

HASTINGS TRUST Quarterly

Issue 19

Winter 1998/99

Following negotiations with BTCV the Trust is now sub-contracting as a provider of the Environmental Task Force (ETF). We have recruited our first participants and have created our own ETF to embark on projects.

The scheme has already proved to be a success by instigating full time employment for one keen participant within two weeks of operation. We believe this is due to the variety of training and resources the Trust can offer and the dedication and enthusiasm of all members of staff to accommodate people, harness partnerships and strive towards a better Hastings.

Indeed, the broad and diverse range of activities participants are currently involved in supports this and during the past months all the participants, including staff, have overcome initial anxieties and are now finding their feet.

Indicated below are some comments from current participants:

Jane McShane - "I am finding my time at the Trust very useful as before I came here I had no idea of what office work

involved, but now I have more confidence doing office based tasks that before coming to the Trust I had never done before. My own confidence

has increased and I now find that I can deal with new people easily. Everyone at the Trust has made me feel welcome and has helped with any problems I have encountered".



Scarlett Fernandez - "New Deal has given me the opportunity to gain a

wide range of work experience whilst working towards getting NVQ qualifications. This combination should prove to be a great advantage when it comes to finding a full-time job".



Simon Harris - "I enjoy it here. It's a combination of all the types of work I like doing, painting, labouring and landscaping. I prefer doing this sort of thing to any other kind of work".



Jeevan Chyle - "Hastings Trust is giving me invaluable office experience that should set me in good stead for the future".



SRB BIDDING

It's SRB bidding time again. The Government Office of the South East issued guidance on which areas were eligible to bid this time round and Hastings had two areas which met the criteria: Castle and Central St. Leonards wards. There was also a requirement for a high level community consultation in the preparation and implementation of the bid.

Meetings were held in the two wards and a list of needs drawn up with projects which could answer those needs identified.

The areas which emerged were:

Improving the Living Environment by a series of small scale environmental improvements and measures to secure a reduction in domestic burglary in both wards.

Increasing employability and address social exclusion by targeting vulnerable groups within the Wards and providing access to training and support. The targeted groups will include those suffering from numeracy and literacy problems, substance misuse and mental and physical disabilities.

Create jobs through advice to local businesses (including energy efficiency), access to training for employees and the promotion of community enterprise amongst residents.

Enhance community capacity building by providing support and accommodation which will be a focus for community activity, information exchange, health provision and a centre for outreach work. Within Central St. Leonards this accommodation will be provided within a redevelopment of a derelict site for mixed use including the above accommodation, workspace and housing.

The bid totalled £1.9 million and the Partnership will hear whether it has been successful sometime towards the end of December, early January.

SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) The Government has put forward a clear regional agenda for England which, in broad terms, is intended to give a greater voice to the regions and, eventually, to devolve some of central government's powers to the regions. The establishment of the South East England Development Agency is well under way, with the appointment of Allan Willett, a Kent-based international businessman, as Chair. The agency will be formally established until April 1999, when the RDA Bill receives the Royal Assent.

SEEDA will take over the Government Office of the South East's (GOSE) responsibilities for the management of the Single Regeneration Budget

and absorb the regeneration work of English Partnerships and the Rural Development Commission. It will also relate closely to the SE Regional Investment Limited and the South East Regional Forum and the Voluntary Regional Chamber when it is established, as well as with the local economic partnerships.

Allan Willetts has outlined his personal goals in three main points:

The region as a whole continues to prosper and eventually becomes one of the most successful in the world

The more disadvantaged parts of the region are helped to improve their economies and standards of life.

We maintain not only our way of life, but also the green and pleasant land which is in the South East.

Allan Willetts will be making a whistle stop tour of East Sussex in mid-January, when we shall be meeting up with him for talks on development and regeneration. Watch this space.

The Trust is working with HVA on the Voluntary Sector Regional Network to ensure that the voice of the voluntary and community sector in Hastings is represented.

GRANTS FOR GROUPS

The Hastings Community Fund has issued its first grants to local community groups and voluntary organisations and will be issuing a second tranche during the New Year.

The fund has been set up using monies secured by the Hastings Regeneration partnership under SRB III. There is £376,000 to be spent over the next six years to achieve the following outputs and outcomes:

To harness the energies of an active voluntary and community sector to enable it to contribute fully to the process of regeneration by developing capacity building across all sectors of the community.

