

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Havelock Road certainly adds a different perspective on working in the town centre. In Wellington Square it was seagulls and the Castle, in Havelock Road it is building noise and traffic jams.

Amidst the noise and chaos created by all the physical regeneration in the Town Centre, the Trust has been busy with the latest Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Challenge Round III bid and making contributions towards a regeneration strategy for Hastings.

The strategy and the bid have been put together by Pieda, (consultants paid for by HBC and ESCC), working with local businesses, voluntary and community organisations and the local authorities. It was a very rushed and hectic affair to meet the deadline of September 23rd with a bid ranging from £12 1/2 million downwards. Our fate will be announced on 23rd. December. This is a real crossed-finger-and-toe job.

The Trust has submitted a bid for funding to run our new Community Resource Centre as part of the 'support and capacity' building initiative for the community sector. If successful it will provide new equipment and staff to run the Centre and the database information service for use by community groups in Hastings, with the long-term aim of a cybercafe.

### Hastings Regeneration Partnership

As part of the Regeneration Strategy, the long awaited Hastings Regeneration Partnership held its inaugural meeting on 3rd. September 1996. Chaired by Judy Vegh, Hastings College, its membership consists of representatives of the public, private and community sectors, the latter

currently represented by Hastings Trust, HVA and the Tenants Consultative Group.

The partnership's unenviable task was to make the final selection of projects for Hastings' SRB III bid. The discussions were forthright and lively, especially from the community sector, where we were concerned to ensure that our work and contribution towards regeneration were not undervalued. Anyone wishing to see the full copy of the bid can drop into the Resource Centre at Havelock Road and read it.

However, SRB Challenge Rounds are not the only source of funds or resources for regeneration. In fact, the money from SRB is relatively small in the larger scheme of things and it will be the Partnership's role to take a broader approach and harness all available resources for the sustainable future and well-being of Hastings.



Please see insert sheet for the latest news on 'Wheels' Youth Off-Road Project





## Hearth And Home

Negotiations are continuing with English Partnerships and the Charities Aid Foundation for the purchase and renovation of 35 Robertson Street. The owners, Compco, have been extraordinarily generous in support of the Trust and have patiently waited throughout the long months. Watch this space.

## Winning Formula

The Trust's ability in bringing together the private, public and voluntary sectors to contribute towards the regeneration of Hastings has been recognised by the award of a £5,000 grant from East Sussex County Council. The funding will enable the Trust to contribute fully towards the new Hastings Regeneration Strategy and to projects which we hope will emerge from the SRB III bid.

This funding arrives at an opportune time and is additional to the support and officer time that the Trust already enjoys on some of its projects.

## REGENERATION IN ST LEONARDS

A month's hard labour . . . £3,500 in Council grants . . . some generous help from sponsors, and Hampdens old furniture store in the Burton colonnades has been transformed.

The Burtons' St Leonards Society took on the task of redecorating the dingy, derelict frontage as its first major 'hands-on' project for some time. The idea was to improve the appearance of these historic sea-front buildings in time for the main holiday season.

Hampdens went out of business two years ago, since when this large property had been abandoned to vandals, litter and decay.

Using local craftsmen, helped by volunteers, the Society rebuilt crumbling concrete facings, reglazed shattered windows, restored the marbled stallraisers and repainted the frontage from end to end. A pair of mahogany doors to a

Victorian shopfront were stripped of decades of old paint, revarnished and reglazed.

The shop windows have now been filled with displays of children's art loaned by the Fellowship of St Nicholas, and by grown-up art provided by students at Hastings College. Hastings Opera has loaned the costumes from its production of Turandot, and Onyx has supplied a display of plants and flowers.

The Society's current major project is the preparation of a design study for regenerating Kings Road. It has commissioned an award-winning Crowborough firm of design consultants to come up with a scheme that will enhance the architectural qualities of the road while improving trading prospects.

The project is linked to the Borough Council's bid for SRB funding and is being supported by the traders' association.

