everyone!

Roger Gates

HASTINGS LOCAL RADIO

Back in 1992, it was hard to see much beyond the trial licence stage in August that year. There was no doubt that a radio station unique to Hastings and St. Leonards would be a success, but so many avenues to be explored! Utilising the vast amount of talent in the town was difficult in the space of a single month. We had a strong and helpful major sponsor, Wilmoth's Rover Centres, a well established local garage group. Their financial help had secured the temporary licence.

In the Heart of the Community

The following year saw the full 8-year licence being awarded to Hastings Local Radio. Suddenly, all those visions for the future became reality. Installing the studios and main office in the old Observer building ensured the station would be in the heart of the community in every sense. The building was nearing completion after extensive renovations which transformed the then decaying building into a town focal point and a networking hive of activity.

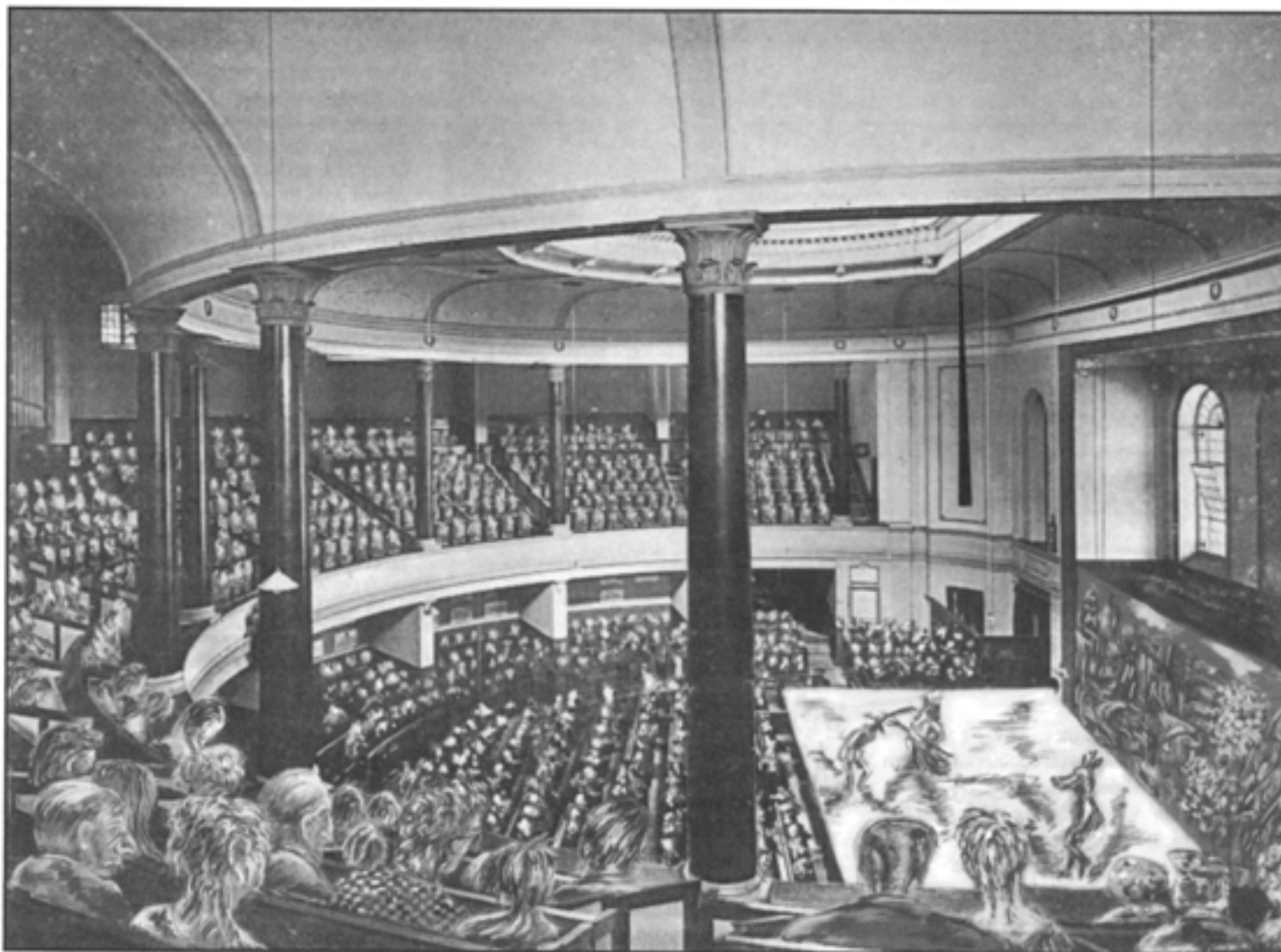
Community Programming

The adolescent stages of Hastings Local Radio had been exciting but critical. There was so much to learn about the town and its people. We had a mass of programming information, gathered from extensive research. So, we decided to set up a Community Programming Committee, made up of various townspeople. They compiled a broad selection of programme ideas and features which looked highly promising. Local businesses gave us an enthusiastic reception, and we had a large number of advertisers and sponsors eager to reap the benefits of such a powerful local communications tool.

Open Air Policy

From Day One, in January 1994, when we went on air, things seemed to slot together like a jigsaw puzzle. Listeners knew exactly what they wanted, and we poured out hour after hour of music, local features, arts programmes, discussions and locally-generated radio drama. Promoting tourist attractions and local events, Hastings Local Radio became an integral part of the town. Our Open Air policy enabled people from all areas of the community to air their views and ideas about Hastings & St. Leonards. This generated positive feedback, and constructive and instant communication rapidly led to a strong local awareness, encouraging everyone to care about their environment.

Turn to page 6



Performance in the new St. Mary's multi-purpose centre

DRAWING: IAN HUNTER

Falaise Art Gallery Opening

Last night Hastings' new Falaise Art Gallery opened in the former Falaise Hall, with a major touring exhibition, 'Art of the Sea' on loan from the Tate Gallery, London.

Converting Falaise Hall into an art gallery was decided in principle by the Council eighteen months ago. Since the Hall was costing over £70,000 a year, and standing

empty much of the time, the Council wisely decided that it must be more intensively used.

Expanding Space

Transferring the art collection from the Museum to Falaise Art Gallery has proved a positive move for all concerned. The new Falaise Art Gallery provides more

than four times the exhibition space of the Museum. In turn, valuable space has been released in the Museum and it is possible to show many more of the fascinating items in their collection which previously were locked away in storage. Now the Museum can also take advantage of the many excellent travelling exhibitions.

From Page 5

Today, it is hard to imagine the town without its very own radio station. It is heartening to know that so many people have forgotten what the dial on their radio sets does, as it sits very much locked into the HLR frequency. But we are not complacent as we look toward the Year 2000. The remarkable success of the station clearly indicates the diversity of culture and tourist appeal that our wonderful town and its surrounding area has to offer our country, Europe and further afield. Hastings & St. Leonards is very much on the map, and the compass points toward another 5 years of prosperity. Hastings Local Radio sits in the heart of all this, making our town unique and complete.

A.D. 1992

Hastings Local Radio launches its trial broadcast this summer - starting on August 1st, 1992. There is still time for more programming ideas from the community - tell us yours! We will be offering low-cost radio advertising for local business, but hurry - ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF BOOKINGS ARE LEFT. For more information about advertising or any aspect of Hastings Local Radio contact Mark Briggs (00424) 461 683 or write to us at our studios at:
PDC Copyprint, 7 Bank Buildings, Station Road, Hastings TN34 1NJ
Mark Briggs
Station Manager, Hastings Local Radio

You may not have seen us - yet: a small magazine, circulation 2000, issued free and voluntarily run. Three, quarterly-issues so far: hopefully entertaining and informative. Local environment topics and community groups are the focus. . . .

HERE & NOW

. . . is the title. 2000 is the key. By that year we hope to be an institution. If you want to help us grow contact 0424 882085 or 814255 be you reporter, fundraiser, distributor, typist or tea maker. All are welcome.

VOLUNTEERS CONSERVE ENVIRONMENT

Woodlands Project

In the 1980s, a number of small woodlands within Hastings were derelict, vandalised, and used as rubbish tips. The Hastings Community Woodlands Project was established by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and the Borough Council in 1989 to enable concerned local residents to look after these woods. BTCV supplies practical help, tools, grants, insurance, and advice in the traditional skills of woodland management.

A number of woods all over Hastings have now been upgraded into valuable wildlife habitats, educational resources, and centres for recreation. Some of these areas are owned by the Council and others by private landowners whose good will has allowed volunteer workers to transform their woods into safer and more valuable places.

The Project has also planted extensively in local school grounds, and on abandoned allotments at Torfield, supported by the Countryside Commission and Task Force Trees.

Castle Hill Wildlife Garden

The small, green area beside Wallinger's Walk, on the western slopes of Castle Hill, was from 1825 to 1869 the graveyard of St. Mary-in-the-Castle. It then fell into disuse and, like so many other Town Centre sites, turned into a brambly rubbish-tip. During the 1970s, since the graveyard had been deconsecrated, the Borough Council made some abortive efforts to revitalise the site, clearing out the old gravestones. In 1989, Castle Hill residents founded CHIPS, The Castle Hill Improvement and Protection Society, and approached the East Sussex branch of BTCV. After a Design Day in September 1989 when local people put forward their ideas, the BTCV's Hastings Community Woodlands

Project evolved plans to transform the graveyard into a Wildlife Garden.

Urban Oasis

Work got underway in February 1990 with a mass litter clearance. Hastings Trust organised restoration of the surrounding stone wall with English Heritage funding, and new iron gates were installed. Hastings Sheltered Workshop contributed rustic seats. Grants were also obtained from the Nature Conservancy Council (as it then was) and Barclays Bank's 'Urban Oasis' enterprise. During the following year, the gardeners (local schoolchildren, special needs students from the Robert Tressell Workshops, and the BTCV's Wednesday voluntary conservation corps, the Hastings Beavers), cleared the ground, planted trees and built a rock garden. A 'bog garden', dug by the Hastings Conservation Volunteers, the local Sunday voluntary corps, was filled with water, courtesy of the Fire Brigade.

CHIPS

Between 1992 and 1994, the area really began to turn into a garden - CHIPS's own Sunday work parties sowed and began scything a wildflower meadow, increasing the number of native plants on the site. A self-watering system was devised for the bog garden; bird boxes and a bat box were made. Hastings schools 'adopted' their own areas. One of the old tombs was restored and sign posts in the Town Centre now point the way to the garden.

Now, in 1995, the wildlife garden is a valuable educational resource and events venue, with plaques and seasonal interpretive boards, and a central noticeboard displaying local environmental news.

Dean Morrison,
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

"Unless the unbuilt-on ground is maintained it deteriorates. It is like an unoccupied room in a house - since no one uses it no one cleans it up or keeps it tidy; it is a backwater which silts up with all the litter of living."

Nan Fairbrother in "New Lives New Landscape"

A SITE FOR SORE EYES

The Cooper Barnes Garden

"Mum! Mum! Look at the giant man. Look at that big woman!" A little boy jumps up and down with excitement as a couple on stilts juggle silver rings back and forth over his head. All around the garden street performers entertain, an enthralled group of children. Their exhausted parents relax on benches, taking a rest from a busy day.

Yesterday the garden was quiet - a few elderly couples dozed in the sunshine, whilst seagulls screeched and whirled overhead. Tomorrow buskers will cheer Saturday shoppers and tourists. Every day is different in this Old Town oasis, no single group claims rights over it, everyone uses it for a myriad of reasons, mostly for resting, thinking, talking and watching each other and the world go by.