To increase the proportion of voluntary and community organisations actively participating in regeneration projects and increase the number of individuals involved in voluntary and community work. The scheme is specifically for local groups and organisations which provide services and activities that benefit the residents of Hastings and St. Leonards.

For further information please contact: Caroline Studley, Regeneration Partnership Officer, HVA, 31a Priory Street, Hastings, TN34 1EA. Tel: 444010

OASIS is going from strength to strength. Our reputation for Arts and Culture has grown, with the Notorious Photography Exhibition going on tour, having been to the Universities at Exeter and Sussex, and also the Conquest Hospital – as part of their Arts In Hospital programme. The book of Ore Valley that has been written by local residents is currently with the publishers, so look out for it in the local shops in the New Year. All this work has been recognised by the Secretary of State for Culture and Art, Mr. Chris Smith, who recently visited the OASIS Centre to meet the photographers and writers. He was very impressed with the work that is happening in the Ore Valley.

Due to the increasing demand for space we have now expanded to another flat – 46 Chiltern Drive. All the normal services and telephone numbers will remain the same, but this will just give us a little more space. The Baby Clinic on a Monday afternoon will now be available from this flat, along with a Family Drop In on

Tuesdays. Workers are available for the children, as well as snacks for all to enjoy.

With the interest and future planning of Healthy Living Centres, Clare and Sue were recently asked to make a presentation at the Hastings Voluntary Action's Conference about the role that Voluntary Organisations play in developing a Healthier Nation.

The Community Newsletter continues to prove to be a popular asset to the local community, and is now entirely written, edited, produced and distributed by local resident volunteers.

The New Sexual Health Worker for the Ore Valley is now in post. Helen Palmer is available for any free advice, information and talks. She can be contacted via OASIS or the One Four Seven Community Flat in Farley Bank.

CLARE CROFT
Centre Co-ordinator of the
OASIS Centre

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR
THE MILLENNIUM BUG?**

ACT NOW!!

WHEELS

As I write, we are currently a quarter of the way into our third training programme at the Wheels workshops. As with our ex-trainees, the demands and skill levels of our new trainees are many and varied. It's so nice to see trainees from the past remaining with the project as trainee instructors. Seeing how confident they are during sessions and how much information they've retained is very rewarding and proves that our presentation is both interesting and understandable.

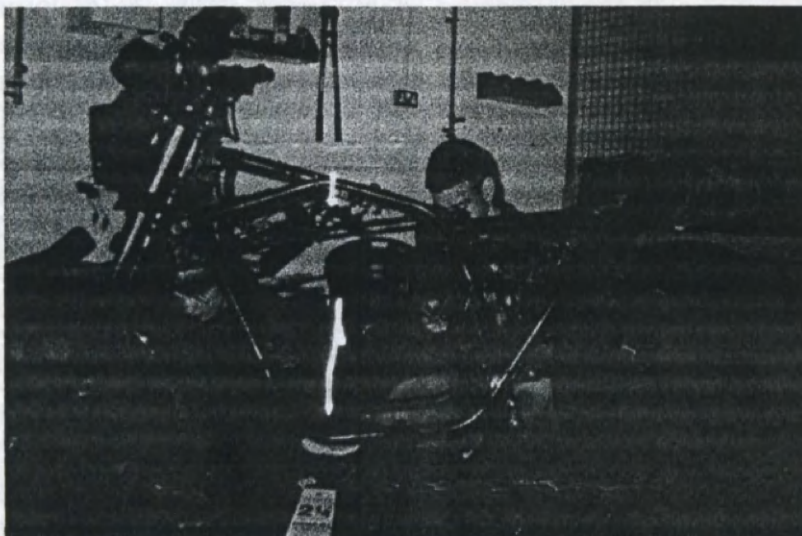
Our racing season is now over. It was very much a learning curve for all involved but great fun at the same time. We had some scary crash incidents and some very frustrating times with mechanical faults and dreadful weather, but our young drivers and pit crew remained chirpy at all times. I think that the members of the Mid Kent Autograss Club have been extremely impressed with our race car preparation and the conduct of our young people.

