

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

EDITORIAL

So much has happened recently that we've hardly had time to 'put pen to paper' to give you all our news. However the big story is that Hastings Trust has been 'on the move'. No we've not got a travelling road show together, though we're hoping that where we are now will ensure us a place in the 'heart' of the community - for that after all, is where we really feel we belong.

The 2nd of September saw us moving 'lock stock and barrel' to our 'airy' new offices at 12 Wellington Square. We'll still be pleased to see our 'one time' regular visitors to our old address in High Street, along with any newcomers wishing to become involved in some of our initiatives, or wanting simply to find out more about us.

Our new community education officer notes that the schools' autumn term is now underway and she's especially eager to assist in the implementation of their national curriculum.

Whilst reading our newsletter, why not put pen to filo-fax, diary, or address book and jot down our new address:

Hastings Trust
12 Wellington Square
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1PB

Our telephone numbers remain the same:
(0424) 446373/440909 Fax: 434206

ONE DAY CONFERENCE 24TH OCTOBER

GUEST SPEAKER: FRANK JUDD (ex-director of Oxfam).
All Saints School, Githa Road, Hastings

This is one event that shouldn't be missed. Local primary schools are invited to contribute to a One World Week exhibition, here on the day.

Anyone wishing for further information should contact: Bina Jordan of the above address. Telephone: (0424) 421397, or myself, Heather Smith at the Trust. Telephone: (0424) 446373

STOP RIGHT THERE!

Never have so many passers-by stopped to look in our window as did during Old Town Week, just passed.

The reason being the truly beautiful and inspiring exhibition by Kirsten Portch - Art student at Hastings College of Arts and Technology - depicting her ideas for St Mary-in-the-Castle as a multi-purpose cultural centre.

Many thanks Kirsten for enabling us to display your work and for the great deal of interest which it has generated.

We wish you every success.

CASH AWARDS TO 'THROW' AWAY

Are you aware that:

- Up to 50% energy saving can be made by recycling,

and

- Over 50% of all office paper is recyclable?*

Are you aware also that:

- Cash awards are available to local organizations for environmental projects and that by working for the environment your business could work better for you?

This is the message from Hastings Borough Council's Environmental Health Department who have come up with some ways in which to help.

For a free copy of their leaflet - kindly sponsored by SCA Recycling Maybank - why not contact: Hastings Borough Council's environmental officer, Mrs Rachel Lewis, (who was keen to see this article included), Hastings Borough Council, Environmental Health Department, 44 Wellington Square, Hastings. TN34 1PR. Tel: (0424) 722025

CRAFTS FOR CONSERVATION - SAVE THE RHINO TRUST, NAMIBIA

SAVE THE RHINO TRUST (SRTF) is working in Damaraland, Namibia with a black rhino population of 84, the 2nd largest free-ranging population in the world. Their work involves not only rhinos but also the specially adapted desert elephants, endemic to the region, whose adaptations include foraging on beaches and 'ski-ing' down sand dunes.

People are also a focus for the projects. Local communities are encouraged to assist in poaching prevention work. Many people are employed as rangers and mechanics, whilst others have received financial assistance to carry out their own schemes. These are brave attempts to generate income in a financially impoverished region.

The schemes include the establishment of 2 tourist camps. One is situated at Klowais - an idyllic setting next to one of the few flowing rivers in Damaraland. The other is at Twelffontein, known in Damara as HDäureitsee - literally 'Burnt Mountain'.

Here there are rock paintings dating back 100's of 1000's of years depicting hunting scenes and geometric designs believed to have been visualised by the shaman whilst in a trance.

In Klorixas, the administration centre for SRTF, Blythe Loutit, the founder of the Trust and also a well-known botanical artist, is trying to create a local craft centre. Here, artists would be able to work, learn skills and sell their products to tourists.

Crafts for Conservation, the project instigated by myself and a colleague in England, aims to collect information about the various arts and crafts presently being produced in Damaraland, as well as those which are more traditional. Many of these traditional processes are dying out and if revived could be valuable income earners.

Another focus of research is the guest farms, tourist lodges and concession holders camps in the region which could provide major outlets for the crafts produced.