Eye Sore

This little haven in the bustling Old Town is the old Cooper Barnes Site on George Street, for many years a boarded up eye-sore, a veritable blot on the landscape defeating many of the best laid plans. Competitions for using the site had been run, but the winning entry, chosen by the public, was never built. The Council's development plans for the site collapsed with the recession, and the dereliction stayed hidden behind black boarding.

Volunteers

Eventually in late winter and early spring of 1992, volunteers took matters into their own hands, aided by officers from the Council and structural engineers. A derelict land clearance grant was applied for and plans drawn up for an open space cum community garden to replace the unusable, dangerous space.

Week by week the little band of volunteers, sometimes helped by the local Territorial Army, donned hard hats, hefted picks and shovels and descended into the noxious cellars below the decking, clearing years of accumulated filth and rubble, bag by bag.

Clearing the cellars revealed the state of the iron girders so that necessary remedial work could be carried out. Back-breaking, disgusting work in all weathers it was, but for such a benefit to the whole community, no one minded spending their Saturday mornings shovelling muck.

The decking was relaid, paved areas and raised flower beds with built-in benches installed, and more benches built into the arches, providing plenty of seating for passers-by. The piece-de-resistance was the apple tree. Sheltered from the salt winds, the little tree has grown and flourished, bearing fruit for the first time last year.

The open space has created much interest and is used by both local residents and visitors. Local trade has been given a fillip, with more people lingering in the area than just passing through.

How pleasant it is now, to sit under the shade of the tree in full blossom, the gentle fall of the delicate pink and white confetti and delightful perfume filling the air, while I scribble this article. A virtual paradise created for the community by the community. Long may it remain and long may we enjoy it!!

Christine Goldschmidt
Hastings Trust



PHOTOS: JOHN F. C. TURNER

Music, drama and crafts at Scaffold Arts

ARTFUL YOUTH

Over the past 3 years, the Youth Arts Project based at the Scaffold, Priory Road, has inspired young people of Hastings and Rother between the ages of 13 and 25 to develop their skills and talents in the creative and performing arts. Drama, music, visual arts, computer art and video film and sound skills are all on the menu. Freedom to try different forms of creative art and to experiment with new ideas is essential to the Project.

Creativity & Enthusiasm

All young people, whether from urban or rural areas and whatever their background, need to express their creativity through various forms of the arts. This has long been recognised by the Project, whose aims dovetail with those of the County Youth Service Statement of Purpose and Core Curriculum Guidelines.

The Scaffold Youth Theatre attracts young people who have gained enormous enthusiasm and confidence from their experience of

creative drama sessions. The Scaffold's performances combine with contributions from other Centre activities: dance music and bands, graffiti art and video filming, and form the highlight of the programme.

European Exchanges

The Centre's bands and dance groups are in great demand at outside venues. Drum and guitar workshops are also appealing. Bands have taken part in exchanges between musicians from other countries in the European Community. The National Youth Arts Festival at Ilfracombe is an annual event supported by the Project.

The Scaffold promotes touring theatre groups, who have organised increasing numbers of workshops, some based on health issues vitally important to the young. Sessions are attended by many local secondary schools who value the use of a venue which is not school-based. The informal atmosphere has also helped to introduce young people to

opportunities available during their free time. Local youth organisations have participated in a wide variety of workshops available at the Scaffold.

Local artists have supported the Project's work by running a number of workshops and planned events.

Constant Growth

Young people continue to be attracted and stimulated by the variety of opportunities on offer, and to take an active part in the Project's management. From the early days of the Steering Group to today's Management Committee, involving young people has resulted in constant growth, both of the Project and of their own self-esteem, skills and confidence. We look forward with pleasure to building on this support which has helped the Project and all concerned to reach their current glowing state of health.

1992: Further details of our programme are available by telephoning (0424) 421563 preferably during the mornings.

John Smith
Scaffold Arts Project

Town with a hole in the heart

Meet me at the Memorial, she said.

Where is it?

Can you help me please -

I'm a stranger - here on a visit.

The eyes of the traffic god flick,
cars freeze and people flow,
flick green, flick red, flick green,
stop go, stop go

The memorial - yes, it's here.

Memorial? Where?

Here, where you're standing.

What - this space? this empty air?

The green man walks in the eye of the
god,
his apple green eye.
No Memorial, says the traffic god,
walk on - pass by.

"And some there be who have no
memorial..."

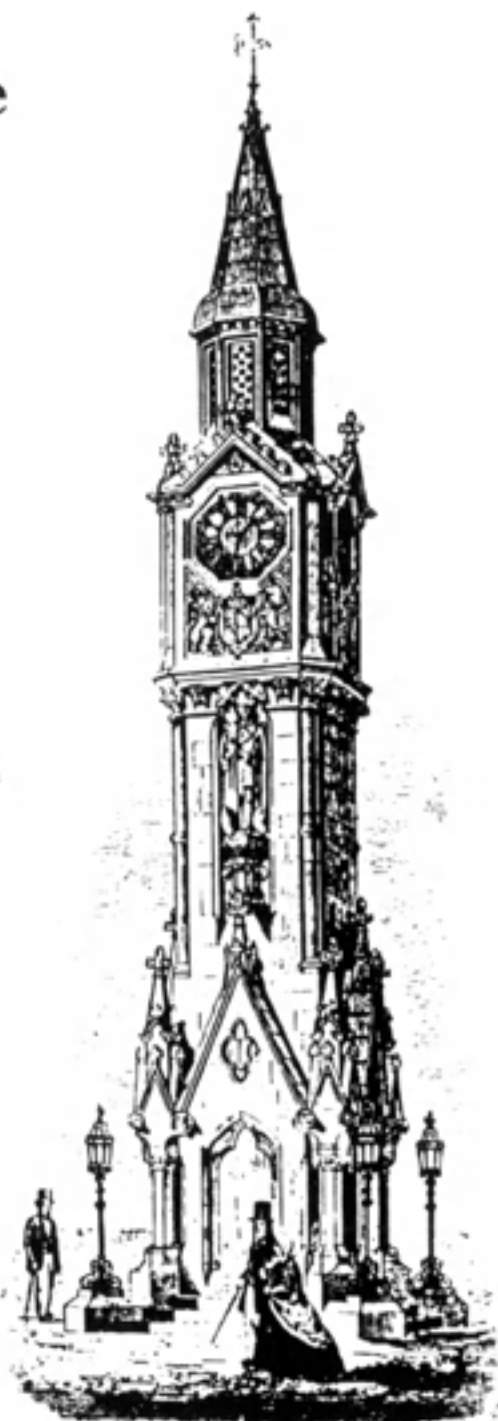
What's that you said?

"They too were merciful men..."

Eh? Just Bible words in the head.

There was something here once, I
believe...
some tower...with a clock on top...
The god's red eye looks angry.
Why has everyone come to a stop?

Margaret E. Rose, Hastings, 1992



The Hastings Albert Memorial

HASTINGS REMEMBERED

In 1862, the Victorians knew their new town lacked a central focus. With the death of Prince Albert, their country lost a wise counsellor and their Queen the light of her life. So they set about building a Memorial to the much-loved Consort, at the heart of their town.

The Victorians valued and practised wisdom and energy. Within weeks of deciding, they began raising funds for a clock tower by public subscription.

Rejecting local designs, they launched a national competition for a design of suitable prestige. Two months later, the prize-winning design was chosen from over thirty - the whole process from initial meeting to completion took only 2 1/2 years.

Town Symbol

The Memorial's superb site, at the junction of all the town's main streets, later proved its undoing. Many fine engravings and innumerable photographs immortalised the Memorial, in snowstorms, with ox-carts passing, with trolley-buses, hay-wains, and surrounded by the frequent floods occurring in Hastings Town Centre. It stood for 110 years, over 80% of the life of present-day Hastings, and came to symbolise the town.

Queen Victoria's Ghost

Hastings' fortunes rose and fell. After World War II, the town lacked direction and investment. Refurbishment schemes were mooted, but only piecemeal development took place, often resulting in the loss of fine buildings. By the 1950s, the Memorial was seen as an impediment to modernisation and a nuisance to traffic, particularly buses. Plans laid for its removal came to nothing. A 1952 survey by the Hastings Observer revealed that 99% of respondents wanted it retained, foreshadowing the Cricket Ground survey of some 30 years later. A Councillor said, "I can see Queen Victoria's ghost walking about there if you shift that Memorial." The Sussex County Magazine reported that "utility and progress warred with sentimental regard for a well-known landmark."

Arson Attack

The Memorial lingered on, surrounded by zebra crossings and sniping progressives. In 1973, fate lent a hand in the form of 'young arsonists' who set fire to the woodwork of the clock chamber. A further act of vandalism some two months later sealed the Memorial's fate. In October 1973, the Council voted to demolish the Albert Memorial, doing so with speed.

For the next two decades, the vacant site, now covered in red brick in the central traffic island, was the unmarked grave of the town's Victorian heyday. Locals continued to refer to the space as 'The Memorial', but the absence of any visible Memorial confused visitors and angered the older Hastonians.

National Competition

In 1991, a new, private initiative arose for replacing the Memorial and a planning application was submitted for a simplified version of the original clock tower. This coincided with completion of the pedestrianisation in Wellington Place, making available a fresh site for a replacement, which would not interfere with future traffic flow. By late 1992, alternative plans for Priory Meadow were under way and the demoralised town-with-a-hole-in-the-heart was emerging from the depths of the recession. It was decided to hold a national competition as the Victorians did, for a 'New Memorial', sometimes referred to as a 'Town Centre Feature' in New-Town-planners-speak.

Gothic v Modern

But questions abounded. What or who should the Memorial commemorate? Who would fund and judge the competition? Should Prince Albert be abandoned to be replaced by a 'modern' artistic town centre feature? Should it commemorate 1066? Or perhaps a statue of the last Saxon king should gaze transfixed down Harold Place to the receding sea? The 'Gothic' lobby pressed for the return of Albert, a monument of commanding size, since the original was 65 feet high,

and fit to put the pride and heart back into Hastings.

Choice should be made by wide consensus of opinion, rather than a narrow artistic or historic group. "The townspeople must play a real part in choosing their replacement heart." Fingers pointed at some dire pieces of post-war architecture, presumably designed by experts. "And the designing must not be rushed, since the longer the National Competition takes, the more publicity it will generate."

The Council had a substantial sum in its budget. The private group, now a Registered Charity, wished to restore the original and were sure the public would contribute generously. Eventually a substantial sum was voted which would be repaid many times over in publicity for Hastings.

World Spotlight

A wide competition brief was prepared, an appropriate prize offered, and entries arrived from around the globe. It has all taken longer than anticipated, but Hastings has once again been in the spotlight.

The suspense builds and mounts! There are more people with insider knowledge of the winner than we like. But the media have behaved and world-wide there has been no 'leak'. All over the world, Hastings' namesakes are standing by for the Memorial's formal unveiling. But, alas, since this article goes to press before that momentous occasion, we can only illustrate the shrouded site.

Has it been worth waiting for? With the New Memorial, is the heart now firmly back in Hastings? And does it auger a new heyday for the birthplace of Britain? And what of my grandfather, Albert, who saw the original Memorial built as a boy of ten - would he approve? Or would he sigh, get respectably drunk and let his pony and trap take him back to his farm?

Dennis Collins

OPEN THE DOOR TO THE QUALITY FURNISHING STORE

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE LARGEST SELECTIONS IN THE BOROUGH INCLUDING LOUNGE, DINING AND BEDROOM FURNITURE, CURTAINS, CARPETS, FITTED KITCHENS AND BEDROOMS.



★ MERIDIAN BY G-PLAN ★

We are a family business established since 1911 offering a personal service and an extensive selection not easily found today.

Why not call into our showrooms and see for yourself?

