

# HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY

## EDITORIAL

### POTENTIAL FUNDING CRISIS

It is almost time to start negotiating with the Borough the level of financial support for the next year to ensure that the Trust not only survives but is able to expand its operations within the town. This support was pledged by members at the last negotiations when they fought to save the Trust after officers 100% cut recommendation. Imagine our surprise then at hearing the rumour that for the second year running it is recommended that the Trust get a 100% cut. This is in complete contradiction to the Council's stated aim of supporting the Trust for the next three years, recognising the valuable works that we do and the ability to bring in outside funding from sources not open to the borough. It is the hope of this office that the rumour is unfounded and that the support we and others have enjoyed will continue, however if there is some truth in the rumour then we hope that you will join with us in fighting any proposed cuts to the voluntary organisations, recognising as we do the benefits that will be lost if support is withdrawn.



## HASTINGS TRUST MEMBERSHIP

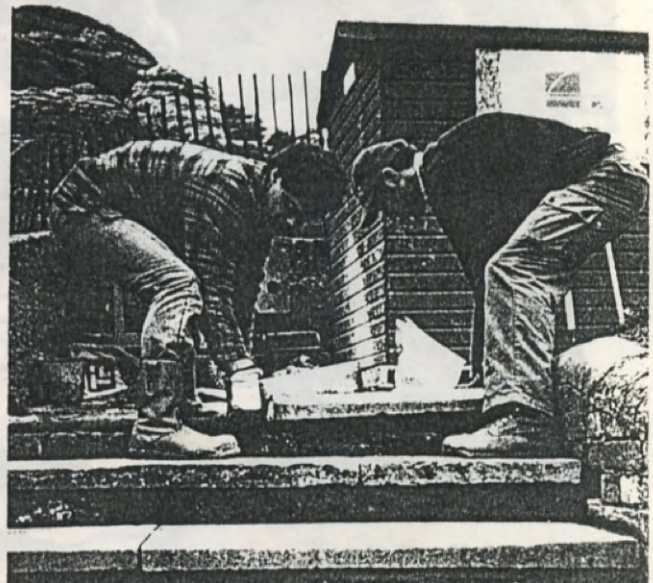
Readers wishing to \*renew/take out membership with the Hastings Trust and/or who would like to find out more about our organisation and the work we do, can contact: Heather Smith at the Trust's offices, 12 Wellington Square, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1PB. Tel: 0424 446373.

\* Current members are reminded that membership expires six months after subscription renewal date.

## HASTINGS TOWN & COUNTRY FAIR

Volunteers are required to help set up and man the Hastings Trust stall between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August in Alexandra Park. Last year the Trust was inundated with enquiries and offers of help from the public who came along, and our presence at this event went a long way in helping to promote all the valuable work which we do for the town.

Anyone with a few hours to spare can contact: Heather Smith, Hastings Trust, 12 Wellington Square, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1PB. Tel: 0424 446373