Sarah "Bubbles" Taylor has been making great inroads into the projects future funding. We are currently awaiting replies to £23,000 worth of funding applications. Sarah has collated further funding information which should allow us to increase our bids to approx. £80 - £100,000 by the end of February 99. Obviously, we may not secure this amount, but we can but try.

We are hoping for a full social activities calendar for 1999 with events ranging from sponsored walks and bike rides to raft races and our full autograss racing season. It is also hoped that the motorcycle side of the project will be resurrected to the point where we can begin our motorcross schooling days again and have young people competing in local motorcycle trials.

Cheers

Matt



TOOLS UPDATE

We need your help to develop the Tools for Community Regeneration Database (TCR) for Hastings

The TCR database is being developed for use by local groups and organisations planning, carrying out and maintaining neighbourhood improvements or services. It recognises most people's priority for primary sources:

- Other people with whom they can discuss their projects and exchange experience, ideas and methods
- Organisations through which they can get advice or material
- Exemplary projects that they can visit or read about
- Documentary sources with essential references

We are currently researching locally available resources to build up the database for Hastings and surrounding areas around the following tools.

We have already identified several tools which we think would be of interest for community groups:

Provisional list of tools (see below)

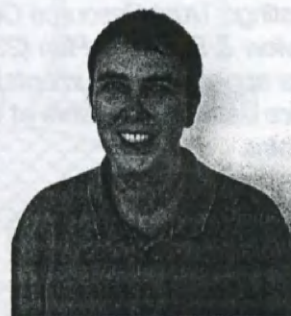
If you are familiar with any of these tools, it would be helpful if you could supply us with any additional information we have not come across yet.

In order to be able to extend our list, please tell us about the methods you have used to generate ideas within your group or to plan the overall strategy of your project as well as specific steps.

We would also like to hear about the difficulties you have or had with specific tools to show their limits.

If you would like to see the database working and try it out yourself, please get in touch.

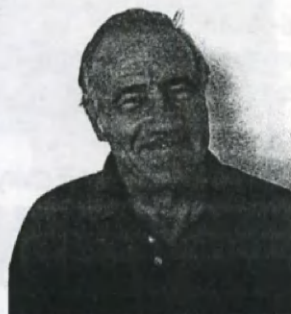
Please contact Birgit Laue, Renate Ruether-Greaves or John Turner at the Hastings Trust



Renate Ruether-Greaves



Birgit Laue



John Turner

Generating Ideas	Setting up as an Organisation	Planning
Action Planning	Co-operative/Friendly Society	Process Planning
Topic Workshop	Industrial & Provident Society	Business Plan
Parish Mapping	Association	Participatory Design
Activity Mapping	Company Limited by Guarantee	Mobile Planning Unit
Household Survey	Partnership	Strategic Plan
Future Search Workshop	Forum	Market Research
Mapping	Community Business	

RESOURCE CENTRE

Only the briefest listing is given here of Centre activities. The Hastings Trust Resource Centre Review & Business Plan (23 pages plus appended documents) with more details is available at the Centre.

New projects and partners

Connections were made or improved with many local voluntary, commercial and statutory organisations and new projects created and partners found:

Pestolozzi Resource Assessment Study

Institute of Marketing/Resource Centre Partnership

Rebranding Hastings

Business in the Community

Volunteers Training Programme

Workability and CAREA 2000

GEMS

Anti-Poverty strategy with GEMS, Hastings Borough Council and Sussex Rural Community Council
Body Shop

'Alzheimer's Disease Society: help with newsletter, PC advice and setting up database

Two projects with Hastings College: four young design students helping the Centre and Centre users; a weekly careers advice service at the Centre.

Can-Do (The Can-Do project awards grants of £2000 to community 'doers')

Going for Green

Hastings Trust Website (completion soon)

Executive Training Discussions are in progress aimed at establishing

the Trust as the project leader in the development of a partnership to provide business, the voluntary and statutory sectors with management training opportunities.

Hastings Library: a new project aimed at networking information and sharing resources for training

Volunteers

So far the centre has been helped by over eighteen volunteers, some very able and experienced.

Centre Database Development

Databases were created or improved by the Information Co-ordinator including: The Reception Database which monitors the use of the Centre; The Trust Address database, The Local Agenda 21 library database; the Centre Library database; the Centre Accounting database and the Volunteers database.

Other Databases Installed at the Centre

Ecocal was donated by Going for Green. Ecocal calculates how Green your life style is.

