

HASTINGS TRUST QUARTERLY

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Town Centre Management

There cannot be a member who does not know that the Trust lost the vote for Town Centre Management at HBC Policy Committee by a narrow margin of one. HEDCO will now continue to host the Town Centre Manager's post, but I am delighted to report that there will be a reorganisation of the Hastings 2000 Steering Committee and Working Groups along the lines suggested in the Trust's Report.

The Trust has been asked to chair "Task Force 1" - currently entitled "Places" - which will have the new responsibility of Town Centre Conservation and Commercial Grants from SRB I & II. Recommendations have been put forward to the Steering Group on the reorganisation of this working party, to be discussed upon the appointment of the new Town Centre Manager.

The Director has been asked by the Development Trusts Association to give a workshop on Town Centre Development and Management, based on experiences in Hastings and lessons that can be learnt.

Single Regeneration Budget I & II

Following Tony Constantine's (Head of Corporate and Economic Development) recent illness, the Director, along with Steve Todd (Trinity Project) and Caroline Studley (Joint Services Development Officer), got together Hastings Delivery Plan for SRB I & II, for submission to the Government Office of the South East (GOSE) at the end of March.

The Trust's funding from SRB I & II is £28,000 for year 1 for the Greenway Project, which will be matched by "in-kind" and various grants.

Commercial grants for the Town Centre from SRB I & II amount to over £500,000 over five years. This should have a significant impact on properties within the new Town Centre Conservation Area and can be brought on line before English Heritage grant schemes are in place.

Allotment of these grants will be in the province of Hastings 2000 Task Force 1, to be tied in with the Shop Front Grant scheme. The

actual total grant regime will be handled by HBC Technical Services.

Single Regeneration Budget III

GOSE have intimated that Hastings should benefit from SRB III at a far greater level if a borough wide regeneration strategy is in place. To enable this to progress, HBC and ESCC are paying for consultants to draw up a draft strategy and, at the same time, put forward the basis of a bid for SRB III.

The consultants, Pidea, have met with the Trust and other local organisations for suggestions and project ideas for the initial bid which has to be in to GOSE by June 7th. The final bid has to be with GOSE by September 23rd.

PROJECTS

Wheels

I am pleased to announce the appointment of a full-time Wheels Project Development Worker, Matthew Prestedge. Matthew, a local resident, comes to us from West London College, Hammersmith, and was chosen from a field of 15 candidates. Hastings Trust, as the lead agent, will manage and support Matthew's post and he will be based at 11 Havelock Road for the time being.

The Greenway

Having secured less than half the funding applied for from year 1 of SRB, the Greenway project will concentrate on completing the feasibility study and mapping out an action plan for year 2-5. Negotiations are under way with Railtrack on land acquisition and their financial contribution. The Trust is also negotiating with ESCC on the Braybrook Terrace Arches.

Hastings and Rother Skills Audit

The Trust has received the preliminary raw data and has to decide what is to be done with the information and what conclusions can be drawn. We will now be liaising with Sussex Enterprise and HEDCO.

Christine Goldschmidt
Director

Bid for BT cash in green challenge

ENVIRONMENTALLY friendly folk are throwing their weight behind BT Environment Week which starts on Friday.

Sponsored by BT and organised by the Civic Trust, the UK's biggest environmental event challenges members of the community to start a project to improve the local environment.

BT have set aside £50,000 for the best projects. Local initiatives vying for a slice include:

- Hastings Area Recycling Project collecting

by
GARY LUCKEN

and disposing recyclable materials, particularly from local businesses, and currently serving over 86,000 people. Details on 781390.

- The Railway Cottage Volunteers clearing land next to the A259 and planting trees and shrubs.

- Hastings Greenway - a long term community based project designed to improve the environmental quality of Hastings' urban setting. From

May 20 - 25 there will be an exhibition and teach-in at the Hastings Trust. Further information on 713718.

- A guided tour of the town for 20 environmental groups by Hastings Trust to look at problems and ways of overcoming them. Tours take place on May 17 and 18 - for details ring 446373.

- Priory Road North Neighbourhood Watch group is improving the area around the local garage block in St Thomas's Road. Details on 714606.