# ENVIRONMENT WEEK

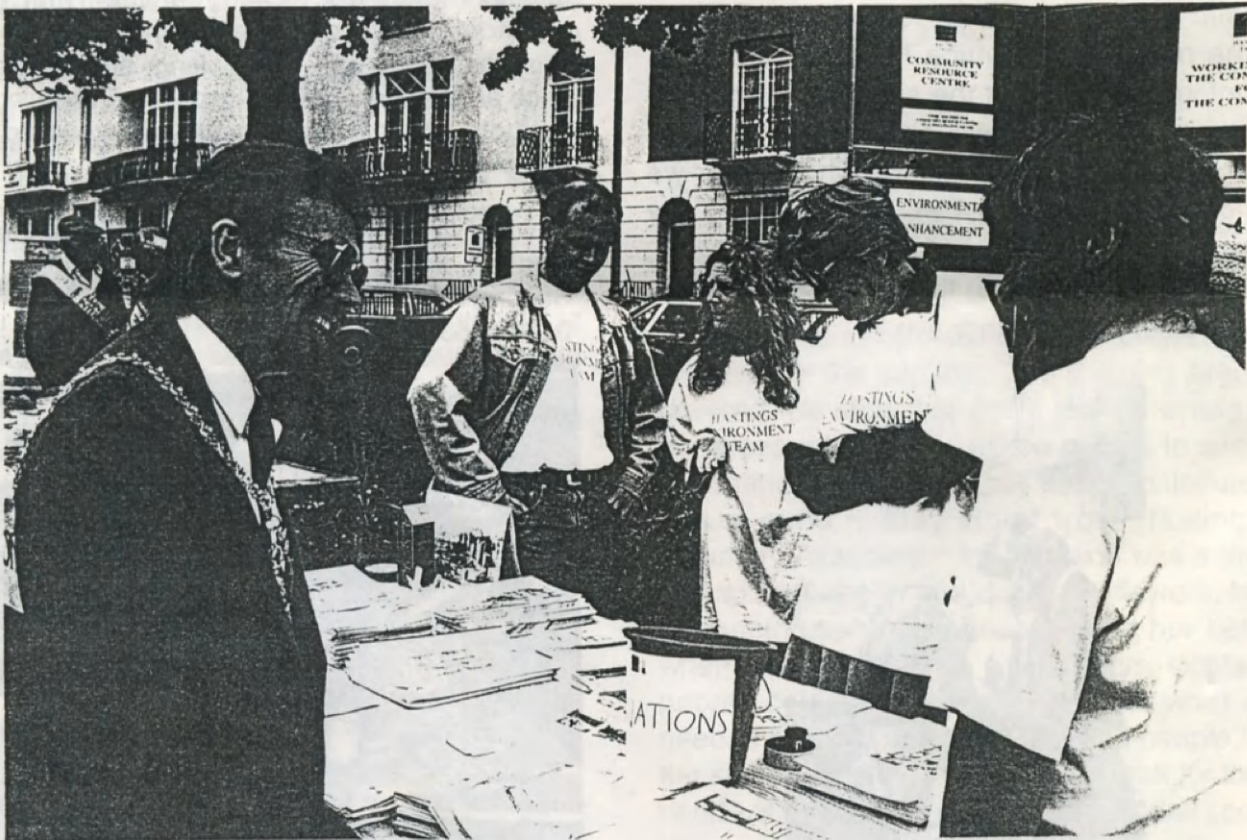
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BT Environment Week in Hastings got off to a great start with a Celebration Day to "Spread the Word" that the Trust co-hosted with Environmental Health Department in Wellington Square. Thanks to T&L, the tables were free, delivered by our old friends the Territorial Army, lugged and stacked by Heather and Christine. The day dawned bright and clear; staff and Trustees were out at the crack of dawn to set up for 9.30. The catering van trundled on site, MacDonalds set up their "sponsored orange" whereby we were given half the proceeds of sales of orange towards the cost of the day. Drinkwater-Sabey provided rubbish bins - more than were necessary, so tidy and rubbish conscious were the visitors. There were some 38 different organisations and groups displaying their talents, cares and wares up and down the square; buskers and morris dancers filled the air with music and song,

children had their faces painted, people picniced on the grass - a good time was had by all.

We were fortunate to have the Mayor, Cllr. Richard Stevens, open the day and launch the week for us, with a splendid speech containing some complementary remarks about the Trust's work - quite unsolicited but hugely welcome. The Mayor also received a cheque on our behalf from the Territorial Army for £1,020, raised from their Half-Marathon Run for the Torfield Project, before wandering around and stopping to talk to all the stall holders.

By 5.30., staff, Trustees and volunteers were stacking the tables, clearing up the tiny amount of litter and looking back on a splendid day. Feed-back has shown that everyone had enjoyed the day so much, they would like it to be held again in Wellington Square next year but to extend the event into the evening with music and dancing. Sounds like a good idea.





## TREE - Torfield Resource for Environmental Education

The Trust put the TREE Project in for a BT/Civic Trust Award during Environment Week, and won the "See Green" category. Andrew White of BT South East came down and presented us with a cheque for £500 and a "Leaping Man" trophy made out of a recycled telephone. Environmental Health Department awarded the Project a £200 Environmental Bursary for tools and ongoing work, having given a bursary to help start up the Project the previous year. Further funding will be available from English Nature for fencing on completion of work.

