

HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY



Trust director Christine Goldsack



HASTINGS TRUST

Hastings Trust Boost for Minibus Appeal

Hastings Trust's minibus appeal has received a tremendous boost with a £1000 contribution from The Rank Foundation. The Trust is aiming to buy its own transport to enable it to tackle a wider range of restoration and enhancement projects around Hastings. A minibus would also avoid the need for site huts to store materials, and the risks of vandalism associated with them.

fundraiser Rod Smith said "We still have a long appeal but this contribution has encouraged us to succeed. We desperately need a minibus, currently relying on the

SMARTEN UP HASTINGS

Please help us Smarten Up Hastings. We all have a part to play - residents, workers, tourists, young and old. Its easy:

Green week
HASTINGS Trust

Scents of wonder as blind garden restored

FORTY five years after its creation, the blind garden border in St Leonards Gardens has been restored to its former glory.

by PIERS HOPKIN

And in an official ceremony on Monday the mayor opened the new look border which has been specially designed for the blind. Partially sighted Ruby Taylor, 90, from Ironlatch Avenue in St Leonards, said: "The border is beautifully set out and there is a wide variety of shapes and perfumes to appreciate. It's absolutely lovely and it's so nice to be considered. There are so many of us blind and it's great that we are looked after so well." The border includes...

Plants such as sage, lilac and peppermint are planted in the bed alongside balm, skimmia and Colorado spruce. Braille plaques have been attached to a handrail that runs along the length of the border to allow each plant to be identified by the partially sighted. The opening marks the end of months of hard work by Hastings Trust, the borough council and Barclays Commercial Services as well as other groups who have joined forces to restore the border.



Evelyn Balkham, 87, who is partially sighted, enjoys the smell of special plants in the St Leonards Gardens border

HASTINGS TRUST

Valiant volunteers wade in to rescue wildlife

Award for saving derelict land

ARTIST Anthony McCue is to turn this overgrown wasteland into a sculpture garden.

He plans a larger than life-sized statue of three fishermen hauling in a net.

The sculpture, made of animated bronze resin, will tidy up the forgotten corner of land in The Bourne, Hastings.

Hastings Trust conservation group raised £2,000 for the project after complaints that the area was neglected.

Mr McCue, 30, said: "I've been going out with the crew of the Katey-Jane for about two months now, on and off. I wanted to build up a

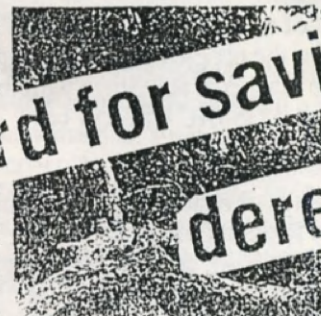
mental picture of the way they worked as I designed the sculpture."

He will spend the next few months working on the sculpture in a winch hut on the beach.

Christine Goldschmidt, trust director, said: "We were originally going to have a garden here, but this is much more exciting."

Maurice Cox, landlord of a nearby pub, is among those who have complained the area was overgrown with weeds and thick with litter.

He said: "This will be much better. It's something that is really in keeping with the Old Town."



TWITTEN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Members will no doubt be aware that the Trust intends to bring back to their former glory two, more if possible, Old Town Twittens per year for the next three years, as part of the Conservation Area Partnership Scheme, identified as a priority during the public consultation period. These enhancement projects are intended to complement the substantial work planned by HBC and English Heritage over the next three years.

The first twitten to benefit is Lower Church Passage, from the High Street to Croft Road. The second twitten has yet to be agreed – we will inform you of this in the next newsletter. Next year we hope to identify two twittens on the east side of the Old Town and in the third year of the scheme a twitten on each side.

If any members, societies, or individuals would like to contribute financially to this or any of the projects, or if you think you know of a project you would like to see done, please contact us or call into the office.

HIGH STREET WALL

Next time you're in the Old Town walk to the top of the High Street and check out the pointing; after ten weeks of hard work by Community Action volunteers, other volunteers and staff, the first two sections have been completed.

Dr. Judy Clark has identified many plants which are unique to walls, and these have been retained. Future damage caused by inappropriate pointing has been eliminated on the first section and limited on the second section.

Over the next three years a programme of pointing the entire length of the wall is planned. This will entail several visits to each section removing only pointing that is loose, then repointing correctly, taking care not to damage either the original stone or the wall plants in residence.

A short booklet describing the habitat and variety of plants growing in the High Street Wall, and the method and importance of the style of pointing employed, will be available soon. A small donation will be asked for each copy, so be generous, contact the office if you would like to reserve your copy.

ST. MARY IN THE CASTLE

Plans for the development of St. Mary in the Castle as a multi-use cultural centre for the people of Hastings and the wider community have reached a new stage with the granting of charitable status. FOSMIC will now be known as the Fosmic Charitable Trust.

Preparations for the next stage of restoration, integrating the former church with the Riviera Gallery and giving direct access from the seafront road, are also far enough advanced and funds secured for work to start in June 1995.