Gordon Busbridge Ltd

THE FURNISHING STORE

Established 1911

289/297 LONDON ROAD, ST LEONARDS. TEL: (0424) 420368

Hastings

INFORMATION



LET'S SEE NOW... $\sqrt[3]{531441 \times \pi r^2} \times (xy + 144)$

We have all the answers for visitors and residents alike.

Have you ever wondered... where to eat, where to stay, what to do and see in Hastings?



Call the Hastings Tourist Information Centre
4 Robertson Terrace, Hastings, East Sussex
Telephone (0424) 718888

Hastings Town Centre's revival is now assured, and hope and confidence restored, thanks to a close-knit three-way partnership of community groups, local businesses and Hastings Borough Council. Hastings Alternative initiated the process by using Planning for Real in a series of working sessions with local residents and members of the local business community back in 1992. These led to a further series of sessions with Council members and officers. This first full use of this participatory planning method in Hastings proved that "Local knowledge and commitment plus professional back-up equals towns and neighbourhoods that work" (See **Planning With People** on page opposite).

Thriving Shops

Today, while awaiting possible major developments on Priory Meadow, there is a pleasant central place to relax, a lively market and a people's park on a previously privatised space. Cheerful, revived shops thrive in those once blighted by the failed plan for a regional shopping centre. Although the Queens Parade shops will be demolished, they have been given 3 to 5-year leases to ensure their use meanwhile. Tenants will be compensated, if required to leave after year three.

So many shoppers and tourists have been attracted back to Hastings by the market and the revival of Queens Road and Queens Parade. Developers are now competing for the opportunity to invest in one of the alternatives prepared by the Planning for Real teams – if it is decided that the Town Park as shown on the plan (opposite) is too costly without a commercial return from this valuable site.

Space to relax

Both alternative plans provide open public space and a colonnaded precinct of shops, restaurants and cafes with offices and flats

Going Up-Market



MONTAGE: JOHN F C TURNER

above – an attractive, sheltered place for meeting, shopping and relaxing. One of the proposals is for the re-creation of the original harbour in the form of a marina with a gated canal to the sea; the other is for a Town Park and with a more leisure facilities than the marina alternative could support financially.

Dramatic Attraction

Those who prefer the re-creation of the harbour say that the town needs this dramatic attraction which would be unique on the South Coast, and that it would create more

wealth – pointing to the huge success of St. Katharine's Dock by the Tower of London, a major attraction for young and old, Londoners and tourists from all over the world. Hastings' new harbour would also be an excellent location for chandlers and other marine commerce.

1992: Based on preliminary Planning for Real sessions organised by Hastings Alternative, held March 1992 in The Board Room, PDC, 7 Bank Buildings, Station Road (behind the Town Hall) where information on Hastings Alternative can be obtained).

John F C Turner

A marina, reviving the original use of the site as a harbour, with arcaded shops, flats and public buildings on the perimeter.

Priory Meadow (the old Cricket Ground) is now being used temporarily for a weekly market and for a community park. Queen's Parade shops have leases extended for a further two years while decisions are made on the alternative developments proposed.

A civic square and park surrounded by arcaded shops, leisure facilities and flats.

Queen's Square completes pedestrianisation

Queen's Square, the focal point of the regenerated Town Centre and the final phase of the pedestrianisation, is to be opened this Bank Holiday Monday as a climax to a weekend-long pageant of street entertainment.

Public Outrage

In 1989 a proposal for a shopping centre on the Cricket Ground at Priory Meadow provoked outraged reaction from the public and traders who felt that the scheme would lead to the loss of a much needed public open space and the decline of the existing Town Centre.

High Quality

Hastings Urban Design Group, an association of independent design professionals, initiated the regenerative scheme, which is now well under way, by proving that a similar amount of new high quality shopping space could be provided within the existing fabric of the Town Centre.

An added advantage has been the elimination of particular eyesores allowing the creation of a harmonious and purposeful streetscape which is becoming a real pleasure for all.

Continental Feel

The new Queen's Square has a vibrant Continental feel with its street cafes, newspaper stands and, in pride of place, the new Memorial, a unique piece of urban design acclaimed throughout Britain.

The proposed link to the promenade and beach will soon be under way and negotiations have started with a local boat company for South Coast pleasure trips from the jetty.

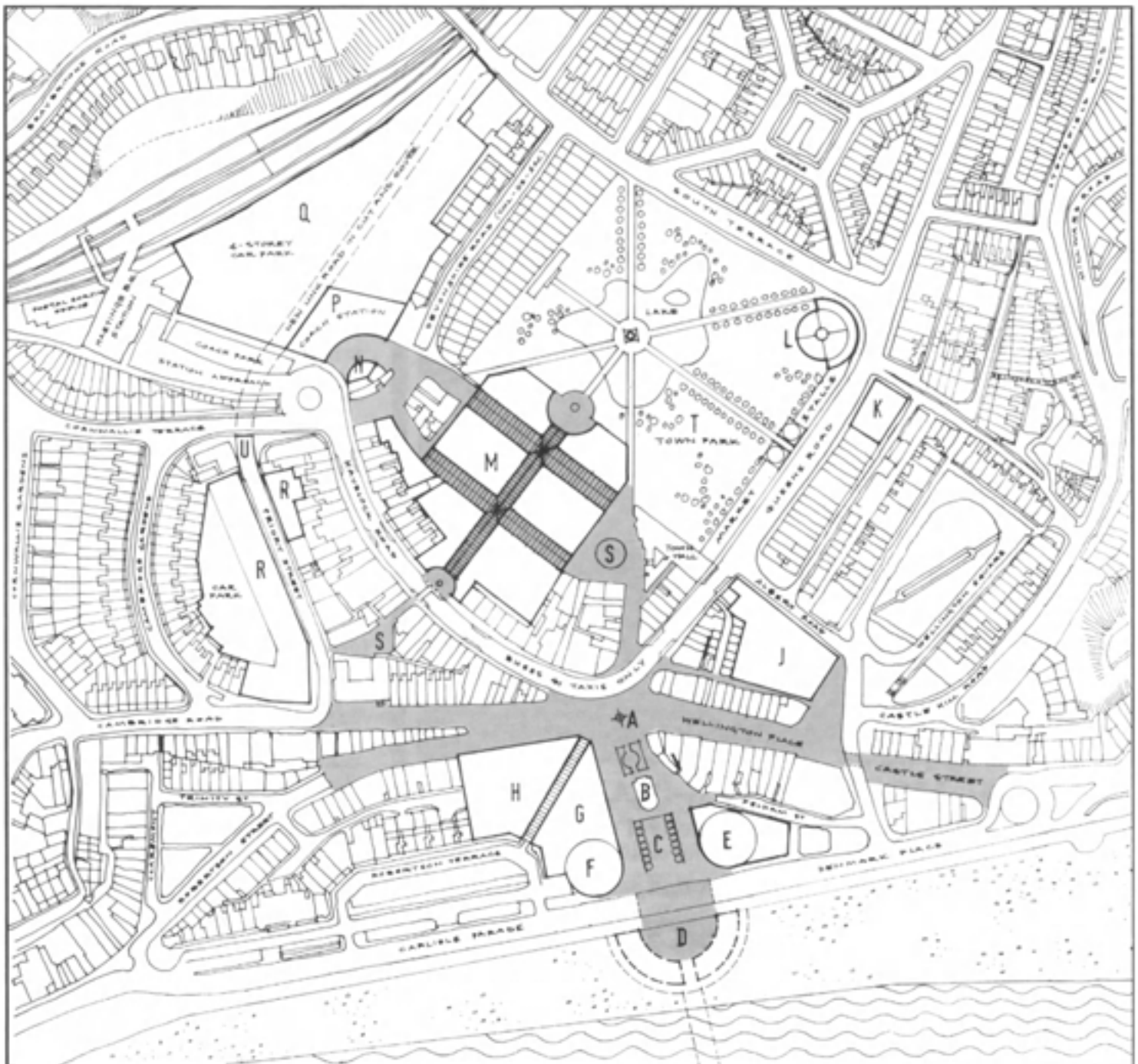
Easy Parking

The recent completion of the transport interchange in Station Approach has proved that shoppers will come to Hastings if easy car parking and efficient public transport are provided, although most would argue that it is our brilliant new Marks & Spencer on the site of the former Queen's Hotel, the best in the South-East, which has been the real draw.

The covered shopping mall is now taking shape, transforming the untidy backstreets of Station Road and Middle Street to provide a dynamic link between the heart of the Town Centre and Priory Meadow public park.