So far vehicles have cost us a great deal of time and money, delayed our research programme and caused some grey hairs but at last, last week we got started. We've had interviews with wood carvers, leather workers, dress makers, doll makers, painters and pot makers. But the majority of the artists in Klorixas, carve Malialene palm nuts which come from Hyphaene Petersiana, otherwise known as vegetable ivory, due to it's colour and hardness. With often only half a razor blade these carvers manage to produce elaborate designs on these nuts, ranging from the political (SWAPO motifs), Namibian coats of arms, through to local animals (predominately the rhino itself). So far the tourists seem to be buying them like the proverbial 'hot-cakes' and who knows, a potential overseas market may lie ahead.

**Letter from Isobel Stoddart,
Trust Volunteer.**

TRUST TRAINEE MAKES GOOD

"And so the end is near" ... Nearly a year has passed and, although I know it's a terrible cliché, it really doesn't seem that way. Before beginning E.T. (which incidentally stands for Employment Training and has nothing to do with creatures from distant galaxies), I was already acquainted with the staff, working in a voluntary capacity.

Since then, the nature of my work hasn't really changed (the normal combination of filing, computing, creating data bases, word processing, typing and of course, direct contact with the public), but the grounding I have had in all this has now helped me gain access to a B.A. Hons. Degree course in Library and Information Studies at the University of Brighton.

I shall miss all my friends, though am glad to have had the opportunity to work alongside them. And, of course, in the words of General MacArthur: "I shall return" for visits, so it's more a case of "Auf Wiedersehen" than "Goodbye".

Laurence Homewood

PROJECTS UPDATE

Cooper Barnes - Voluntary clearance of this site by the Steering Committee has been halted. This is due to a surge of interest in the site by the Planning and Estates Department.

The Borough Engineers are currently surveying and costing options for the site. Derelict land grants are available towards the cost of improvements and the scale of works will be dependant on the extent of the grant aid and the ability of the council to 'top-up'.

Proposals will be put to sub-committee and we can only await their decision. The general feeling is very positive and it is agreed that interested parties will be consulted and kept informed of developments.

100 Steps West Hill - A proposal for restoring the top flight of the steps is with the Tourism & Leisure department. AJK Architects costed the materials for us and we thank them for their generosity. Commencement of these long awaited works is now dependant on the Trust's ability to commit itself to staffing levels required on this project.

Torfield School Wildlife Experience - Progress has been made towards Torfield school 'acquiring' the land they have in mind for this project. The Trust is very much waiting on the side lines until such time as it's assistance is required. We are however building up interest in the scheme.

St Leonards Blind Garden - The Trust has been approached by Tourism & Leisure to cost a project for improving this section of St Leonards Gardens.

To provide a new wall that will be in keeping with the situation will require a large quantity of new or reclaimed sandstone. We are currently scouring the vicinity for a source of new or reclaimed stone. A new guide rail and replacement of make-shift perimeter fencing will also be included in the scheme. Tourism and Leisure will undertake an appropriate planting scheme.

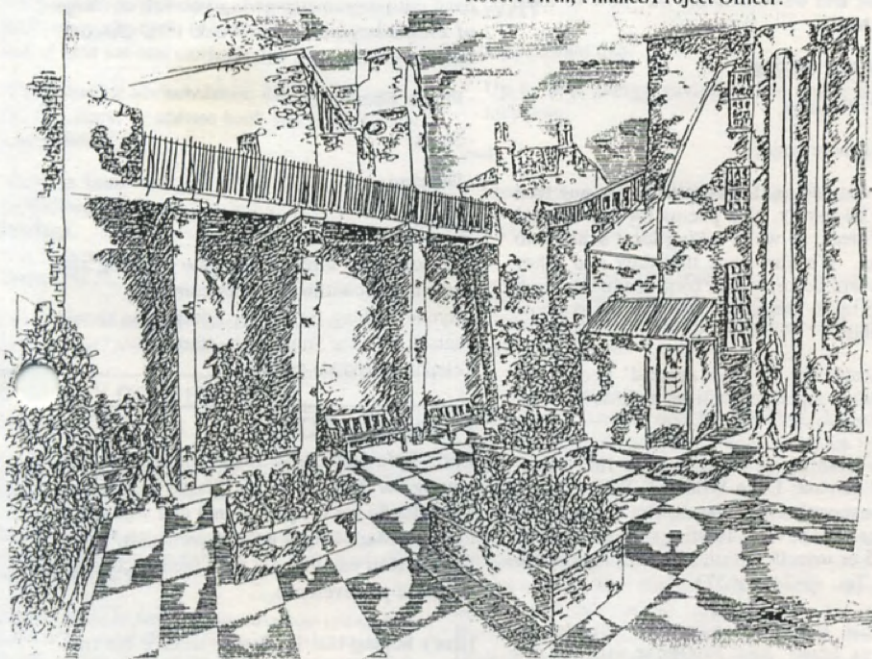
Timescale is as yet unknown, obviously it would be nice to see this facility reinstated as soon as possible.