To date, a large area has been reclaimed for a meadow, footpaths have been cleared and laid, incorporating wooden steps and log seating has been embedded for use as an "outdoor" classroom. A number of areas will be left to grow naturally, so as to protect existing wildlife; shaded and bracken covered banks and natural woodland.

Children have already begun to participate on site; helping to dig and weed and planting a variety of "special interest" flowers, including sunflowers, bluebells and buddleias which will attract butterflies to the area. All their activities are recorded in a project diary. Pupils from Saxon Mount School have also been coming along each week to help clear the site and they too are taking a keen inter-

est in developments.

It is expected that teachers from other schools in the community will bring classes along to observe and help maintain the area, and in so doing "bring to life" Environmental Studies in the curriculum.

TREE Project has received a lot of support and enthusiasm from a number of other groups and individuals in the community, and amongst those which the team would like to thank are:-

'C' Company, 5th. Btn., Princess of Wales Royal Regiment, who raised £1,000 by running in the Hastings Half Marathon. A cheque was presented to the Mayor on our behalf on Hastings Celebration Day.

Pamela Cartwright who also ran and donated sponsorship money.

BTCV Mid- Week Group

Andrew Maclaren, Robert Tressell Workshops,

Melian Poorum , "Hands on" volunteer.

Environmental Health Department's Environment Week Team.

If you would like to help support the Project in any way, please contact Christine Goldschmidt or Heather Smith at Hastings Trust. Tel: 0424 446373.

Heather Smith  
Education Officer





## DEVELOPMENT TRUSTS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Trust is a founder member of the Development Trust's Association, a group set up to lobby for funding from central government and the private sector for Trust's such as ours. The Director attended the first annual conference in April, which was attended by 90 different Trust's from all over the country. While it was interesting to compare notes with the bigger and longer established Trusts to see what projects they were undertaking I was really there to make contacts with the network and to find out where they got their funding from. Of course, most of them were recipients of E.E.C. grants, central government funding from Urban Programme areas, City Challenges or Assisted Area status holders, or had been endowed with a building and funds by their local and county councils. They also had access to funds or support from local manufacturing companies and business sponsors. When it was explained that Hastings had none of these "advantages" and that it had some major problems and no government support of any kind, the reaction from other delegates was one of surprise - mainly because they thought we were part of the "rich South-East" syndrome. The beauty of our town and its surroundings masks a great deal of our problems from the outside world. It did draw a response from other small Trust's who were in the same position in different parts of the country, though, and the newly elected management committee now has a small Trust's representative in Liz Rasekoala who will be putting our case at every opportunity.

The South-East Region of the Association will be running seminars and workshops on funding and other issues for development trusts throughout the coming year which staff and trustees can attend.

### 100 Steps

As reported in our last newsletter this project was due to be finished by Spring 1993, but owing to the numerous vandal attacks this

has not been achieved. All that remained to complete was the 300 half-round header bricks destroyed by the vandals. I am happy to report that we have been able to secure funds to complete the project and final completion is only days away.

It is a sad fact that a small minority of people are intent on destroying their own environment, but it is gratifying to be able to witness the determination of the majority who will not allow this destruction to colour their enthusiasm for restoration and repair. I would like to thank all those people who have been involved, whether by deed or word, in supporting practical projects in our town.

## PELHAM STEPS

The long-running saga of Pelham Steps is nearing completion. Another delay was caused by needing to have the stone work repointed with a special lime mix which had to be approved by Conservation Section at Planning, and terracotta airbricks being replaced by special cast iron ones.

## RESTORATION OF THE BLIND GARDEN

The Trust has secured a grant of £300 from the Good Neighbours Trust towards restoration of the braille plaques along the border. No news from the EEC application, but there is still an application outstanding with the W.O. Street Fund, for the remaining £4,600 which needs to be raised for the project if it is to start in the autumn.. The Evening Argus covered the story but got it slightly wrong - our press release had asked people to send in donations if they felt they could contribute! Never mind - May Good from Hastings Voluntary Association for the Blind was a terrific sport diving in and out of the flowers, for the photographer, and has offered her help when the project starts. As she says, sighted people couldn't possibly know just what is needed by blind or partially sighted people in the same way that she couldn't speak for the needs of someone in a wheelchair. Well spoken.