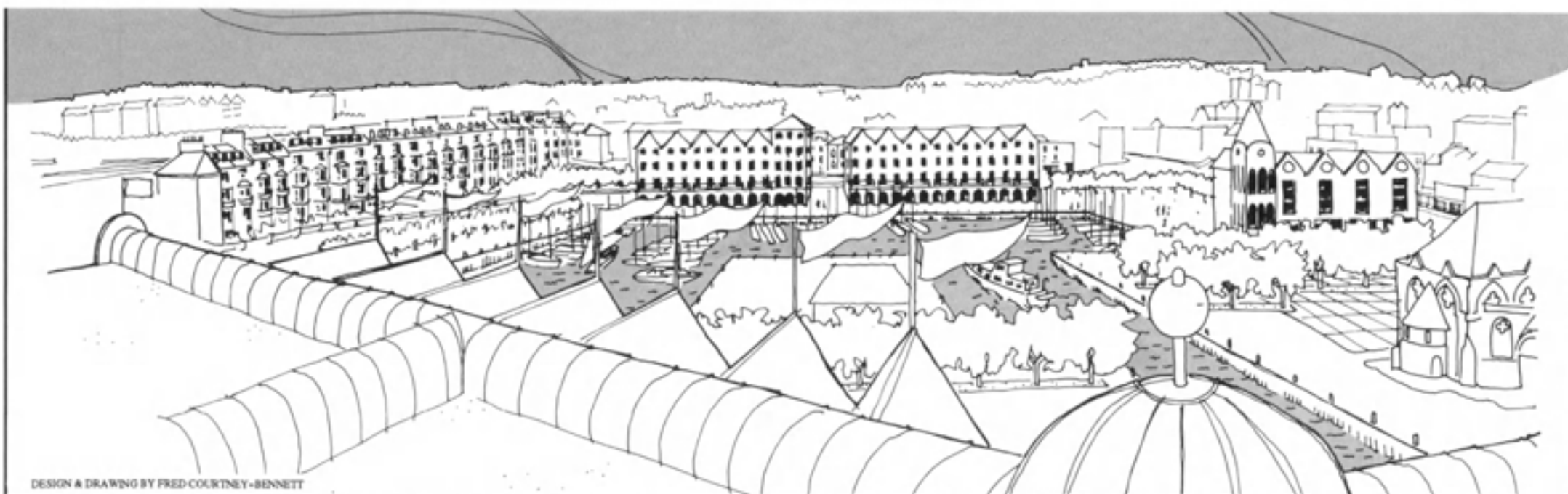
Caroline Lwin

Hastings Urban Design Group

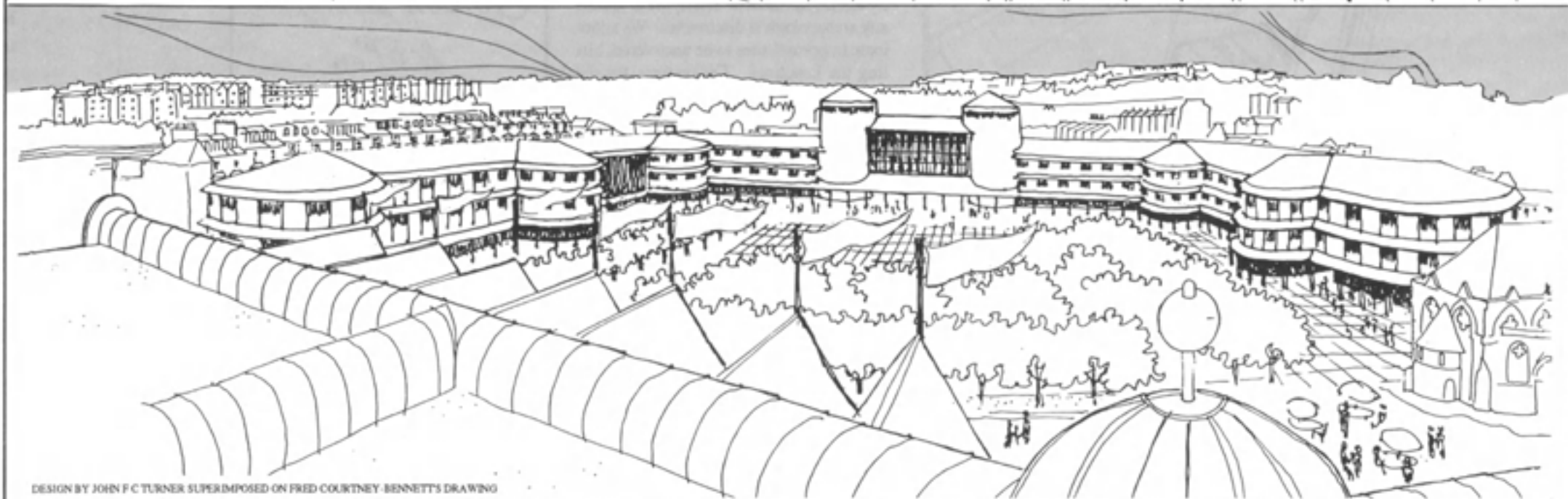


Urban Design Group's plan of Town Centre improvements

DRAWING BY CAROLINE LWIN



DESIGN & DRAWING BY FRED COURTNEY-BENNETT



DESIGN BY JOHN F C TURNER SUPERIMPOSED ON FRED COURTNEY-BENNETT'S DRAWING

KEY

* Shaded areas represent pedestrian with vehicular access, where necessary, from 6pm to 10am

- A New memorial as the focal point of the Town Centre
- B Tourist Information Office in converted Harold Place toilets with information boards and poster display around the outside walls.
- C Formal tea garden in the centre of the new Queen's Square (semi-sunken for shelter) served by cafés and restaurants in E.
- D Wide pedestrian underpass beneath arched road bridge, giving views and access to beach with future promontory, pavilions as a windbreak and jetty.
- E Multiplex cinema and other leisure uses above cafés and restaurant serving open-air tables in Queen's Square gardens. Homedane House flats relocated in new luxury development in F.
- F 4 storeys of luxury flats above 2-storey department store in G
- G Replacement 2-storey department store including bank with 3 storeys of flats above - 50,000 sq ft
- H Reinstated 2-storey department store including bank, with 3 storeys of flats above
- J New 2-storey department store - 50,000 sq ft
- K Existing 2-storey department store made available following relocation of Marks & Spencer
- L New leisure building including small shops and cafés at ground level
- M New 2-storey shopping mall and food hall (adjacent to park) - 200,000 sq ft
- N Tourist Information Office opposite entrance to main transport interchange.
- P New coach station with car parking above and below.
- Q New 4-storey 550,000 sq ft car park for cars, above and below new link road to South Terrace
- R 130,000 sq ft of 2- and 3-storey offices with 150 car spaces
- S 2 new small landscaped squares with seating and lighting.
- T New formally landscaped Town Park in Priory Meadow with gatehouse pavilions and market stalls along the southern edge.
- U Underpass in cut and cover beneath Cornwallis Terrace and Station Road to connect to new link road and multi-storey car park

PLANNING WITH PEOPLE

The property market crash back in 1991/92 sent plans for Priory Meadow (the old Cricket Ground) back to the drawing board. The popularity of shopping centres declined for some years, as the 'town-killer' effect began to sink in. In 1992, the scandalous implications of privatising public space were highlighted, when Milton Keynes' privately-owned shopping centre locked its gates in the evening, barring people from their only town centre meeting place. With the Lakeview regional shopping complex at Thurrock in financial crisis, the death knell sounded for large shopping centres.

Rising Projects

The tarnished image of high-tech shopping centres coincided with rising protests over the loss of the only open space in Hastings Town Centre and the lack of a dignified civic space in the town.

These ideas surfaced in the initial Planning for Real sessions, Environment Week, May 1991, using a sketch model of Hastings Town Centre on which local people placed their ideas for improvements. Throughout the summer, many other sessions with community groups followed, along with public workshops at the August Town & Country Fair. In January, 1992, Planning for Real, sponsored by Hastings Alternative, was filmed by a German television crew.

The People Speak

By September, 1991, over 1000 local people had their say about the Town Centre, through Planning for Real. Of the 738 ideas put forward for Priory Meadow, only 55 opted for a shopping centre on the site - about the same percent as in a 1990 Hastings Observer poll. The vast majority, 707 (93%), wanted a wide variety of other public uses keeping most or all the space open for public use.

Methodology

A poll carried out by Hastings First at the Town & Country Fair in August 1992, showed a very different result. Nearly 75% of their questionnaire respondents chose the shopping centre scheme. In polls and surveys, different results can be achieved by using different research methods. Questionnaires give restricted choices of reply and tend to put words into people's mouths. Planning for Real is open-ended - no questions asked, no answers implied - and users can see alternative sites with their own eyes. Many spotted unused railway land next to the station and the large vacant area around Station Road and Middle Street as a site for improved shopping, an alternative developed by the Hastings Urban Design Group and now under construction.

Hastings Alternative adopted Planning for Real to work out

alternative ideas for Priory Meadow, then still in use as a cricket ground. During March 1992, 20 people evolved 3 schemes outlined and illustrated elsewhere, concluding that Queens Parade's empty shops could be revived temporarily, the Meadow opened up as a people's garden and market while plans and finances for major investment were worked out.

Local Knowledge

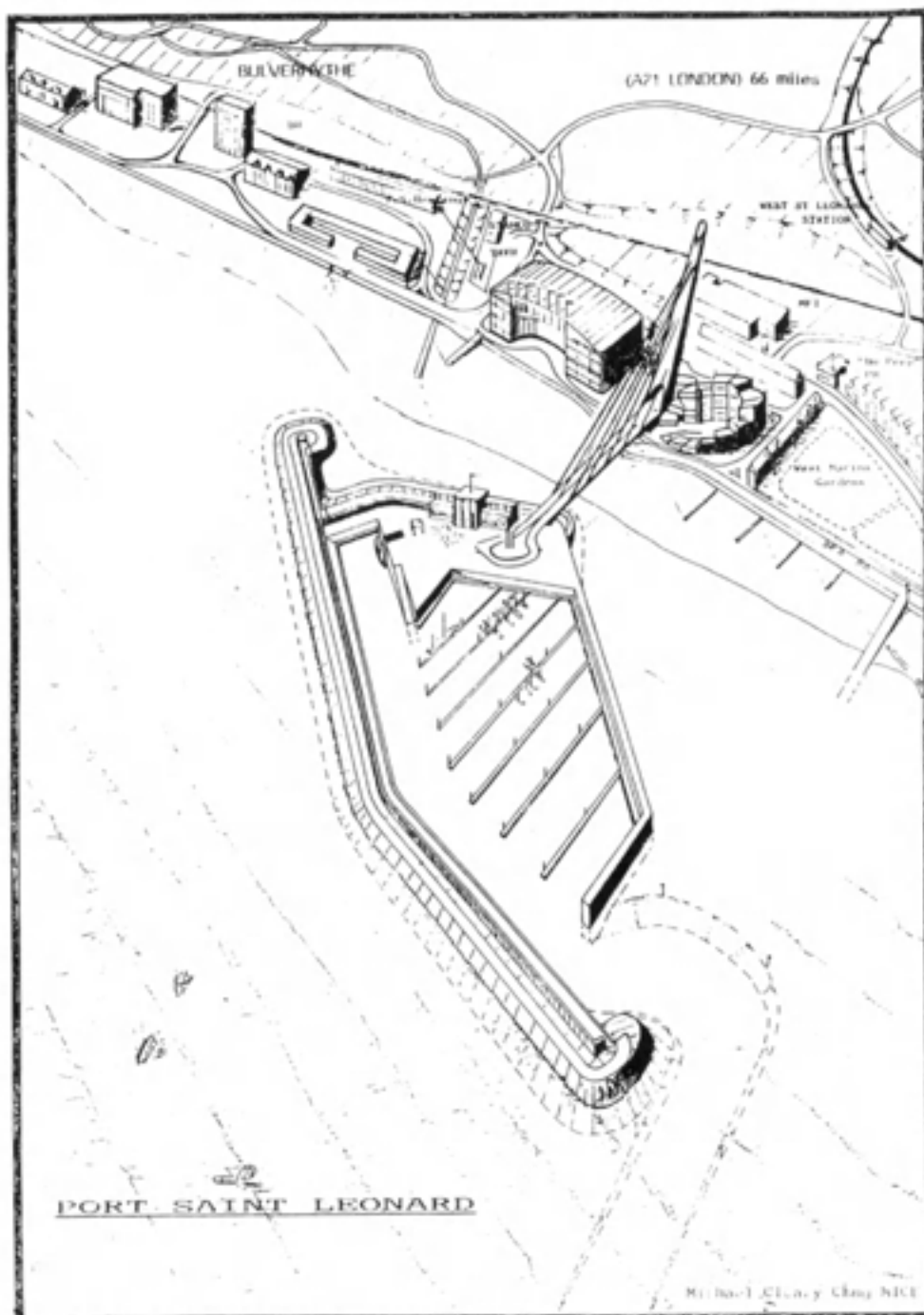
Investors are now competing for the opportunity; a decision is now pending between the alternatives illustrated. A Planning for Real team of residents and the local business community is being convened. All types of experience, knowledge and priorities - of the young, elderly, professional and lay people - will be considered in reaching a consensus. Plans will then develop, taking in technical and financial considerations.

Public Inquiries can be avoided, when all interested parties participate in the early negotiations - learning to respect each others' points of view and unique knowledge. This key reason is why the Department of the Environment has supported the method since 1977 and why it is widely used, nationally and internationally.

Beth Turner & John F C Turner



Planning for Real sessions PHOTOS: B TURNER



Safe haven for pleasure craft and small vessels

PORT ST. LEONARD UNDER WEIGH

Hastings' ancient reputation as an active Cinque Port will be restored with the building of Port Saint Leonard, a deep-water harbour for small vessels and new, safe haven for pleasure craft plying between Dover, Boulogne, Brighton and beyond. It will provide the much needed centre of commercial and leisure activity at the west end of the town.

New Station

The Marina will be at the halfway point on the new and highly popular Supertram between Hastings Old Town and the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. This rapid and frequent public transport route will connect the Marina Complex with the shopping, leisure and business centres. It will also be served by a new British Rail station with direct lines to Brighton, London, Ashford and the Channel Ports now that the new connections are being built.

The new port will bring to life 2,000 metres of barren and disused coastline between West Marina and Bulverhythe, using spoil from the by-pass which is about to be built. 40 hectares (100 acres) of land will be reclaimed. The island will accommodate about 350 small craft. The harbour will be connected to shore by a dual carriageway bridge. At night, the illuminated bridge will have a glittering, magical pier effect.

