

HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am very pleased and honoured to have been proposed and voted in by the Board of Management as the new chairman on the resignation of the post by Paul Smith. I would like to reiterate the statement made by the Director at the Board Meeting that the Hastings Trust owes a great deal of thanks to Paul Smith for the professional way he has carried out his duties as Chairman, over the sometimes very insecure initial two year period of the Trust's creation. I am personally extremely grateful to Paul for accepting the appointment of Treasurer. With his expertise in this field we will all feel more secure.

On the subject of Finance and Security, I think we all recognise the primary aim of the Trust over the next few years is to become self-financing. One possible avenue is being investigated at this moment. Many others must be thought through and researched, and everyone is asked to give this matter serious thought., come in to the offices at 12 Wellington Square and discuss such matters. Christine would like to see you and give you an update on present activities. If you can offer nothing but moral support that's plenty enough for the team at No. 12 to feel their endeavours are appreciated. Who knows, you may learn about some difficulties with a certain project that you are unable to resolve - "but I know a man who can". In short, as Trustees I am asking for your greater participation.

It was decided at the AGM to appoint somebody as a Publicity Officer. The volunteer can be any Trustee; if not a Member of the Board he or she can be co-opted to the Board. So in preference to delegating somebody - do we have any volunteers? If you would like further details regarding this post, pop in and talk it over with Christine.

I was very pleased to hear that we have been positively involved with Hastings Borough Council in the English Heritage Conservation Area Partnership Scheme (see separate article) as indeed we should.

Stephen G.B. Hinton

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Trust urgently requires an editor for the newsletter. The pressure of work and fundraising is currently heavy, and looks set to stay that way for the foreseeable future. If there is anyone within the membership who has a talent for words - **HELP!**

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

The Trust's third AGM was held this year on December 10th at the Royal Victoria Hotel. Despite the weather, the attendance was the best so far and the Gladstone Suite was full. A third of the longest serving board members had to stand down, but were re-elected unanimously. Following the meeting, members stayed for a social get-together and networking session, where it emerged that a more informal meeting would be the preferred option for next year.

Board members serving for 93/4 are:

George Adams, Peter Billington, Cllr. Mrs. Brown - HBC Nominee, Dennis Collins, Cllr. Cathie Farrington - County Nominee, Alma Hanson, Stephen Hinton, Michael Hunter, Peggy Munroe - English Heritage Nominee, Alan Privett, Don Richardson, James Risbridger, Paul Smith, John Turner

At the first full board of management meeting following the AGM, Paul Smith stood down as chairman, having served through two hectic and formative years, feeling that it was time to pass the torch on. A formal vote of thanks for all Paul's hard work as chairman over the past two years was recorded. Don Richardson stood down as treasurer and James Risbridger stood down as vice chair. The Trustees then elected the following officers:

Chair - Stephen Hinton
Vice-chair - Don Richardson
Treasurer/Company Secretary - Paul Smith

HASTINGS CELEBRATION DAY - ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1994

BT Environment Week this year runs from 20th-30th May, and by popular demand, the Trust will again be co-hosting the Hastings Celebration Day with the Environmental Health Department on Saturday 21st May in Wellington Square. Local groups and organisations are being invited to take stalls where they can display their wares and tell the world who they are and what they do. There will be food from the Hot Potato and entertainment of all sorts during the day in and around the Square. Anyone needing further information, please contact Heather on 446373.

To round off the day in style, the Trust is holding a fund-raising gig in the evening at the Carlisle (see elsewhere in the newsletter).

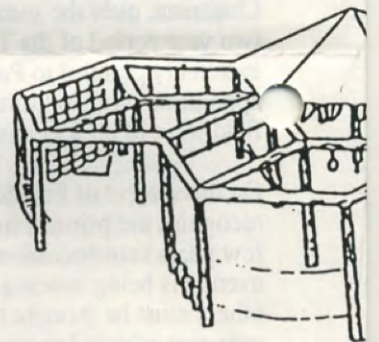
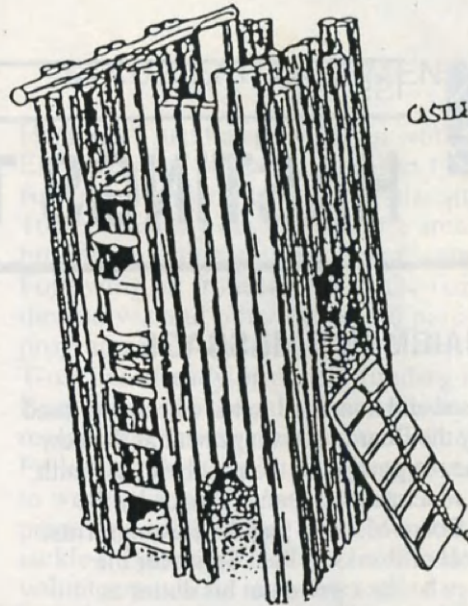
Ore Valley Forum