It is hoped it will act as a catalyst for other improvement schemes in Central St Leonards, including the upgrading of the railway station and ambitious plans to establish a national chess centre in the former Christ Church school.

Traders and other interested people were meeting with the architects this month (October) to discuss draft plans at a forum sponsored by the Society.

## HISTORIC HASTINGS

Since the demise of the Leisure England proposal for the leisure complex on the White Rock Gardens, Historic Hastings has been charged by Councillors to come up with plans for a 1066 Centre based on a highly attractive presentation of the famous happening. Hence we are still very much alive and currently occupied with getting together a feasibility study for such a Centre to be put before the Council.

There are several sites which the study must assess but we believe that it is important to bring people into our new town centre and to



## WHEELS - IN MOTION!

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 and bike maintenance, welding, vehicle restoration techniques, workshop Health and 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 and 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.

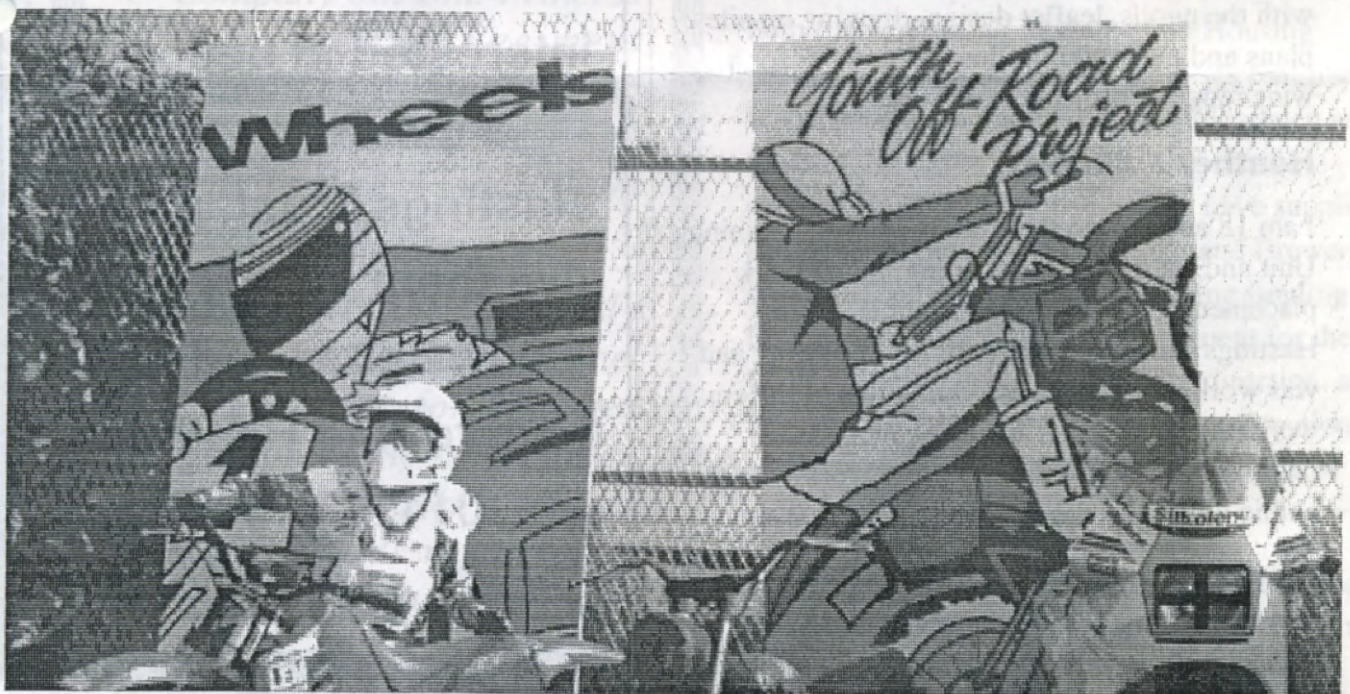
People with their own motorcycles can leave them at our workshop while they are being repaired or made ready for use on a track. By doing this they will benefit from being able to work on their machine, along with the other trainees, but also, the temptation to ride their

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

Since the end of May, the project development officer has been completely refurbishing the Wheels workshop with the help of young people from the Robert Tressell workshop. We aim to completely reproduce a commercial environment within the workshop so that the young trainees are able to learn in the correct manner. Many motorcycle and car parts have been secured and these will form the basis of some of our first workshop projects when we open on the 29th October 96.