Olympic Pool

The Marina will provide fuelling and repair services, a yacht lift and slipway, a harbour office, reception, clubhouse and restaurant, overnight quarters, drying and storage rooms. The unloading of fish will not be permitted, commercial fishing will continue to be restricted to the Old Town beach and the re-built Old Town Fish Market. A 100-

room hotel on shore will include a 50 metre swimming and diving pools to Olympic standard, and other indoor sports facilities plus two cinemas. The "Virtual Reality Zoo" is eagerly awaited. The conference theatre's electronic communications allows global link-ups and caters for 2,000 people with parking and re-powering facilities for 3,000 electric cars.

In addition to the new low- and moderate-cost homes, a community club and leisure centre for local residents, the Port Saint Leonard Harbour Authority development will provide 350 high quality apartments and a number of office suites for rent or short-lease.

Sewerage Plant

The European Community regulation of 1989 prohibiting raw sewage discharge into the sea will now be met. The £17 million underground primary and secondary treatment plant will be built on the reclaimed land and connected to the existing outfall.

The capital cost of £224 million has been financed by private and corporate investors who will see their stock value grow. They pledged their interest in 1992. Their stocks are much sought, now that the project is coming to fruition.

Bulverhythe Review

For over 30 years, the scenic Bulverhythe coastal area was marred and de-valued by unsightly, partly derelict buildings in semi-industrial use - outrageous in a residential area! Now the sparkling new development for the Year 2000 will enhance the area, attracting local residents and visitors alike, and bringing in custom from the sailing community and visitors from at home and abroad.

Michael Cleary
C.Eng, M.I.C.E.

DIGGING UP HASTINGS' PAST

Since appointing a staff Archaeologist to the Borough Council Planning Department, Hastings is at last really on the map!

Woodingdean Henge

Construction of the Hastings & St. Leonards bypass will soon start with excavations closely monitored by the Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group (HAARG) team, appointed and funded by the Department of Transport to record any archaeological discoveries. We anticipate important sites to be uncovered, hitting the headlines. Excavations for the Brighton bypass disclosed a henge monument at Woodingdean, unique in that part of the country. While the Hastings & Rother area differs from the South Downs, the immense amount of material found shows a large population in the Iron Age and Roman periods. The iron works was the focus of considerable activity, and its proximity to the European continent meant the existence of a substantial network of export routes. Therefore, it will be particularly important to record any Roman Roads bisected by the new bypass road.

Tribal Boundary

HAARG have long been pressing for recognition of the entire Country Park area as an archaeological landscape. English Heritage have now established their criteria and are designating areas countrywide. A wide area of Fairlight Down will probably be added, forming a rural conservation area. The volume of activity during pre-historic times in the area to the East of Hastings was phenomenal. Both West Hill and East Hill are hill forts, indicating an unusual degree of settlement. Hastings could well form an important tribal boundary, strongly defined and defended.

Obtaining developer funding to monitor excavations on Priory Meadow has been overcome with the proviso that it must be fully investigated under HAARG's direction, before any building work is initiated. The Council allocated £25,000 for trial excavations and monitoring of work for the new shops between Station and Havelock Roads.

Reports on HAARG's 1992/93 work in the Old Town, recording the cellars on the Cooper Barnes Site in George Street, trial excavations on the South of Hastings Wall, and an excavation in the High Street undertaken in Old Town Week will be published.

Heritage Trail

We look forward to the Mayor laying the final stone in the restoration of old St. Helen's Church. The Church, long suspected of very early origins, now forms a high point of the Borough's 'Heritage Trail' attracting visitors from around the country and abroad. London University's Field Archaeology Unit, last seen disappearing down Stonestile lane, are still looking for the early medieval manor of Ore.

Roman Hastings

Finally, Hastings' answer to Jorvik: Beauport Park. Vision and sound professional advice persuaded local authorities to invest £3 million in excavating and reconstructing an entire Roman industrial complex, and setting up a working iron bloomery. In 1996, 285,000 visitors are expected at Brodus Camp. It is rumoured that Bacchanalian revels will be held on Thursday nights if there isn't an R in the month. The next plans are to excavate streams to reconstruct the ancient export route to the sea. The Beauport Trust, through careful management of the

site, and their adherence to historical accuracy, have made visits both educational and enjoyable.

We look forward to uncovering and publishing more about Hastings' past. By the turn of the century, Hastings will be substantially more important historically than just a memorable date in the 11th Century. HAARG publications add considerably to our knowledge of the medieval town, and can be bought from HAARG HQ or at local book shops.

Hastings Area Archaeological Research Group - HAARG

*Gordon Dengate
& Son*

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
and
LIMOUSINE HIRE SPECIALISTS

*Over 50 years service to
Hastings and district*

NOW UNDER THE PERSONAL
SUPERVISION OF
MR. KENNETH DENGATE

233 London Road
St. Leonards-on-Sea
Tel. (0424) 444325

HASTINGS WINS TOURISM 'LEO'

Hastings has at last realised its ambition: winning double honours. Not only did it receive the coveted Award of Tourism Destination of the Year, despite strong competition from over 40 other British Resorts, but it is now officially rated as one of the UK's top six resorts.

Continuing Progress

At a glittering occasion at the London Hilton, the Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee was presented with a bronze "Leo" by the Chairman of the English Tourist Board. The award was made in recognition of the town's continuing progress, Council investment and attraction of private sector funding. The English Tourist Board states in its press release: "Hastings has been conspicuous in its constant advancement and is now officially rated as one of the UK's top six resorts".

Heritage Centre

Without doubt the opening of the new £15 million "1066 Heritage Centre", hailed as a leader in new technology, had much to do with Hastings' success. However, the award was also a direct result of the tourism development that has taken place over the past 4 or 5 years. The Sea Life Centre, the spectacular improvements to the Shipwreck Heritage Centre, the animation effects recently introduced to the new-look Smugglers Adventure and of course, the Council's investment in upgrading the seafront.

Top Resort

A Tourism Department spokesman commented:

"To receive this coveted award is a tremendous feather in the town's cap, but to be officially rated as one of the UK's top resorts is even more pleasing. The town was rated equally highly in the 1930s. We need to make sure we don't become complacent and must maintain this position through further effort and progress".

Roger Dennett,
Tourism & Leisure Department,
Hastings Borough Council

Hastings
Borough Council

**FACTORY UNITS
AVAILABLE NOW**

390sq.ft. starter units ready for occupation
on easy in / easy out licence.

3000/5000/10000sq.ft. units to be
leased at realistic rents.

Fully serviced sites available for
industrial development.

Contact:
Roger Smith
Borough Planning and
Estates Department
Summerfields, Bohemia Road
Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1UT.

Tel: 0424 722023
Fax: 0424 420310

NATIONAL TRUST CENTENARY: A SUSSEX BIRTHDAY

Towards the end of the Victorian Era in 1895, three people came together to found the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. They were the pioneer of housing reform, Miss Octavia Hill; the solicitor to the General Post Office and one of the principal promoters of the Commons Preservation Society, Sir Robert Hunter; and Canon Hardwick Rawnsley. Each had realised that the growth of population, the spread of industrialisation and a lack of planning were rapidly spoiling much of the beauty of their country. Their aim was to establish a body for holding intact land and buildings worthy of permanent preservation for the nation's use and enjoyment. It had a suitably aristocratic birth in the drawing room of the Duke of Westminster's Grosvenor House.

£10 House

In 1896, the National Trust acquired Dinas Oleu, four and a half acres of cliff land in Wales, overlooking Barmouth Estuary. Octavia Hill was the Trust's driving force and wondered, "We have our first property, will we ever get another?" She did not have long to wait because in the same year, the Trust bought for £10, the Clergy House at Alfriston, East Sussex - a virtual gift, although it was in a derelict state.

From those modest beginnings has sprung the organisation which now owns more than half a million acres of countryside, protects over 400 miles of unspoilt coastline and opens over 200 houses and gardens to the public.

Today, many areas around the country have local associations, formed and run by NT members to enable people to meet and share common interests. In 1982, our own local branch, the Hastings and St. Leonards Association - National Trust, was formed.

Fairlight Farm

The nearest National Trust property is Old Marsham Farm at Fairlight, which is an extremely important part of the fine open landscape between Fairlight and Pett. The Kent and East Sussex Region bought Tongs Field which is adjacent to the Farm and completes the preservation of that particular landscape for all time. The local NT Association celebrated its tenth birthday in 1992 by contributing funds which defrayed a large part of the cost of that acquisition.

The National Trust celebrated its hundredth birthday in 1995, with the local Association taking part. It has particular local significance because of that first NT acquisition, the Clergy House at Alfriston, East Sussex which is so close to our doorstep.

Don Richardson,
Hastings & St. Leonards Association -
National Trust

NEWS FROM YOUR PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Another reorganisation of local government is well under way, with some areas of the country already operating under the new system. The future of Hastings & Rother is still to be decided after much heated local debate. One good change welcomed with surprise and pleasure is proper regional planning for roads, employment and housing.

Local issues that were the focus of attention in the early part of the decade still demand attention. Should the Central Cricket and Recreation Ground be developed for shopping or not? Can the Pier be saved from falling into the sea? Who will be the next Leader of the Council?

Bypass

Some issues have been settled. Completion of the Hastings/Bexhill bypass means major changes. Council policy banning internal combustion engine cars from the Borough has heralded the first new car parks on the Borough boundary, much to the displeasure of the ecologists. It is difficult to provide environmentally friendly car parks.

Personal transport will be by rented battery-operated cars or by tram. The Town Centre and seafront will be designated traffic-free, save for the Supertrams.

Listed Buildings

Studies are currently under way, commissioned by the Council, to determine future uses for the multi-storey car park in Priory Street, and the underground car parks on the seafront. Our underground car parks are now Scheduled Listed Buildings, described as interesting examples of the early use of concrete con-

struction. This adds to the problem of conversion, since the architectural integrity of the structure must be maintained.

Garden Gnomes
In recent years, urban conservation has become a very real issue. At a recent Development Committee meeting, residents of the last area of the town not designated as a Conservation Area petitioned against such a proposal. A spokesman for the petitioners put it succinctly, "What's the point of owning your own house if you can't have plastic windows, a satellite dish, and gnomes in the garden?" A Committee member pointed out that gnomes were still permitted development.

Elitist Claptrap

The new Planning Policy Guide Note on Aesthetics, issued by the Department of the Environment, was based on the notions of the Prince of Wales. When reporting to his Committee the Planning Officer, Tony Fry, quoted from a 1990 article in the Architectural Review:

"Classicism cannot be made to work at the end of the Twentieth Century. Its forms were evolved by oligarchic and imperial systems, they cannot be made to clothe contemporary democratic, pluralistic functions with integrity. Attempts to abase classicism by wrapping it round contemporary reality, both debase the real thing and miss positive opportunities for making authentic architecture which enhances and responds to our times."

has also been greeted enthusiastically by the National Institute for the Blind.

Open-Air Concerts

However, it is the waterfall centrepiece that has created the most impact. Its tasteful illumination at night and the soft night-time floodlighting of the gardens has already given rise to local demands for evening open-air concerts.

Opened officially only last week, St. Leonards Gardens have been featured prominently in the two major national horticultural journals, both of which congratulated all those involved and regarded the improvements as a perfect example of achieving excellence through a combination of effort by the Council, volunteer groups and local company sponsorship.

Roger Dennett,
Tourism & Leisure Department
Hastings Borough Council

The Hastings News commented that they couldn't agree with the statement, even if they understood it, and that the people of Hastings wanted no more of such elitist claptrap.

Leaner Planning

A recent Green Paper issued by the new Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment has caused some excitement. Entitled "The New Planning Officer for the 21st Century", the paper proposes that all planning offers be non-smoking teatotalers. A guide to healthy eating is provided and it is suggested that it might be made mandatory. The Appendix lists physical exercises to be undertaken at the start of each working day, also expected to be mandatory, as are instructions about wearing sensible underwear and thick woollies in the winter, to help with energy conservation.