Wednesday, MAY 15, 1996

BURTONS' ST LEONARDS?

worked closely with the Trust on the conservation Area.

and decorators, and with money from we renovated a derelict shopfront in had been an eyesore for more than a

helped us clean up recurring attacks enormous al fresco work on a wall

on to tidy up the former Hampdens work and dusty, empty windows are a

have been exacerbated by a chronic

between the Borough Council and dilapidated. It was only after months of to secure the residue of what would be. It is much. But after so many St Leonards we hope it can be used for the future.

a new Council bid for Government could dramatically improve the Kings Road and the railway station, rippling out to the town of St Leonards. We wait to see the results but we hope their ambition matches the need.

the sense of St Leonards being a complete extension to Hastings.

the atmosphere and sense of place and the town different.

plans for such things as roads and

a wealth of architecture and history it and its conservation, uniting disparate

working with Hastings Trust in the coming years and enthusiasm with the Trust's long history of community projects. With Council support, money, and local support, Burtons' can be restored in a few decades.

John Wilson

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CENTRE – ORE VALLEY

The Trust has been working with the Ore Valley Forum on a number of community development initiatives. Following a community health needs survey in the Ore Valley, undertaken by the East Sussex Family Health Service, currently known as the East Sussex, Brighton and Hove Health Authority, it was decided to set up a Health and Social Care centre above the housing office in Malvern Way.

A number of local agencies, Trinity Project, HUCAC, Health Promotion Unit etc. have offered to take part in the project to provide advice and support to local residents. Sonia Plato from Sussex University, has already set up education/training classes entitled "Broaden Your Horizons" and - for the present - these take place twice weekly in a venue nearby. If these succeed there is every chance that a community outreach education project can be set up by Sussex University with European Funding.

Health and Social Service have provided £17,500 joint finance, the Isabel Blackman Foundation have agreed to make a major contribution of £500 towards the cost of carpeting and Hastings Trust has recently become the managing agent responsible for the next stage of the development. The Trust will now draw up a job description for a development worker, advertise the post, oversee building conversion work, negotiate further with service providers and promote all available services prior to the opening.

For further information contact: Heather Smith

ST LEONARDS FOOTPATH ENHANCEMENT

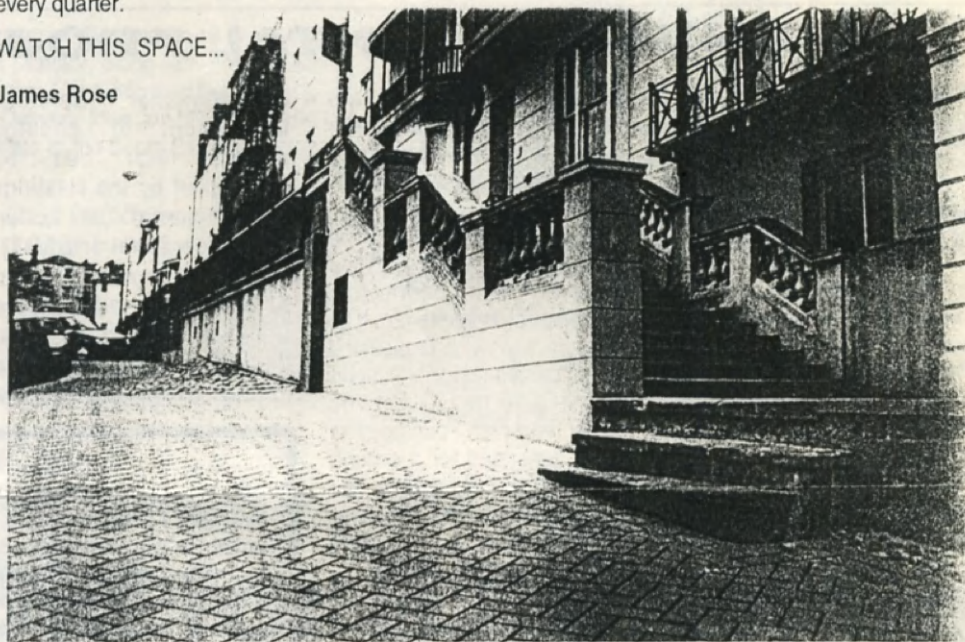
Following the good news that Roger Carrier has earmarked £5,000 for Hastings Trust "Smarten Up" projects, work has begun enhancing the passageway which links Kings Road to London Road. This consists of masonry repairs and redecoration to walls, doors, bollards and railings. Decorative signwriting will also be reinstated which will echo reminiscences of pre-war work discovered on a site visit.