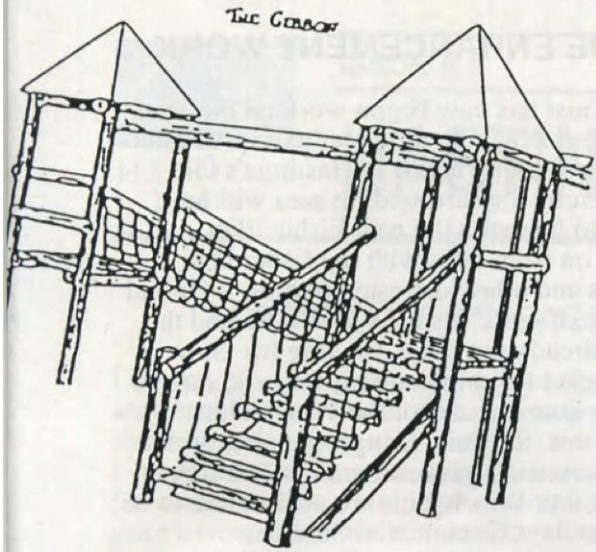
Following the successful Estates Action bid for Broomgrove, residents of Broomgrove and Farley Bank felt that they wanted the good work of all the agencies involved to carry on, so that ideas from the Planning for Real sessions could be acted upon. A preliminary meeting of all agencies involved was called in January where everyone pledged their future support for the new Ore Valley Forum. The Trust is delighted to be a member of the forum and will continue to give its aid and support, wherever necessary.

Other news from Broomgrove - the Community Services Unit have now costed the pieces of equipment for the adventure playground at £8,900 - so get the tins rattling, we need that money by the summer. The children from the Junior and Senior Youth clubs chose the pieces - luckily showing a surprisingly unanimous view of what they liked and wanted. Community Services will build and erect the play equipment during the late spring and early summer, providing that the funds are in place.

Hastings Environment Network

The Trust has joined the Environment Network, with trustee, John Turner as our representative. The Trust is keen to develop the reality of networking and at the last meeting, John and Kevin Carias, a Trust member, gave a two-handed talk on how we see the way forward, building on the idea of the Trust's database and information network project.





Garden for the Blind - Latest news

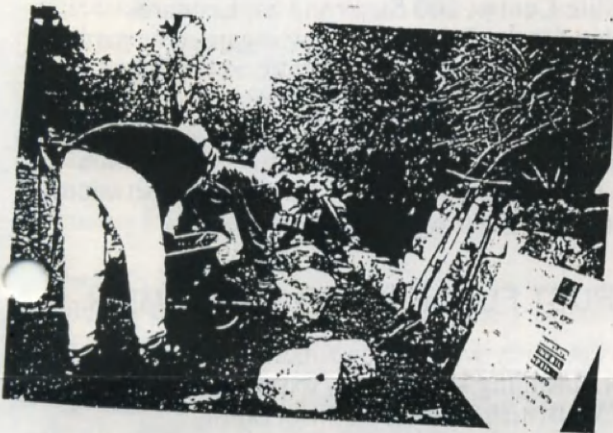
The Trust received an anonymous donation of £2,000 towards the cost of the project completing the fund-raising on schedule. All the stone-work has been completed, and Simes and Co., have made and installed the new handrail for the garden, with the new planting to take place at the end of March. The Trust will be holding a planting day for all those volunteers who have worked on the project and who wish to contribute to the last phase. Anyone interested should contact Christine on 446373.