The Secretary of State's press release cautioned that the Government expected a leaner, fitter more energy-efficient planning system to emerge in the late 1990s, ready for privatisation as a result of these proposals. Those who keep chocolate biscuits in their desk drawer were warned to look to their laurels! On reading this latest Government proposal, the Borough Planner exploded.

A. Nother,
Successor to Tony Fry,
ex(plode) Borough Planner
Hastings Borough Council

PM PLATT MARKETS

FOR QUALITY GOODS AND PRODUCE AT THE
KEENEST PRICES, VISIT YOUR LOCAL MARKET

TUESDAY	Ashford - Lower High Street Langney - Shopping Centre near Eastbourne	FRIDAY	Ashford - Lower High Street Tunbridge Wells - Royal Victoria Place Market Square
WEDNESDAY	Tunbridge Wells - Royal Victoria Place Market Square Sevenoaks - opposite the station	SATURDAY	Tonbridge - High Street Tunbridge Wells - Royal Victoria Place Market Square Langney - Shopping Centre near Eastbourne
THURSDAY	Edenbridge - High Street Rye - opposite the station	SUNDAY	Tonbridge - opposite the station

BANK HOLIDAYS

RYE (opposite the station) • Langney Shopping Centre (near Eastbourne)

OPERATED AND MANAGED BY THE PLATT MARKET GROUP 081-954 8736

Other markets trading in:

Hunstanton, Norfolk - Sundays and Bank Holidays • Whittlesey, Peterborough - Sundays
Wellesbourne, Stratford-upon-Avon - Saturdays and Bank Holidays

Greening Grows from Grass Roots

So said Rachel Lewis, Hastings Borough Council's Environmental Officer. She told our reporter how the 1992 'Environmental Charter' has helped to focus and stimulate local initiative and Council support for the greening of Hastings.

Where There's Muck There's Brass

Recycling is converting a growing proportion of waste into wealth, Ms Lewis says. Initially encouraged by the setting up of Mini Recycling Centres all over the town, most households are now sorting their own garbage - as the law now requires. Many are already reducing their fuel bills by hundreds of pounds a year from energy saving - thanks to grants from the hundreds of thousands of pounds earned by the Council from the sale of the 'waste that is wealth'.

Living Costs Reduced

This recycling of real wealth releases additional funds for energy-saving investments in home insulation grants and other priorities set out in the Energy Strategy Policy. So, as Ms Lewis explains, the more energy saved by recycling, more energy still is saved while reducing household fuel bills. Transport costs are also being reduced now that job-creating recycling industries have been set up locally.

But not everyone yet understands the connections between reducing waste and ensuring our future (see A sustainable future - a must for our children, page). Besides saving money and financing some of the most popular improvements, CO2 emissions are greatly reduced, slowing global warming that threatens our climate.

"Glad to Help"

Although the Council has supported community initiatives for environmental education there are still too many ignorant of the dangers and the opportunities - especially adults. This reporter still hears people ask "Why should we do the Council's work and not get paid for it?" But more and more often one hears people say "We're glad to help as we know everyone benefits in the longer run."

Staff Reporter

HBC RECYCLING BINS

Collier Road/Priory Road
M.F.L., Bexhill Road
B & Q, Rye Road, Ore
Texaco, The Ridge
The Bourne car park, Old Town
Tesco, Churchwood Drive
Safeway, Queen's Road
Carpetland car park, Silverhill
B.R. Warrior Square car park, King's Road
The Malvern, Malvern Way
Conquest Hospital, The Ridge



BT recycled phone books provide animal bedding

PHOTO: BT

BT: GREENER THAN YOU THINK

BT has used its £4 billion buying power to persuade their suppliers of everything from toilet rolls to fibre optic cables to "think green". The demand for environmentally friendly household goods has changed the look of supermarket shelves for good; one of Europe's biggest companies has pushed industry into thinking along similar lines. BT's message was loud and clear: if you want us as a customer, we want you to clean up your act.

By 1992, its influence was being felt - a major manufacturer was taking back all dead rechargeable batteries used by BT engineers in a

Why recycling?

In 1992 Hastings produced 23,000 tonnes of waste - and almost all of it went to Pebsham Landfill Site. Most of it could have been recycled or reused!

Recycling conserve the World's diminishing resources: saves energy; helps reduce waste disposal and pollution.

pilot scheme later extended to the public.

Unique Partnership

BT's scheme to recycle old directories into animal bedding also received a boost in a unique partnership between a local council, bedding supplier and BT. Straw has given way to paper as the preferred type of animal bedding in these environment-conscious days, as it is dust-free, does not cause allergies, and ferments after use to become a prime organic fertiliser. The bedding manufacturer supplies recycling bins for directories, the District Council says where they should go and BT informs all householders about the scheme, when sending out new directories. Racehorses, chickens and cows now slumber on soft paper beds that are also gentle on the environment, thanks to the recycling of old British Telecom phone books.

Environmental awareness is not new to BT. The telephone itself is environmentally friendly, saving on office space and travel through telecommuting and teleworking. After its environmental audit in January 1990, BT's policy was to promote recycling, improve energy efficiency, cut waste, publishing an annual environmental performance report. Environmental Issues Manager, Dr. Chris Tuppen, explained that BT set targets and then met them by tackling environmental issues from many angles: using its buying power, modernising transport, recycling waste such as office paper, old cables and phones, identifying harmful emissions, promoting energy efficiency and community projects.

Friendly Persuasion

BT first gently persuade prospective suppliers to adopt their own environmental policies. Later, ten-

dering for orders, suppliers are closely questioned on their use of hazardous materials and how they plan to dispose of them. The emphasis is on persuasion rather than obligation. BT even set an environmental specification for their toilet paper suppliers, with advice from Friends of the Earth.

Cars and vans also come under scrutiny. BT's entire fleet has been converted to unleaded petrol with cleaner diesel engines for all new vans. Recycling old telephones has been going on for some time - 85% of the materials from the 3.5 million redundant phones BT gets back each year is recycled and reused.

BT has printed phone books on recycled paper - the Yellow Pages paper contains 20% recycled waste. Recycling old directories each year is a bigger challenge. Besides use as animal bedding, they are also proposed as thermal insulation in houses. BT is considering directory collection bins in every large town.

Computer Culprits

Cutting down on CFCs, the emissions responsible for the hole in the Ozone layer, BT found their major culprits were large laser printers, replaced by 1993. Energy efficiency extends to every desktop in BT exchanges with a "turn your computer off" campaign when not in use. Environment City, sponsored by BT and organised by the Royal Society for Nature Conservation, saw Leicester as the first winner.

BT's environmental policies are driven from the top - the Vice Chairman heads a steering group which regularly monitors progress. They take a leading role in "thinking green", not because they have to, but because they believe in it at the highest level.

BT Press Release

'2000 printed
GREEN by
Friday please'

'No Problem
Sir!'

THE PRINT SPECIALIST

PDC
COPYPRINT

Tel: (0424) 423803 Fax: (0424) 720120

Dungeness - Gone with the Wind

Up to 1992, despite continuous problems, no UK electricity-generating nuclear power plants had been permanently shut. Privatisation - miracle cure of the '90s - did not work for the nuclear industry. Government was stuck with it, since private financiers clearly rejected it as a viable investment. This confirmed the views of Environmental groups, causing that rare phenomenon - Environmentalists and Capitalists in agreement!

38 Wind Farms

At the time, 95% of European Community subsidy for non-fossil fuels went to the nuclear industry - about £1,000 million. Yet 38 planning applications for wind farms in England and Wales were recorded for 1992 by the end of March. Could these be the winds of change a-blowing?

Dungeness A, with two reactors, was well past its 'sell-by' date in safety terms. Yet it continued to operate at 54% of capacity. American safety standards would have shut it down immediately, but it continued for political reasons. When operating, nuclear plants appear as Assets on the Balance Sheet; closed down they appear as Liabilities.

Appropriate Technology

By 1993, the Government could no longer ignore the winds of change, generated in part by their own energy-saving policies



Electricity from the wind

(See *Reducing Global Warming*, below). Obvious damage to the environment and to living creatures, some yet unborn, finally persuaded them to abandon nuclear power. A consortium of Government and private investors funds were diverted into research and development of sustainable, renewable energy sources - solar, wind and wave power, biomass appropriate technology.

Expensive Legacy

In January, 1993, Dungeness shut down permanently for environmental, safety and financial reasons at a winding down cost of untold mega bucks. The reactor core remains radioactive for at least a hundred years. It will be entombed in a 20th century pyramid for that time, eventually being dismantled when it cools down, using a technology that is not even invented yet. What a legacy for our great-great grandchildren who are not yet here to be consulted. Other site installations can be removed immediately, a tricky and delicate operation, since Dungeness is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. But the costs of keeping Dungeness open are even greater - it could cost us the Earth.

Ideal Location

By summer 1995, the Wind Farm built on the old Dungeness site, will be operating. Eight windmills, each 22 metres in diameter and manufactured by James Howden,

Glasgow, are being installed, generating 2,400 kilowatts of electricity, enough to supply 1,200 homes. Persistent coastal winds make it an ideal location. Existing switch gear and pylon networks already in place save on the costs.

A tide mill is being built on the site, harnessing the tidal and wave power of the sea to generate more environmentally friendly electricity. The power will be distributed via the existing supply network grid.

Friendly Technologies

An Appropriate Technology Centre, funded by private investors, is planned nearby for research and development of environmentally friendly technologies, including passive energy conservation. Facilities for visitors and schools groups, model prototype exhibitions and residential courses will be provided.

We're now catching up with our Continental neighbours. Since the early 1990s there have been two wind farms at Oddeund, Denmark and one at Sexbierum, Holland. And of course, our American cousins have since the 1980s had many wind farms across their country, the most famous in California, using windmills built in the UK.

Michael Sandaver

Councillor, Hastings Borough Council

BUILD IT YOURSELF

On 4 January, 1992 Councillor Mary Denning dug the ceremonial first sod marking the start of the Copse Close Self-Build Housing Association's scheme to build 14 three-bedroom houses with large panel, timber frame construction and a high standard of energy-saving insulation. This dry construction method is easier to use by those lacking building skills than wet, bricks-and-mortar construction.

For over two years, the group planned to buy the Mayfield site from Hastings Borough Council to build their own homes. Everything was on target for a Spring 1991 start, but the falling property market meant that finance money dried up.

The scheme was for families in housing need, many first-time buyers, so eventually in January 1992, a finance package was put together with help from the Northern Rock Building Society and the Housing Corporation. The scheme's consultant, Colin Parker of Chartserve Ltd, a self-build consultancy in Eastbourne, said, "It's been hard work getting to this stage, but the hard work for the families is just about to start".

Councillor Mary Denning, Chair of Hastings Housing Committee, commented, "I'm delighted that the Council has been able to assist these families in their efforts to secure affordable homes...in a very difficult financial climate."

Happy Christmas

Christmas, 1992 saw the 14 families moved into Copse Close, using their Christmas holidays to settle in. There was much to-ing and fro-ing between neighbours as they gave each other a hand or loaned and borrowed tools.

Community Living

By 1995, the 14 families had lived in their homes for 3 years, becoming part of the community development in Mayfield Farm. The women had set up a mother-and-toddlers group, along with occasional, free baby-sitting facilities, which they run on a voluntary rota. The landscaping around each house is a riot of colour and there is talk of organising a "beautiful gardens" competition next year. When Christmas 1995 rolls round, the families will celebrate together with a tall community Christmas Tree and a party for all the children at a nearby community hall.

