

HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN THE LAST 10 MONTHS THE HASTINGS TRUST HAS:-

- **Earned the Town over £134,000** by
 - Identifying and passing on information to the Council on the Derelict Land Clearance Grant for the Cooper-Barnes Site. **£40,000**
 - Identifying and registering a "Building at Risk" - 11 Edward Rd - and securing an English Heritage Section 77 Grant for the owners **£40,000**
 - Securing emergency repair grants for Christchurch School **£ 6,600**
 - Created savings to the Borough Council's Budget by undertaking physical project work **£44,500**
 - Earned income from selling Trust services **£ 3,200**
 - Identified a possible source of funding for promotion of the Cycle route along the seafront.
- **Worked on 5 Environmental Improvements with 5 more in the pipeline**

Burtens Memorial Garden
100 Steps (Castle Banks)
Cooper-Barnes Site
Torfield Resource For Environmental Education
West Hill Road, St. Leonards.

The Blind Garden Walls, St. Leonards Gardens - EEC Grant identified
High Banks Steps, Ore
Pelham Arcade Steps - finance allocated
Alexandra Park Gates
High Pavements Walls, All Saints St.
These last 2 have promises of ESCC funding attached. Other projects may arise during 93/4 which will be prioritised within the current list.

- **Promoted good practice in conservation** by providing a Conservation Surgery, courses, on restoration and conservation building techniques, architectural aid and one-to-one advice.
- **Helped local groups organise, propose, fund or initiate projects, including**
 - Friends of St. Mary in the Castle
 - Hastings Wall Garden
 - Torfield School Environmental Resource Centre
 - Towards Hastings 2000
 - Riviera Gallery
 - Pier Preservation Society,
 - Scaffold Youth Project
 - Trinity Church Restoration Fund

- **Set up the Community Resource Centre for use by local groups and individuals without resources.** Services include: Computer, Desk Top Publishing Service, (design and printing of posters, leaflets, pamphlets, etc.).
"Funderfinder" programme
Technical advice and information on conservation and development issues;
Contacts/networking links;
Equipment loans (slide projector, screen, exhibition screens, information videos, books and printed material.)
Budget Management Service
Fund Holding
- **Trained and provided new work experience to 9 individuals in the fields of:-**
 - Environmental and Recycling practices
 - Accounting and Financial Management for Voluntary Organisations
 - Project Management
 - Information Technology
 - Graphics and Design
 - Restoration and Conservation Techniques
 - Education and Liaison
 - Administration and Office Practices

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- **All this - with more to come - has cost the Council annually less than the budget for the proposed improvements to the Rock-a-Nore public Toilets - £53,400 ?**

The Trust's Aims for 93/4 are to continue to work for the Town and create further partnerships to increase the funding that it can attract, to work in the following areas:

- ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT
- BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICE IN CONSERVATION
- FUNDING ADVICE
- RESOURCE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

The Trust asked for funding of £52,000 for 93/4 - 92/3 level of grant support with inflation added.

The total lack of funding support from Hastings Borough Council would effectively end the Trust's ability to function and thereby lose the Town a valuable resource which will not be replaced. The Trust's status as a charity enables it to attract funds not available to the Borough Council or private businesses, and it can use its position to create partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors to carry out projects and schemes which would otherwise languish through lack of funds. The Trust also has the ability to work outside the strictures that central government lays upon local government, and can thus be a channel for services and funding which would otherwise be difficult, or impossible, for the Council to pursue.

EDITORIAL

Well, it's been 12 months since the first issue of the Trust's Quarterly Newsletter. Have we achieved all that we have set out to achieve? Or did we fail miserably?

In the first issue, the Burton Memorial Garden, on West Hill Road, St. Leonards featured prominently. Our aim was to complete this project, bringing to an end 30 years of stagnation. I am happy to report that this was completed in the Summer. We will now build on that success by securing the long-term maintenance and further enhancement of this now pleasant community garden.

Also mentioned in issue 1, the 100 Steps, on the West Hill. Work has now started and should be completed by early Spring 1993.

Community Desk Top Publishing was made available to outside community groups. Many individuals and organisations continue to use these facilities, via the Community Resource Centre. A trend we will encourage and promote.

Another project that has progressed positively is the Cooper Barnes Site in George Street - a project in which the Trust has played a primary role in enabling the community to forward their plans to the Council for an open site.

I could give a "blow-by-blow" account of all the projects initiated, enabled, managed, completed, etc, but I think that this publication might not be big enough. So, simply read the following list of some of the projects in which your Trust has played a role.

Tree of Life Project
Stade Warden Project
Old Town Forum
St. Mary-in-the-Castle Working Party
Torfield Resource for Environmental Education
One World Week
Crafts for Conservation
Cooper Barnes Site
100 Steps
Community Resource Centre
Hollington Junior School Wildlife Garden
Burton Memorial Garden
Stone Pointing Course
National Tree Week (Tree Dressing Day)

FUNDING

Trust members will be aware of the fight over our support funding from HBC for 93/4. The question has been highlighted because of the lack of consultation and negotiation with the Trust before the cut was made. Following the 100% cut which went through the Planning Committee in November, a petition was quickly organised to allow the Trust to present its case to the Policy Committee on December 3rd. We were allowed the statutory five minutes in which to lay out the argument for continued support from the Council, plus the right to negotiate a level of funding which would allow the Trust to function. There was a question and answer session followed by the vote which, happily, went in our favour. The Trust is now in negotiation with the Borough Council over the exact level of support it is to receive in the coming financial year.

It is vitally important that Members are aware that there is a figure below which the Trust cannot fulfill any of its aims and objectives for the town. Over the past year we have actively pursued a policy of trying to match £ for £ the support that HBC gave, by whatever means available to us, and we have succeeded. We shall do the same next year, provided that the level of core funding support is adequate. There will be a meeting of the Policy Committee all day on January 22nd, during which our funding will be discussed. Do please lobby your local councillors on this issue and come along on the 22nd to show your support.

NEW TRUSTEES FOR '93

At our recent AGM, the following members were elected to serve on the board of Trustees for the coming year:

George Adams, AJK Architects,
Dennis Collins, Chamber of Commerce
Alma Hanson, Burtons' St. Leonards Society
Peter Billington, Steven Hinton, Michael Hunter,
Alan Privett, Don Richardson, James Risbridger, Paul Smith, John Turner
HBC Representative, Cllr. Pam Brown, OBE
ESCC Representative Cllr. Ossie Hughes

For 1993

St. Leonards Blind Garden
Sandhills Project (restoration of steps)
Cycle Paths
Estates Action Group
(Ore Valley/Broomgrove/Farley Bank)

The help from volunteers we have enjoyed this year has meant that many more projects have been taken on, and their continued support ensures that Hastings Trust will continue to be a "living" organisation serving the people of Hastings.

We would like to thank our many friends and helpers for their past and continued support and look forward to even greater joint successes in 1993.

Here's wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NB - If you have not received your subscription renewal slip, or would like to join, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone (0424) 446373, or by a personal visit to the Community Resource Centre at 12 Wellington Square.