Funder Finder helps people to search for funds for community projects.

Locally developed databases have also been installed: the directory of the GEMS database (the local LETS); the Women's Network database which is being entirely reconstructed in an improved form at the Centre, and the Hastings and Rother Federation of Information Providers database.

Fund Raising

A business sponsor partnership group was created to assess the Centre's future and projects: Springboard Marketing Lifetime Training Solutions (a national training company) and the Institute of Marketing [Sussex] through 1st Place Ltd.

Statistics

From November 1997 to August 1998 there were 1142 visits to the Centre which averages at 120 a month. Since completion of the Centre there have been dramatic increases.

Since July 15th when the Reception Database began monitoring visits. Here are some statistics up to November 30th 1998

Number of visits to Trust and Resource Centre in these four and a half months: 1131. The figures for the four complete months that the database has recorded show: in August there were 158, in September, 271 in October 245 and in November 352.

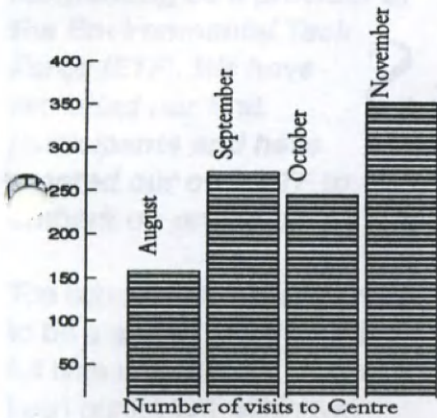
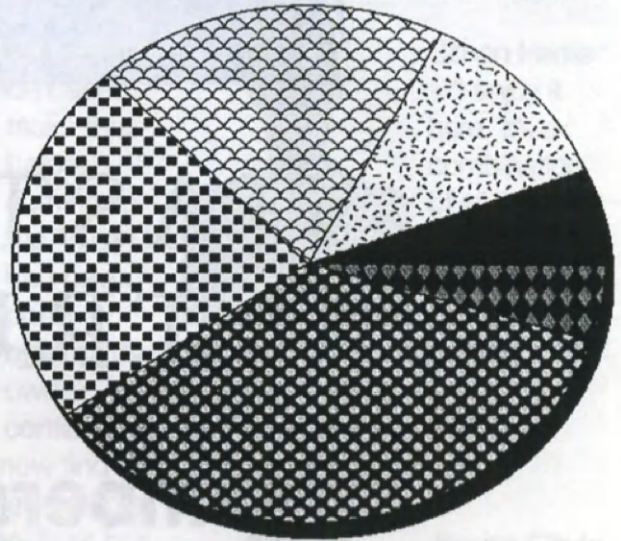
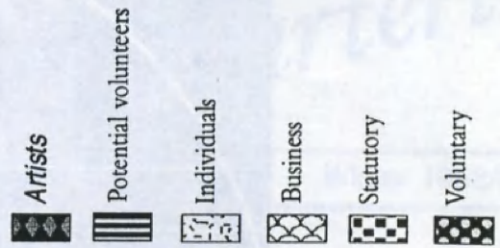
The number of visits can be broken down into type of visit, what services were used, whether a Resource Centre member of staff was seen or another member of the Trust's staff, and which member of staff. By sector (see pie chart) there were 185 visits by the voluntary sector involving 26 separate voluntary organisations; 100 by the business sector; 119 by the statutory sector. On top of this there were 62 visits by individuals and 24 by artists as well as 31

visits by potential Trust volunteers.