Hastings Area Recycling Project - HARP

Community Recycling could be a thing of the future - The Borough's Environmental Health Department is keen to support community recycling, and as a first step, the Trust is going to manage and develop HARP with the idea that over time, the project should be self-sufficient and create jobs. A specialist vehicle and equipment are on the way and from April 1st you will see HARP trundling around Hastings collecting office waste and aluminium cans.

THE CITY



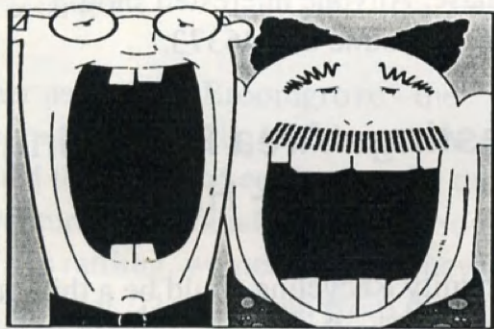
St. James' Steps, Quarry Road

Work has started on the restoration of the steps and as an added bonus, East Sussex County Council have agreed to reinstate the railings down from the bridge as part of the scheme. The Trust will also be tackling graffiti around the site as part of the Smarten Up Hastings Campaign.



ENGLISH HERITAGE TOWN SCHEME PARTNERSHIP

Those of you who were at the AGM will remember Tony Fry's announcement that the Borough had been invited to bid for one of the pilot schemes and had successfully reached the first stage. Since then their consultants, Gillespies, have produced an action plan of work to be undertaken in Hastings from the Castle to Rock-a-Nore. The plan is currently being considered by English Heritage, and if the plan is accepted, the Trust has a number of projects to work on over the next three years, including a Twittens Project and High Pavement Walls in High Street and All Saints, plus other enhancement schemes.



MEGA GOOD TIMES AT THE CARLISLE 21ST MAY - 8 TILL LATE

The Trust is holding a fund-raising bash to round off Hastings Celebration Day in style and to raise funds for a "Wheels Project" for local youngsters. The evening is being organised by one of our new volunteers, Dave Weller, who is also working as part of the wheels project team. The landlord of the Carlisle has given the room free, and three bands have offered their services for the evening: The Blackman Brothers, The Amigos and the Addled Family. Space is limited to 200 lucky numbered tickets, at £3 each, so book early to avoid disappointment. To boost the project funds, we are holding a raffle for which David Jeapes is acting as procurement officer. If members have unwanted Christmas presents they wish to donate, please give David a call immediately.

STADE ENHANCEMENT WORK

Hastings Trust has now begun work on the Stade Enhancement Scheme - a project to improve the fishermen's working beach in Hastings's Old Town, whereby the surrounding area will be brought into line with the new Fishmarket. Following on from talks with the fishermen themselves and other interested parties, an initial programme of work has been drawn up and the Trust has already provided funding for Steve Barrow to clad the miniature railway station and replace the doors on one of the Winch Huts. Following this, the Paint Gang have already set to work; the station has received its first lick of paint, and other Winch Huts are next in line to be tackled. Barclays Commercial Services volunteers will be treating and staining the barriers around the car parks and paying for the materials.

The Trust has again been extremely fortunate in the high calibre of its volunteers. Rod Smith, now on secondment from BTCV is supervising on the ground, whilst pupils, Mark and David, on work experience from Saxon Mount School, regularly come along and knuckle down to the job in hand.

The boys - who have previously worked alongside the Trust on projects such as Torfield Wildlife Centre, 100 Steps and St. Leonards Garden for the Blind - are now regarded as part of our regular team. Enthusiastic, reliable and 100% committed, they have been given a special mention in the School's application for the Hastings Compact Achievement Awards, which seek to highlight successful partnerships between community organisations and schools.

TRUST FUNDRAISING - ROD SMITH

I am currently working on fundraising for the Trust, bringing some of my experience from BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).

My first appeal here, for a minibus, has already brought some success with a £1000 contribution from The Rank Foundation (Beginners luck?). The Trust desperately needs its own transport to enable a wider range of projects to be undertaken and to avoid problems of vandalism to site huts experienced in the past. The appeal is for £30,000 for a 12 seater minibus and a pick-up truck. We are aiming to purchase new vehicles as a long term investment and to get the latest safety and environmental features.

In the longer term I hope to develop a wider range of funding for the Trust, linked to increased publicity and awareness of our work from the population of Hastings at large.