Compliments are due to FOSMIC and its committee for their effort in bringing the project this far, but with its new status comes a growing recognition of the need for more professional input in planning the project's future development and wider representation in the membership of its management committee. Stephen Hinton has agreed to represent the Hastings Trust on the new committee.

THE FISHERMEN'S SCULPTURE

2nd – 7th November, 1994

Finally, after months of preparation, Stage One has begun on the Fishermen's Sculpture.

The steel arrived, at a very reasonable price, from Mr. Simes. We, being me, Mark, Jim and Steve, set about creating angled trollies from the pieces of steel we had before us.

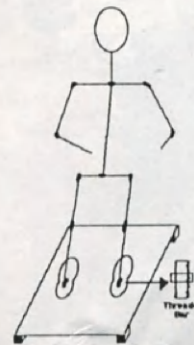
After much discussion, days at sea, and tempestuous debate, the methods were arranged. The steel was cut, welded and perforated to fit the job at hand – three trollies at the same angle.

8th November, 1994

Started welding the first armature. All went well, and before sundown we had completed the first frame.

So the job begins in earnest.

Anthony



WHEELS PROJECT UPDATE

We have now received the site plan from the A.C.U. (Auto Cycle Union), which shows track layout, perimeter fencing, offices, workshops and stores etc. This plan also includes provision for two extra tracks for "Quads" (four wheeled motorbikes), which will enable participation by disabled people. In my opinion this is a very worthy addition to the WHEELS project. The plan, along with the provisional costings for the project, has been sent as a presentation package to the owners of the land.

We are currently waiting with baited breath for their reply, fixing a date for the Trust and the Hastings Police to meet with them, to discuss further our prospective plans for the site.

MOULDING THE FUTURE OF HASTINGS TRUST

A word from the Chairman

In the last edition I spoke of "Irons in the Fire". Well, the iron is now molten and waiting to be poured into moulds. In so doing, we will be casting the future strength from which Hastings Trust will operate.

What are the moulds? Who has experienced them? Are they complete? How will they affect the Trust? Burning questions that all members should be wanting to know all about. In fact, as members it is your duty to make yourselves aware of all the goings on within the foundry.

You will all have the opportunity to do so at the

Annual General Meeting, as, after the formal part of the evening, there will be a buffet and drinks. Also you will be able to walk around some stands - manned by our staff, showing all the work they are involved with around Hastings. So, let's support our staff, our Trust, and our Hastings with a maximum attendance at the Burton Suite in the Royal Victoria Hotel on Friday, 27th January at 7.30pm.

Fill in the tear-off form enclosed and return as soon as possible. Bring your partner or an interested party along.

BRIGHTER TOWN CENTRE

Following the Civic Trust's marvellous report for HedCo, "A Vision for the Town Centre", a lead team and series of task forces have been set up to consider and implement recommendations within the report.

The Trust itself is represented on the lead team - dealing with the overall concept and management and Task Force 1 - tackling buildings, shop fronts and conservation. Our first task force meeting concentrated on the need for a shop front design guide for the town centre, to be produced by a small team consisting of the Trust, AJK architects and Borough planners. The guide itself has reached draft stage and will be considered by Task Force 1 in late November before the final version is presented in the New Year.

Premises

The Trust is still trying to raise money to acquire a permanent home in Hastings. On a brighter note, the Charities Aid Foundation, realising the importance of an asset base for us, approached the bankers, Kleinworts on our behalf and the director has been invited to make a presentation to their charitable arm for help with the deposit. Watch this space and keep your fingers crossed.

A Future for the Stade

The Trust has been asked to assist Technical Services department with the Planning for Real exercises on the future of the Stade. David Dine has built a perfect scale model which will be ready for the first session on Monday, November 21st. in George Street Hall, George Street from 11am to 8pm. Further sessions will be taking place all around Hastings over the next few months and the aim is to have a development brief ready by April 1995.

This is an opportunity for everyone to come along and put forward their suggestions for what they would like to see on the Stade. Following the November 21st. day, further evening sessions will take place in the Trust's offices and the model will be available for local groups and schools to take part. Further details from Christine on 446373.

TRUST MEMBER'S SWEDISH AWARD

On Thursday, November 10th, John and Beth Turner received the 1994 Award of the Johannes Olivegren Foundation, for their many years of work in promoting community-based initiatives. The Award was presented by Linda Olivegren, SAR (architect), daughter of the late Johannes Olivegren, Professor of Housing Design at Chalmers Institute of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. About 40 Trust members and friends attended, invited by board member Cllr. Pam Brown, OBE, who kindly presided.

Just 20 years ago, in Stockholm, John and Johannes first met and discovered their shared commitment to supporting local people's efforts in building or improving their own homes and neighbourhoods. This joint interest was apparent in the slide talk by John and Linda on Participatory Planning and House Design, illustrated with slides from one of Johannes' Swedish projects. It was fascinating to see such attractive, economic homes and communities designed using methods similar to Planning for Real, introduced in Hastings by John and Beth.

COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE

The Trust's intake of Community Action volunteers began in March and since then the numbers have increased to the maximum of twenty. The scheme has proved to be of enormous benefit for the long-term unemployed, redundant skills and knowledge have been put to good measure and executed in a professional manner.

Projects commenced at the Stade in the Old Town where essential repairs and painting were undertaken to the fishermen's winch huts and the huge coach park barriers to make them weatherproof. With help from the Territorial Army, Saxon Mount School and the Trust's volunteers this daunting task was completed fast and efficiently despite the inclement weather. We now await the start of phase two, in which the urgent restoration to the historic net huts will begin as well as other enhancement tasks to improve this unique area.

Many hours of work have also been spent at T.R.E.E. (Tofield Resource for Environmental Education), where newly revised plans were submitted and with the aid of all involved are beginning to take shape. The new projects entitled 'Wild Corners' have raced to a successful start, with the completion of a scheme at Harold Road, where an overgrown piece of land adjoining an electricity sub-station was transformed into an attractive rockery and garden area. The project was entered into the British Telecom Environment Week Awards and was highly commended, which won us a grant towards the costs of work. With extra financial support from Seaboard, the owners, and Hastings Borough Council this secured its completion. We now have similar projects in the pipeline following the recent success.

Work is currently being carried out at XTRAX which is a drop-in centre for young people. All the interior decoration has been completed by volunteers at the Station Approach property despite the busy and cramped working environment. Let's wish it all success for the future.

Restoration of the steps at St James's Road is now under completion with volunteers carrying out all decoration to the ornamental ironwork following extensive building work. This has led to the enhancement of the footpath above where rusty posts and railings have been repainted and walls decorated. It has proved to have made a vast improvement to the environment here and won us the Mayor's Environment Bursary Award Grant to help with costs to the planting of the two garden areas either side of the steps. Many thanks must go to all involved especially East Sussex County Council who funded the initial restoration work. Many other schemes have stemmed from this, including the Smarten Up Hastings projects by the Borough Council. Here the Trust is providing the main source of labour for cleaning up street signs all around the town. Furthermore, refurbishment works such as the repainting of the Victorian railings at Wallinger's Walk and Castle Hill Road have been completed and many other similar schemes will be starting shortly. The repair and decoration of the large sloping wall at Pelham Arcade was also undertaken by volunteers and has drastically enhanced the popular seafront area. We thank Hastings Borough Council for funding these projects, especially Nick Phillips whose co-operation and close liaison with Hastings Trust has made it all possible.

All community action support has proved to be an invaluable source of labour and with the first

participants now having completed six months of work we hope to see more take their places. We thank everyone involved who has made this last year a success to build on and hope they have gained encouragement and satisfaction from their commitments and much appreciated hard work.

TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS HASTINGS ECONOMY

Last year Hastings Trust board member John Turner asked the Chairman of the New Economics Foundation, Perry Walker, if he knew anyone experienced in community-based economic development - which builds on the community's own human and financial resources. This differs from conventional development which depends on government grants and attracting new business from outside the community. Perry suggested a fellow economist and erstwhile colleague at the Treasury: Owen Nankivell. Coincidentally, Owen was just completing his strategic plan: A Prosperous Torbay Economy, showing that much can be done with local resources in a town similar in size and problems to Hastings.

About a year later on Thursday evening, October 27th 1994, Owen Nankivell gave a talk on the community-based approach to local development to a crowded meeting at the United Reform Church, Hastings, invited by Robert Tressell Workshops. The next morning, he led 30 people in four follow-up workshops developing ideas for improving Hastings. Both events were ably chaired by Perry Walker. Participants included concerned citizens from all walks of local life and leaders from all three sectors (public, commercial and community), including: Leader of the Council, Mrs Pam Brown, OBE; Chief Executive, Roger Carrier; Marketing Manager of Barclay's Commercial Services, Christopher King; Chairman of HEDCO, Ben Field; Hastings Trust Director, Christine Goldschmidt; RTW Director, Julia Robinson; and RTW Community Enterprise Unit Director, Nick Hutchinson.

The four workshops generated many positive ideas now being summarised in report by RTW. With the Trust's support, RTW is taking up Owen Nankivell's recommended first step: a review of local human resources, a skills inventory of the people in our area - an essential contribution to the more complex and ambitious task of preparing an audit of contributions and potential for local development of the highly under-rated 'voluntary' or community sector.

To: Hastings Trust, 12 Wellington Square, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1PB.

I will/will not be able to attend the Hastings Trust Annual General Meeting, at 7.30 pm., on Friday, 27th January 1995, in the Burton Suite, Royal Victoria Hotel, Marina, St. Leonards.

I will be bringing along guest(s).

(Please delete above as applicable).

Name

Tel No:

Address

Please return at your earliest convenience to the above address.