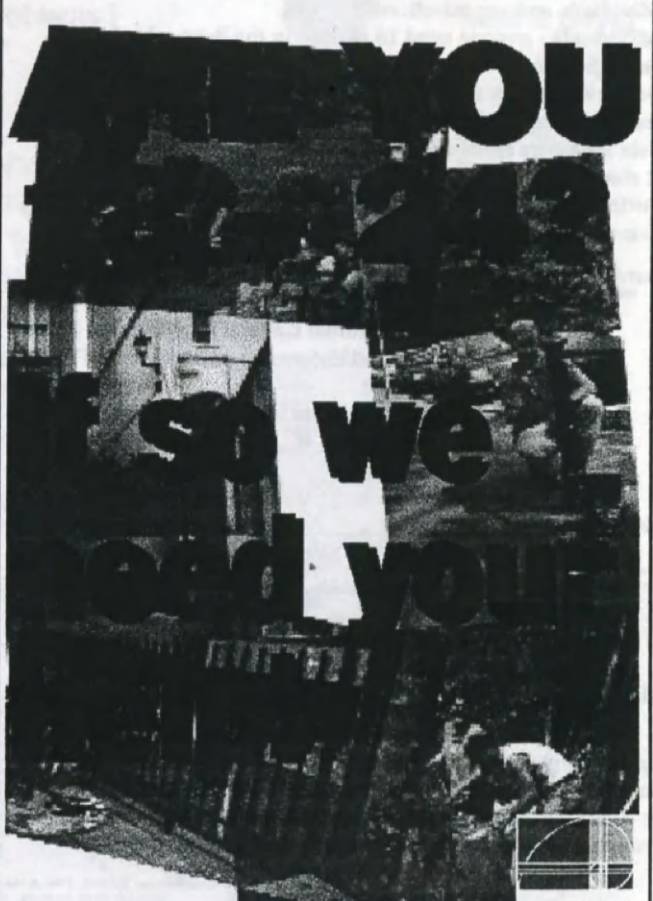
53 bookings on the Reception Database were recorded from July 15th.

The comments file in the Reception Database allows users to rate the Centre in six different categories with an additional comments field. By far the most common rating is the top one 'excellent'!

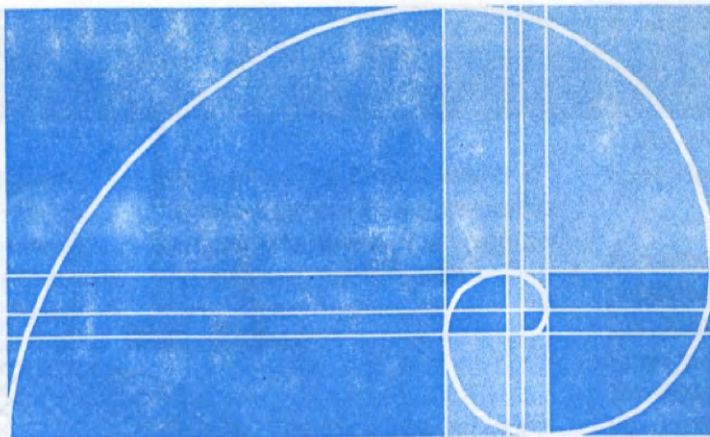
Proportion of visits by sector since July 15th, 1998



For information, please phone Heather on: 01424 446373 **HASTINGS TRUST**



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HASTINGS TRUST

Membership Form

Membership of the Hastings Trust is open to both individuals and organisations.

Individuals - anyone aged 18 or over in the Borough of Hastings District or Rother or any other place at the Board's discretion. **Organisations** - any organisations at the Board's discretion. The Board of Management comprises up to six members elected by the Individual Members, up to six elected by Organisations Members, one nomination by Hastings Borough Council, one by East Sussex County Council, and one by English Heritage.

Membership benefits include:

- Entitlement to vote at Annual General Meetings to elect Board Members and determine policy
- Receipt of annual report
- Receipt of newsletter and other information on Trust activities
- Invitations to Trust events

I/We _____
(name of individual or organisation)

of _____

(address) _____
(telephone/fax) _____

apply to become a member of the Hastings Trust, a company limited by guarantee. I/We agree to be bound by the company's memorandum and articles of association (available for inspection at the Trust's offices) and any rules

made under these. In the event of the company being wound up whilst I am a member, or within one year thereafter, I agree to contribute such amounts as may be required, but not more than £1.00.

Dated this day _____ 199

Signature _____

Position in organisation (if relevant) _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash

Individual membership	£10 per annum	£ _____
Students, Senior Citizens, Unwaged	£4 per annum	£ _____
Organisation Membership	£20 per annum	£ _____
Donation		£ _____
Total		£ _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash:

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I enclose cash totalling £ _____ I do/do not require a receipt

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I do/do not require a receipt (Please delete as appropriate)

Please return this form with your subscription to:
Hastings Trust, 35 Robertson Street,
Hastings, E Sussex TN34 1HT

Tel 01424 446373

Fax 01424 434206

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WORKING TO REGENERATE HASTINGS