Briefly - The Trust would like to thank Paul Reed of Planning & Estates and Brian Tomkins of Tourism & Leisure for the support over the past few months.

The Trust attended the Town & Country Fair recently. Preparation was a bit rushed, and it showed! We learned that our display system does not stand up on grass and that paper-weights come in handy in preventing brochures from blowing across the boating lake.

A lot of interest was generated however and such outings are worthwhile.

Robert Firth, Finance/Project Officer.



A view of the proposed courtyard at the Cooper Barnes site
Drawing by Ian Hunter

TREE DRESSING DAY

The grace and beauty of trees never ceases to amaze us. They have lived longer than any other being on earth and are a constant source of inspiration. Not only this, they:

- Provide food,
- Reduce pollution,
- Purify the atmosphere.

To celebrate; tree dressing in its various forms takes place all over the world. In S.E. Asia, trees are strewn with ribbons and beads. Whilst at one time in Russia, Birch trees were dressed in women's clothing.

To coincide with National Tree Dressing Day - a 'Common Ground' initiative - Tree Dressing Day in Hastings this year is on Saturday 5th December and takes place in Alexandra Park.

In addition to the 'ritual' dressing, there will be:

- A talk and demonstration on "how to look after a tree".

- Music and dancing

- Poetry Reading,

and lots more besides.

Extra dimensional decorations for our tree would be lovely, also poems for our special 'poets' tree, so we're asking local schools to help us. We also hope that they and other groups will decorate their own tree in the week leading up to December 5th and let us know about this.

Certificates for the 'best dressed' tree in our schools' competition will be awarded on the day.

Those wishing to contribute to this event should contact: Dave Wildman, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Ore Centre, Old London Road, Ore, Hastings. Tel: (0424) 446395 or myself, Heather Smith, here at the Trust. Tel: (0424) 446373.

A 'British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - Hastings Trust' joint enterprise with the co-operation of Hastings Borough Council.

'ONE WORLD' GET TOGETHER

As I wandered along to my first 'One World Week' meeting back in July, I couldn't help wondering what it was all about. I recalled having read that it was in its 15th year, but still I was none the wiser. Thankfully I needn't have worried; as on arrival I was greeted by folk, who - though from a wide number of organizations - had just one aim in common on the night: to demystify One World Week for the benefit of such simple souls as myself, and as a consequence; to raise public awareness of 'Third World' issues.

This year, One World Week takes as its theme 'Trading Places Linking Lives' to highlight: interdependence amongst nations alongside the need for 'Fair Trade'.

Whilst out shopping on Saturday 17th October, why not look out for us in the town centre from 11 am - 2 pm. We'll be there to hand out programmes giving you full coverage of events beginning the week 18th October. Besides which, there will be:

- Puppet Shows,

- Stalls,

- Dancing,

- Music

and hopefully circus acts, face painting and much more (contributions welcome).

Anyone wishing for further information should contact: Heather Smith at the trust.

Telephone: (0424) 446373

FROM ET TO DJ

Chris Fyfe and David Jeapes have been presenting the 'Not Quite Folk Show' on Hastings Local Radio for the past month and would like to thank Mark Briggs and, in particular, Kevin Dyball, their engineer for both their encouragement and perseverance.

Here's hoping that HLR will receive the franchise they so rightly deserve.