Another added bonus is that Nick Phillips has liaised with East Sussex County Council and organised the removal of modern wall lamps, so that Victorian style brackets and coach lamps can be installed in the near future.

The Trust now embarks on a "Smarten Up" rolling programme of projects which will spruce up the town in every quarter.

WATCH THIS SPACE...

James Rose



The completed Wellington Steps: a Trust project

MILLENNIUM

days when the English of the people, but its anyone looking to the pier is something we rival is at risk without a plan for funding it.

national competition zine to come up with ed entries from the UK lities for breathing new

life into this very English example of Victorian seaside architecture. All that was needed was the will and, of course, the money. Since then we have seen other ideas on how the town might prepare for the year 2000 and beyond and Hastings has already begun to challenge the adverse publicity levelled at it as a place which has failed to "move with the times". The new shopping centre is planned to boost its commercial future, the restoration of St Mary-in-the-Castle offers a venue where its impressive record in music and the arts might flourish and there are growing opportunities for closer links with France and the Continent.

A restored pier offering leisure, arts and communication

facilities to complement those already being developed in the town, would be a fitting way for Hastings to mark the end of one millennium and stretch available technology for the needs of the next. Such a project has the potential to give the town a new dimension and a new image, to boost tourism, provide employment and stimulate local pride.

The Millennium Commission offers a chance to see these exciting ideas take a step forward and Hastings Trust is supporting a local initiative to bring together other interested parties in preparing an application for funding.

GFA

THE TRUST NEGOTIATES SOME HEAVY WAVES

"No news is good news" is a quote I quite often hear, but unless one is talking of household bills, I would not agree with that statement. There are those who believe "any publicity is good publicity", I'm equally not convinced of this either. The last three months has certainly seen some sabre rattling in the local press.

The first incident to create a fuss was our application to be responsible for Town Centre Management. We could not have foreseen the heavy waves that this would cause but in hindsight I am still convinced we were right and qualified to make that application. Our competence can not be that seriously in doubt as we have been appointed to Task Force 1 which has been given responsibility for town centre conservation and commercial grants from SRB 1 & 2, with our Director, Christine Goldschmidt as chair.

There were then the comments made by David Jeapes, whose frustrations over lack of funding towards Projects were spilled out to the press. The Board are aware that Projects are our prime task and are very appreciative of all the work David has achieved in this field over the years as Hastings Trust Project Manager. They are however also aware that to a greater degree projects must be self-funding and should not encroach on Core Funding, which must primarily be used in the upkeep of a sound professional base from which to operate efficiently.

Before the seas could calm, Lord Tivers decided to stir the waters. It is a shame for all the staff, volunteers and Community Action workers, who on behalf of the Trust have done so much work in the Old Town, that he was unable to get all his facts together first.