The project has been awarded a grant of £160,000 from The National Lotteries charity board. The grant means that the project is secure for a period of three years and that another full time member of staff will be employed. It will be the new person's responsibility to promote the project, raise funds and organise administrative matters. We would gladly welcome all visitors to the workshop, (by appointment), where you would have the chance to see the trainees in action.

Should you require any further information about Wheels, please contact Matt Prestedge on (01424) 446373 or mobile 0468 685973.





## **VOLUNTEER UPDATE**

### **Sarah Taylor**

I am 18 years old and I am a volunteer gaining work experience at Hastings Trust. I have been here since the beginning of June as a receptionist.

My duties include answering the phone, photocopying, filing, opening the mail, making coffee and the most important part of my job is dealing with the public as I am the first person they meet when they come to Hastings Trust.

Since I have been here I have become more confident in answering the phone and meeting people due to the help and support of all the people at Hastings Trust including Christine Goldschmidt and Heather Smith.

### **Nigel Harvey**

I am an experienced graphic designer with Apple Mac related skills. I am looking to further improve my career prospects in the field of Graphic Design and Illustration.

I have now been at the Trust since July and I am currently combining my time here with an Archaeological Illustration course at HCAT. To date my tasks have included working on a logo design for Saxon Mount School in consultation with the pupils, leaflet design, drawing up site plans and undertaking illustration work for a wide range of projects.

### **Heather Fullarton**

I am 18 and I go to the Robert Tressell Training Unit and, as part of my training, go on work placements. My work placement is at The Hastings Trust. I started here in about May and I was working on reception doing lots of different work, like answering the phone and photocopying. I got the chance to work with the public quite a lot more as well.

Then I changed my placement and I have now started working with Matt Prestedge on the 'Wheels' Project. While I am working with him

I have been helping him to paint up the workshop and do other things up there to get every thing ready for when it opens. I have been photocopying lots of 'Wheels' brochures and put them together. I have typed out lots of letters and sent them out to all the local companies to try and get workshop volunteers. Now I have just written a letter to Sean Maguire which I will send off, asking him if he would be able to come and officially open the 'Wheels' Project for us in November.

I enjoy working for the 'Wheels' Project because I get to do a wide range of different work and I also get to meet quite a few different people when we go around getting items for the workshop.

# **! WANTED !**

## **VOLUNTEERS**

**If you know of anyone  
who would be  
interested in becoming  
a volunteer with  
Hastings Trust, please  
give them a copy of this  
newsletter and ask  
them to ring Heather on  
01424 446373**



encourage their circulation within the town if the proposed Centre is to contribute properly to the economic well-being of the town.

To be commercially viable, the Centre must use all the possibilities of modern technology and it must be highly interactive so that the audience is involved and not just passive spectators. One suggestion that has been made which would test the exhibition designers' skill to the full is that the story of the Battle and its preliminary events should be presented from the separate viewpoints of the Saxons and the Normans. The visitor would have the choice of which viewpoint to see first and the interchange to the second part of the story suggested by a rewind of time back to the beginning. A third tier would be concerned with the aftermath and the profound effect of the conquest on the country.

May our 'Vision' come to life before too long!