Youths build their own Hostel

In 1995, the success of their first self-build scheme prompted Hastings Council to set up a second scheme, providing land at nil cost to a local group of young, untrained and unemployed residents for building their own communal hostel, using a similar building method.

The group started by learning woodcraft and dry building techniques, moving on to the hands-on experience of building a timber superstructure with a low maintenance metal roof and high insulation properties. Other energy-saving features include solar heating panels and simple heat exchanger units recycling the heat contained by waste gas. Lightweight construction allows the hostel to be built on a sloping site which had suffered from landslip, a common condition in Hastings.

The youngsters will not only gain a roof over their heads, but also self-confidence through teamwork and accomplishment. And the word will spread around town that with hard work and determination, people can help themselves, creating decent housing at a time of soaring house prices

Keith Donaldson,
Borough Housing Officer,
Hastings Borough Council
Collin B. Parker
Chartserve Limited



CO₂ emissions from 2 houses with different energy efficiencies
National Energy Foundation

Adams Johns Kennard

Chartered Architects • Chartered Quantity Surveyors • Chartered Building Surveyors

- A full Design Service • New build and Refurbishment • Building Cost Information and Feasibility • Project Management • Housing • Education • Social • Leisure
- Industrial and Commercial projects • Restoration and Conservation of historic buildings
- Energy Conscious Design and Energy Management

For more information please contact:
George Adams or John White



Adams Johns Kennard Ltd
Architects & Surveyors

5 Robertson Terrace Hastings East Sussex TN34 1JE
Tel: 0424 722024 Fax: 0424 443200

REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

Our reporter has learned how local government, local industry and residents are reducing global warming by saving energy and money. Most households' fuel bills can be halved through better insulation and up-to-date heating systems. Costs can generally be paid off in two to three years.

Steven Foreman of Hastings' Housing Department explained how Hollington flats and Tilekiln Estate schemes demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to energy conservation as part of its broader environmental policy.

For 25 years, the 388 Hollington flats were heated by electricity via underfloor heating elements in each flat's hallways and living rooms. Extensive consultations with residents took place as part of the planning process to replace the systems. The final design incorporated a multiple gas boiler on the roof of each of the four buildings with the gas supply kept wholly outside the structure for safety reasons. Each tenant now has full central heating and domestic hot water, together with background heating to shared parts of the building, at much less cost than the partial heating supplied before. Significantly less fuel is consumed, saving more than £43,000 per year. The residents

are now being consulted on how the money saved should be spent to further improve

Turn to page 14

the flats!

£146,000 was spent to replace 56 electric heating systems on the Tilekiln Estate with high efficiency gas systems and improved insulation. Result: harmful emissions were reduced by about 78%, and fuel costs reduced by over 35%.

John Luck of AJK, architects, took our reporter to see the just completed Mayfield development. The houses were given an energy conservation audit which earned them 10 out of 10 points on the National Home Energy Rating (NHER) - halving average fuel bills.

Dramatic Drop

Superinsulated's energy efficient homes, designed by local architects, Adams Johns Kennard, are carefully sited to maximise benefit from the sun. Solar panels are standard to heat the hot water, and interior heating is by gas-fired condensing boilers. Winter ventilation is by a heat-recovery unit in the kitchen, using the outgoing air to heat the incoming air. With other national companies

From Page 13

now pursuing similar solutions, this has led to a dramatic drop in the demand for electricity over the last 3 years – a trend that has led to the closure of Dungeness A and its replacement with a wind farm (*see Dungeness gone with the wind, page 13*).

Local Effort

Set up in 1992 with the express purpose of producing the most energy efficient home possible at affordable prices, Superinsulated's success is based on an all-local effort. A spokeswoman for the company said, "We are pleased to have achieved our first short-term goal so quickly. But our success is not based on any dramatic breakthrough of technology. Energy saving methods have existed for some years now. Our strength lies in the creative way we combine and apply these methods, always stressing our commitment to quality performance by all those involved. Our site staff have been specially trained to attend to detail and the whole house is pressure-tested for air leaks before completion."

Research

Superinsulated's next goal is to reduce the energy cost invested in building their homes. They have recently sponsored research at Brighton Polytechnic into the energy cost involved in using various kinds of building materials. They hope that this will lead to the development of an Energy Investment Index, not only for houses, but for all new buildings.

Staff Reporter

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Community Council for Rother has just adopted a plan for "sustainable living" compiled by its own citizens in conjunction with the Council. The local Study for Sustainable Living group has made recommendations for agriculture, industry and transport to help make the area environmentally viable and self-supporting.

Sustainability

The project began in 1992, when a WEA Adult Education group studied the region and produced an initial booklet of ideas "Towards Sustainability". This coincided with an effort to co-ordinate environmental education in the area. A conference was held and the Study for Sustainable Living group founded. WEA class member Bill Wise says, "Sustainability basically means 'please leave this area as you would like to find it', and that means we must learn to think about the effects of our actions on future generations."

Farmers, local business and unemployed people have all been involved in drawing up the plan and see moves toward sustainability as good economic sense for the area. Farmers' representative Jean Verdure commented, "The 1990s recession was a terrible time for farming, but through our involvement in this project, we have gained the hope of reviving farming as a viable way of life in this area."

Unemployed members of the group have benefited from insights gained into the area's unemployment patterns in days gone by. Group member Peter Jones said, "We didn't want to idealise the old days, but you can learn from looking at the area's past employment. We felt that this could help pinpoint industries and services that could be revived in the context of sustainable living." Several new community businesses have been started, inspired by this historical study, assisted by Robert Tressell Workshops and the Hastings Trust. (*See Robert Tressell is Alive and Well, page 2 and Big Buzz in Town, page 1*).

Green Tour

Conservation of our natural areas was high on the agenda – but the group also promoted discussion of the creation of new areas to help maintain the diversity of our local species of plants and wildlife. Sheila Kay, the Council's Green Tourism Officer, said, "One of the hardest problems was combining the need to conserve with the demands of the area's tourist industry." Several suggestions have been

approved, so look out for the "Green Tour" badges during the 1995 summer season.

Art and Drama

The natural beauty and value of the area is not forgotten and our thriving artistic community have contributed to this study. A club of artists has formed who are committed to exploring and promoting new ways for people to live in harmony with nature and to capture the unique qualities of the area. Hastings Arts representative Dee Donna says, "Participation in the study has helped artists relate more closely to public concerns and visions. This has resulted in more public interest along with more sales for the artists." Drama groups have also become involved. Next year's Opera on the Pier tells the story of the sustainable living project and looks forward to the new era envisaged in the plan.

We leave the last word to Katy Fielding, aged 11, from the West Hill area of Hastings: "Our school has helped with parts of the plan and we have learned that we must take care of the Earth. This plan is very good for children – it gives us the chance of a future".

Jenny Tracey

Workers' Education Association-WEA

"The most significant contribution to (environmental) changes ... will come from empowered people. The challenge is to find creative ways in which more people can discover how to strengthen their self-confidence ... find out what action to take and how to work co-operatively with others."

Colin Hutchinson

Chairman, The Conservation Trust UK



WILD PLACES AND GREEN SPACES

Here today and gone tomorrow? Not wildlife in Hastings. Five years ago today, a group of people said: "Enough is Enough!" Hastings Urban Wildlife Group was born. We grew and today, all around us, our dreams are becoming real.

Wildlife is now on everyone's doorstep, and everyone knows that the wildlife on their doorstep is just as important to the global ecosystem as the tropical rain forests and the elephants of the African plains. They cherish the town's natural spaces, from well-loved woods to the tiniest of green oases in abandoned corners, and the common (and not so common) plants and animals that live there. They know that without the conservation of their own local, natural environment, there is no answer to the ecological crisis.

Green Lungs

The green lungs extending into Hastings from its boundaries are sacrosanct, and many smaller open spaces within the town protected for the enjoyment of wildlife and people. New green spaces were created within the most densely populated areas. We now have ten Local Nature Reserves, more than any other similar local author-

ity in the country. Destroying ancient woodland and traditional grassland is regarded as nothing short of criminal, and new developments plan positively for wildlife.

Bees & Butterflies

No longer are our parks and grassy open spaces green deserts, manicured to within an inch of their lives. They are havens for bees and butterflies, and meadows that are a riot of colour, still leave plenty of room for picnicking, football, kite flying or just lying in the sun. Formal flower beds are now interspersed with wild plant communities, a woodland edge here, a butterfly garden there. The word "weed" has disappeared from our vocabulary. Hastings' wildlife gardening movement is among the most flourishing in the country, with gardens a valuable addition to the network of wildlife corridors mandated in the Borough Plan. So are road verges, mown judiciously and aglow with clovers, self heal and birdsfoot trefoil.

Badgers & Nightingales

Urban grassland and scrub, once regarded as an eyesore, is now recognised as prime wildlife habitat. Nightingales sing

in places like Broomgrove, Ore Valley and South Saxons. Badgers have the space they need to live safely, build their setts and find food. And kids have places to make camps and have direct contact with nature, generating their enthusiasm and respect. Ponds are regularly maintained by residents' groups. Frog and toad populations might be still declining elsewhere – but not in Hastings.

Badgering Councillors

Reaching this goal took a determined effort. We had to campaign: by turns, arguing and criticising or cajoling and persuading – but always encouraging. We wrote endless letters, attended countless meetings, badgered our councillors and interested the press. In all weathers, we were out and about in the Borough's green spaces, collecting the information on wildlife and their habitats so vital to our campaign. Councillors and officers were receptive; as we educated them, their perspectives and ways of thinking changed. We also took part nationally, in the direct action campaign that forced central government to think again. The long-held principle of a presumption for development was abandoned. Local sites now have legal protection which is rigorously enforced.

Enlightened Policy

Now that the Borough Council has an enlightened policy, the Nature Conservation strategy is respected in all Departments. The Borough Plan contains strong policies for habitat protection, with the people so vital to making it all work: our Aborigines and a Borough Ecologist to plan and advise. The Ranger Service has the status it deserves, and enough staff to properly look after the Country Park and our Nature Reserves. Two full-time Community Wildlife Officers help local groups, but never take over. Volunteers enjoy looking after patches that they feel belong to them, assured that some distant bureaucracy won't descend to take away what they have worked so hard to create.

Not for nothing is Hastings now famous as an urban wildlife haven. But it has all come about because together, we all did what we could, and still do. To paraphrase Edmund Burke: no one should make the mistake of doing nothing because she or he can only do a little.

1992: *If you want to contribute to making this vision reality, join Hastings Urban Wildlife Group. Membership costs just £2.50. Write now to the Membership Secretary, 8 Chanctonbury Drive, Hastings TN34 2QN*

Judy Clark

Hastings Urban Wildlife Group

"That the land is a community is a basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten ... We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to see it with love and respect ... a land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."

Aldo Leopold, 1949

GETTING TO KNOW YOU HASTINGS GETS IN TOUCH

Today St. Mary-in-the-Castle is now widely known and host to many Anglo-European conferences. Hastings' public access to information has also made it a by-word for town planning policy. It is hard to believe that only a few years ago, the town was a notorious 'black hole'. A request at the Town Hall for the Citizens' Charter (1992) drew a complete blank. How has this remarkable sea-change come about?

Enthusiasm

It simply was not true that Hastonians suffered from a chronic and terminal condition known as "Apathy", despite popular opinion. Events such as the Opera on the Pier, based on the history of Hastings, the Riviera Gallery, established by local artists, the restoration and conversion of St. Mary-in-the-Castle, and the Science Fiction Convention at the library brought forth the large, untapped reserves of enthusiasm just waiting to spring into action. But impoverished people can only implement imaginative schemes to improve the economy or local life with the moral or financial backing of the Borough Council. How, then, was this log-jam broken?