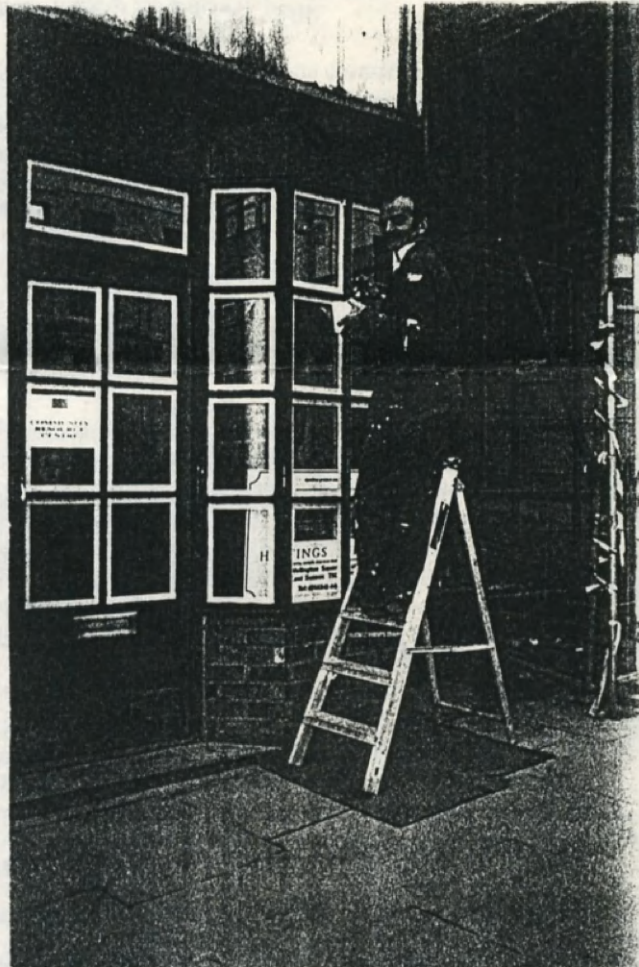
The seas are now calmer and the Board has devised a strategy against future inaccurate and poor publicity, to be overseen by Tim McDonald, who we are all very pleased to welcome to the Board.

Good, honest and accurate publicity about our many successes is what must be continually sent out from our Offices. It is not a problem, as such successes are continually being achieved. For example BT's Awards (see copy of AdNews, 15th May in this Newsletter) in which the Trust were instrumental in one way or another in all five schemes.

The move to 11 Havelock Road went very smoothly, mainly thanks to all the volunteers: James Rose, Dave Weller, Kevin Lewis, Roger Gates, Edward Wallwork and Alan Bull, who rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in. We are now settled in and have immediately identified the advantages of a shop front. We are offering space to Infinite Arts and the Director of FOSMIC. We have also set up an office for Matthew Prestedge, who is proving to be a wise choice in the new appointment of Project Development Worker of Wheels, and we are all keeping our fingers crossed that the Lottery application for part-funding of Wheels is successful in June.

There are some very promising developments on the subject of funding and prospective premises, which by our next newsletter may well give rise to an exciting and positive statement. Who knows - the next big wave might see us riding on the crest.

Stephen G B Hinton
Chairman



The Chairman at work in Havelock Road

NEW FUNDING FOR BU

The Burtons' St Leonards Society has secured several improvement projects in the C

Using the Trust's team of painters at the Smarten-Up Hastings Campaign, the Grade II listed colonnade which has been neglected for several years.

The Trust's anti-graffiti gang has also been successful in dealing with the aerosol bandits, including one overlooking Hastings College.

We hope we can work together on a new furniture store, whose peeling paint will be a blight on the seafront.

But the problems in the Burtons' area are due to a lack of funding.

An eagerly awaited CAP scheme from English Heritage failed to materialise, a wrangling that we have managed to overcome. It has been the Council's contribution over years of official neglect and inertia in the past to signal a visible change in our fortune.

But our best long-term hopes lie in Single Regeneration money. This could cover the Road/London Road trading area around Warrior Square, Gensing and Burtons. Details of the Town Hall's proposals will be published to meet the need.

What we do not want to lose is the seafront as a separate entity and not an accretion to the town.

We want to enhance the 'village' atmosphere and its history which makes our end of the town special.

This means tailoring Borough-wide parking schemes to local needs.

And because St Leonards has such a special character, it has to be handled with sensitivity to the interests towards a common goal.

We look forward to working closely with you over the next months, merging our commitment and experience in conservation and encouragement, government money. St Leonards has its best chance in our hands.

Christine

HASTINGS PIER AND THE

Hastings Pier still gives a hint of the seaside served the holiday aspiration. The present condition offers little hope to leisure needs of the next century. The Pier cannot afford to lose, but its very survival offers a clear idea of its future role and a realistic plan.

In 1990 we saw the results of a study organised by Building Design magazine. It attracted ideas for the future of the Pier. It attracted attention at home and abroad, showing exciting possibilities.

Wheels

YOUTH OFF ROAD PROJECT



The Wheels youth off-road project has been set up to enable the young people (11-25 years of age) of Hastings and Rother to have access to both cars and motorcycles. They will have the chance to attend vehicle maintenance classes at our workshop on the Ponswood Industrial Estate. By doing so, they will be able to work in small groups with their instructors, in an environment that is professional, supervised and educational, but above all.....FUN.