## CIVIC PRIDE AWARD

*'C' Company 5th Btn. Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment were awarded the runner's up prize in the 1996 Civic Pride Awards in The Associations category.*

*Hastings Trust heartily congratulates all the personnel in 'C' Company for deserved recognition of the contribution they have made over a number of years towards regenerating the borough of Hastings.*

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CENTRE ORE VALLEY

This Centre has been established to provide information, advice and education\training and career guidance for the residents of the Ore Valley. There has been exciting progress in the last few months. The building conversion work has now been completed and the Centre at 88 Malvern Way is now being painted by Community Services.

I am Clare Croft and have been in post as Project Development Worker since the 1st September.

As a result of an initial meeting we already have offers from several agencies to provide free training or advice sessions; these include Care for the Carers, HARASS (Aids support service), Cruse Bereavement Care (bereavement counselling), Morris Smith Solicitors, Hastings College and Centre for Continuing Education (Sussex University). We are now looking to add further sessions to the timetable, publicise all that will be happening, agree on a name for the Centre and prepare for the official opening in the New Year.

We have already received several offers of help, both financially and in kind. 1066 Housing Association are offering the premises rent free, Isabel Blackman Foundation and Magdalen and Lasher Charitable Trust are paying for the carpets, Hastings Care and Repair have supplied the locks and advised on security, and Brewers of Bexhill supplied paint. Continuing funding for running costs and initial equipment for the Centre is being sought from every direction. and any offers of help, either financial or donations of office equipment you no longer use will be most gratefully received.

If you would like any further information about this project please do not hesitate to contact me at the Hastings Trust on 01424 446373.



## PROJECTS UPDATE

### 55 High Street

Following long delays over funding and a revised design, the creation of a Community Garden is at last underway. This project is being managed jointly by James and Rod, and we both hope that the adverse publicity the project attracted will now end. Funding for this is coming from Hastings Borough Council (Conservation Department & Smarten Up Hastings Campaign), Old Hastings Preservation Society, Hastings Old Town Resident's Association and the High Street Traders' Association. Much of the material will be supplied by R. Winchester & Son of Ore, whose support has enabled the Trust to work within the revised lower budget. Thanks are also due to the site owners, Trade Paints Ltd, whose permission and support enabled the project to come about initially and whose continued support has been invaluable.

### Blackman Avenue

In a new partnership for Hastings Trust with 1066 Housing Association a community garden area is proposed for the site of a former garage block in Blackman Avenue. The garden will be dedicated to the memory of Pam and Cliff Mitchell, who did so much for the residents of Hollington. Pam was also involved in the design stages with the Resident's Association, and we hope that the garden will be considered a fitting memorial. The final details of the project are currently being worked on. Watch out for a major announcement soon.

### Barley Lane/Country Park Footpath

Once again we are pleased that 'C' Company, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Territorial Army will be volunteering with Hastings Trust, this time for two weeks in

November. Thanks to East Sussex County Council Highways Department for funding the reconstruction of the footpath and steps from the Barley Lane car park to the Country Park. Access is being made available with the co-operation of Shearburn Caravan Park.

### Enhancement Projects

I am pleased to announce that the Kings Road Footpath Enhancement Scheme is near to completion with the addition of decorative sign writing to follow shortly.

Work has started to Christ Church in London Road with the re-decoration of the Victorian Gothic arched entrance doors which have detracted from the area for many years. Restoration work has been undertaken to railings near Alfred Street with the refurbishment of steps and re-decoration to follow.

I said there would be a 'rolling' programme of works, I just wish the ball would slow down because I'm getting dizzy!

### Community Environment Project

The steady progress in developing Community involvement in environmental projects continues. Various projects around the town are moving forward and showing some positive feedback.

There can often be a temptation to move in quickly and 'tidy up' an eyesore. In some cases, I believe that this well meaning approach can be a waste of resources, or even counter-productive. Unless the local community are behind the proposed schemes there is likely to be little interest in the long term maintenance of sites. To use a currently popular phrase – all projects should be seen to be sustainable.

## WORKING TO REGENERATE HASTINGS

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