Planning for Real

Three events in the early 1990s signalled the beginnings of change. A series of

Planning for Real sessions showed not only the interest of Hastonians in planning their Town Centre, but gave the first direct, positive input from townspeople to show what they actually do want. Local groups' campaigns to establish appropriate uses for St. Mary-in-the-Castle and the Riviera Gallery paved the way for Hastings to become a financially viable, major cultural centre of the South East. A modest undertaking – installing a Town Information Map at the Art-In-Deed Gallery, illustrated that by simple, inexpensive means, local people could be put in touch with resources available to them.

Information Networks

Today, whether at the public library or at their home keyboards, they now use electronic systems which summon onto their screens the data they need to work out their strategies for housing, transport, employment or other vital needs. From 1993, the same system, supplemented by regular meetings with businessmen from counterpart European towns, opened the floodgates for cross-Channel business. There is a long way yet to go, but now we can truly say that Hastings is in touch with itself.

George Hay



"HASTINGS HAS CERTAINLY IMPROVED OVER THE YEARS—
EVEN THE BUSKERS."

MORE POWER TO YOU Hastings Environment Forum

For many years, local people and groups have worked to conserve or improve different aspects of the environment of Hastings and the surrounding areas. They share a common concern, but work largely in isolation from each other. Result: no opportunity to exchange and make use of each other's experience and knowledge to help achieve their common cause.

Sharing

Hastings Environment Forum (HEF) was started to allow this sharing to happen. HEF is an umbrella organisation legally constituted in 1992 as an unincorporated Association aiming at Charitable Status. Groups or individuals who affiliate to HEF carry on their own activities and identities, but gain strength, support and valuable information by networking with other HEF members. And, as a wise person once said: "In unity there is strength."

HEF aims to:

- increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues affecting the people of Hastings and the surrounding area
- promote participation by the same

people in decisions made about their local environment.

- act as a focus and forum for local organisations concerned with conservation and other environmental issues.

Collective Voice

HEF has been active since 1991 in organising Environment Week activities. After meeting for the first couple of years in 'borrowed' premises, by late 1993, HEF finally has its own centrally-located meeting place in the ex-Observer building, now transformed into the Hastings Networking Centre. It doubles as an information centre, enabling local groups to link up, gaining useful contacts through getting to know each other. (See *Big Buzz in Town*, page 1.)

Today, in 1995, community groups and concerned individuals have a serious say in decisions which affect the town and surrounding areas. They enjoy a higher profile and more credibility with townspeople, the press and the local authority. In part, this has come about through HEF's stronger collective voice.

Planning for Real

Tenants and residents groups from many housing estates have linked up with HEF. Many of them have adapted Planning for Real techniques, making models of their estates to try out ideas for improvements. Involving everyone in planning, including the kids, has cut down on vandalism. And as one pensioner said, "It's more fun than bingo or the telly."

Community groups now have a positive role to play in shaping local affairs and decision making. Working in a 3-way partnership with the business community and the local authority benefits all concerned, not least the town itself. Hastings has come alive in '95 and the new, improved Hastings is known far and wide as a splendid place to visit, live, work and play.

1992: *Information about Hastings Environment Forum and how to join: Maurice Lester, HEF, Environmental Consulting Office, 21 Sussex Chambers, 8 Havelock Road, Hastings TN34 1DE Telephone: 720760*

Beth Turner

A WHOLLY HOLISTIC HASTINGS

Radical changes in Hastings' attitudes toward public health have built up over the past five years. A growing interest in the holistic/whole person approach to health has led to more and more patients asking their doctors for counselling, reflexology, acupuncture, and many other therapies which were once pigeonholed as alternative medicine.

New Training

The Conquest Hospital's opening marked the demise of the last local hospital, along with lost jobs for many nurses. Alternative employment was non-existent in the depressed economic climate. Nurses felt that their medical training could be put to better community use by adding complementary or alternative medicine to their conventional nursing skills. So they banded together to lobby the Health Authority for study grants to do just that.

Their campaign was successful and some have already started their chosen training, aided by joint grants from the Hastings Health Authority and Hastings Council. Upon completing their courses, nurses are obliged to work for at least one year within the community on a part-voluntary basis. They are then free to apply for full-time, paid employment, possibly outside of the Hastings area.

New Research Study

The astounding results of a research study, "Help Yourself Help Yourself", appeared in the autumn of 1994, highlighting the importance of treating people for more than just their presenting ailments. The results are now officially accepted by the medical profession. Initiated in 1989 by the Campaign for Better Health in Britain, the study selected 50 hospitals around the country. For five years, the progress of two groups of patients was carefully monitored: those receiving only orthodox medical treatments and those receiving a combination of orthodox and alternative treatment. Patients' records were meticulously processed, showing the overall result that patients having combined treatments recovered or improved, on average, three times more quickly than those solely on orthodox medical treatments. When asked the reasons for this, many of the patients said they were more relaxed and positive under combined treatment, and felt good about 'doing something for themselves' – in other words, participating in their own recovery.

Positive Attitudes

The power of positive attitude as an aid towards recovery or prevention of illness is confirmed by an American study in the jaw-breaking field of psychoneuro-immunology, showing that our thoughts do definitely influence our cells. So, laughter and love can help keep us healthy!

Meanwhile, witness Hastings' amazing strides towards becoming a holistic town. In an astonishing about-face, the town has pulled itself up from its old depressed poverty of five years ago.

Health Action

For true and complete health, the inner and the outer environment must be in harmony. Recent legislation obliges doctors to encourage their patients to take an active part in maintaining their own health. Some practices offered health education programmes, but Health Promotion days now take place in all surgeries. Sessions in relaxation, mind-clearing (also known as meditation), hypnotherapy and dietary advice are now offered under the NHS. Already some doctors comment on the drop in demands for tranquillisers and many drug companies are turning to marketing natural remedies.

Environmental Illness

With sharper laws on agricultural pesticides, organic farming which was in a decline is now flourishing. The public became aware of the long-term dangers from consistently ingesting certain chemicals either as residue on foods, additives or preservatives. Environmental illnesses had increased to such a point that by early 1994, not only Planet Earth was suffering from pollution. We ourselves, our bodies were being damaged by the toxic effects of these man-made substances. Scientists giving such warnings over the past 40 years were thought eccentric. Only now do we take them seriously. All supermarkets now ban offending goods from their shops, and keep organic prices at the level of mass-produced food.

On Top of the World

Hastings now seems well on its way to a totally holistic outlook. Yesterdays alternative therapies are today's accepted complementary medicine. Homeopathy and herbal medicine take their place beside their medical counterparts with confidence – both are now fully available on the NHS. The big divide between the two camps is slowly but surely shrinking. Public opinion shows that we want freedom of choice, and that we are finally taking our health and that of our own Planet Earth seriously. In the words of our recently elected Mayor, "It's time to get on top of the world – before it's too late and the world gets on top of us."

Jane Metcalfe

Consultant in Holistic Health

Relationship?
Family?
Personal situation?
Overwhelmed?

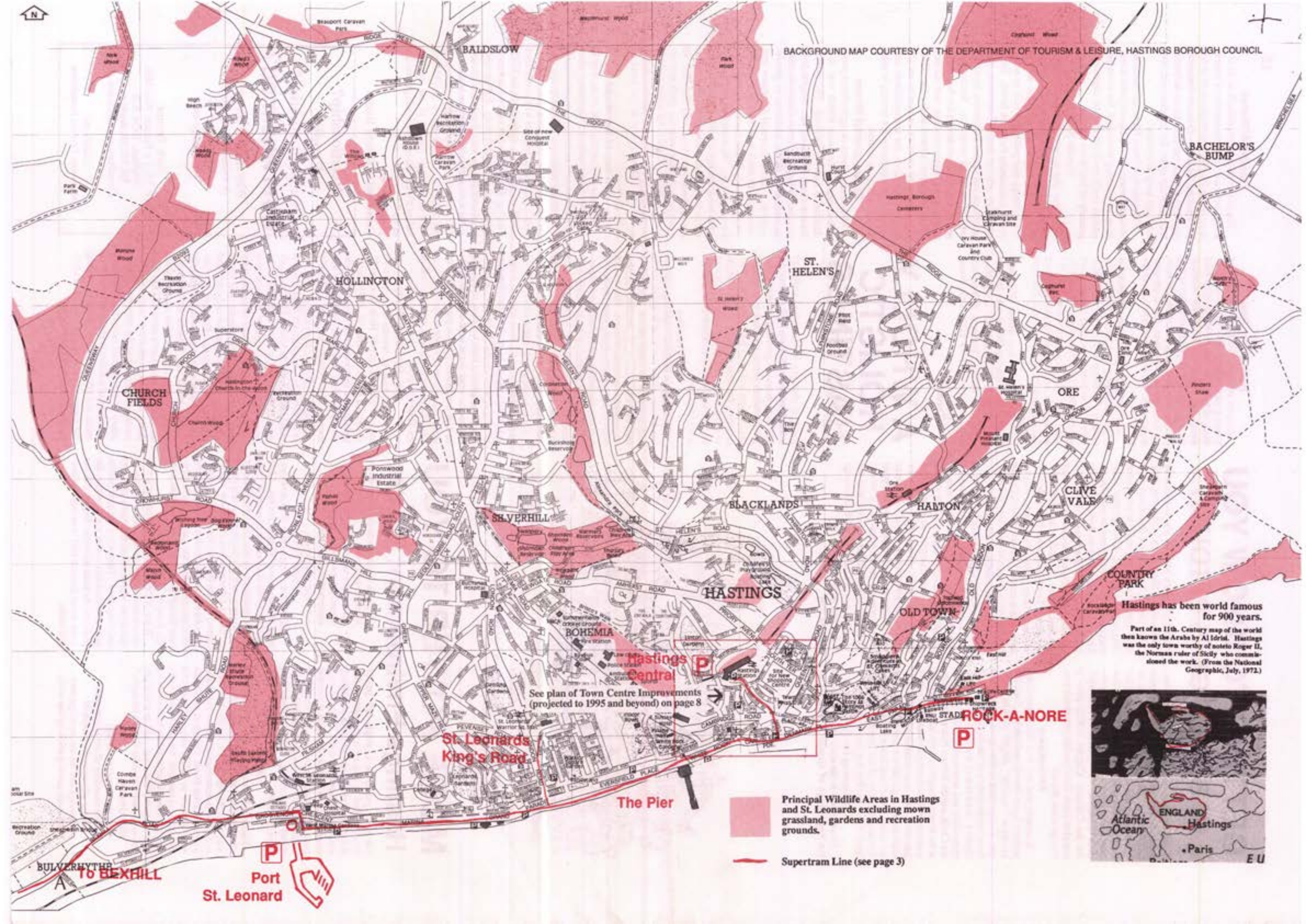
Why suffer in silence?
A trained Counsellor
can help you to
sort things out

Beth Turner
51 St. Mary's Terrace, West Hill,
Hastings, TN34 3LR
Tel. 715796 day/eve
Consultations at my home

Certificate:
Westminster Pastoral Foundation



BACKGROUND MAP COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM & LEISURE, HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL



Hastings has been world famous for 900 years.
Part of an 11th. Century map of the world then known the Arabs by Al Idrisi. Hastings was the only town worthy of notice Roger II, the Norman ruler of Sicily who commissioned the work. (From the National Geographic, July, 1972.)



See plan of Town Centre Improvements (projected to 1995 and beyond) on page 8

Principal Wildlife Areas in Hastings and St. Leonards excluding mown grassland, gardens and recreation grounds.

Supertram Line (see page 3)

P Port St. Leonard

P TO BEXHILL

EU