Some of the subjects that will be covered at the workshop are basic car & bike maintenance, welding, vehicle restoration techniques, workshop health & safety and the many stages involved in transforming a normal, everyday car into an off road competition car.

Each stage that they work through will be clearly explained so that by the time the cars & bikes are ready to be raced off road, they should be able to work on them in the 'Pit lane' and keep them on the track.

People with their own motorbikes can leave them at our workshop while they are being repaired or made ready for use on a track. By doing this they will benefit from being able to work on their machine, along with the other trainees, but also, the temptation to ride their

bikes illegally on roads or private land will be removed as there will only be access to it during workshop hours.

Wheels has received enough funding from various sources to enable the new Project Development Officer to be employed on a full time basis and for the workshop to be set up and the rent to be paid, but that really is about as far as our budget goes at the moment. So, needless to say, we are going to need ways of raising funds on a continuous basis. Any suggestions as to how you feel we can do this would be very much appreciated. Along with needing to raise money, we also need to obtain many of the day to day items used in a workshop. You have probably got a lot of these in your garages and sheds, if you're anything like me, and haven't used them for years. Items such as old spanners and sockets (Both metric & imperial sizes), plastic bowls & buckets, cars, motorcycles & mopeds of any size and condition, any cotton material i.e.. bed sheets & T-shirts that can be used as rags, vehicle products such as oil, paint, body filler, work manuals, etc. etc.

Should you require any further information about wheels, please contact Matt Prestedge on (01424) 446373 or mobile 0973 210538.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Since the launch of the Community Environment Project in May 1995 a transformation of the open spaces around Hastings and St Leonards is taking place:

In Blomfield Road a piece of abandoned land buried in rubbish has been cleared with help from Territorial Army volunteers. The woodland adjacent to Linley Drive, known locally as 'Linley Ravine' has been cleared of rubbish and plans are being considered to improve the paths around the area. In Bexhill Road a resident's group has formed to care for the area around Railway Cottages. Near Ashdown House, the Ashdown Community Association are drawing up plans to enhance the area around their houses and the Resident's Association Club. In St. Thomas's Road, students from Hastings College are building a wall to protect the area around a garage block so that it can be improved by The local Neighbourhood Watch Group.

Several Schools are developing plans to create or improve the environmental value of their school grounds.

These are some of the examples of what can be achieved by the partnership approach of Hastings Trust to its project work. It is pleasing to advice that financial support from English Nature and The Isabel Blackman Foundation is being continued for a second year. This will enable the development of further projects over the coming months.

There have been several funding successes including: £1000 from RIBA Community Architecture Fund and £1000 from BT Environment Week Awards for The Greenway, £870 from Sussex Police Authority and £250 from BT Environment Week Awards towards the St. Thomas's Road garage block enhancement scheme.

The Trust is working with Hastings Borough Council's

Environmental Services Department to develop projects that can be undertaken by the Hastings Environmental Action Response Team (HEART). This is a new project in partnership with the Community Services Team that seeks to improve the natural environment of the

Borough. The labour element will be provided by Community Service and it is planned that their initial input will encourage local community groups to 'adopt' the sites for future use. Fuller details are available from Rod at the Trust or Rachel Lewis at Environmental Services.

! STOP PRESS !

DAG Office Suppliers has supported Hastings Trust in it's appeal for help from local businesses. A leaflet produced by the Trust and distributed by DAG has been sent out to 250 DAG customers.

Companies were asked to consider becoming a business partner, sponsoring a project, seconding staff to work on projects and providing expert advice.

Three typical projects requiring support are the "Wheels" Youth Off-Road Project, Hastings Greenway - an initiative to create a linear park, and the Seafront Sculpture Project, which comprises a proposal sent to the English Tourist Board Millennium Commission, to locate a series of commissioned sculptures along the seafront.

All local charities are eligible for a discount from DAG, Brook Street, Hastings. Tel: (01424) 445371 or Fax: (01424) 445372

WORKING TO REGENERATE HASTINGS

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