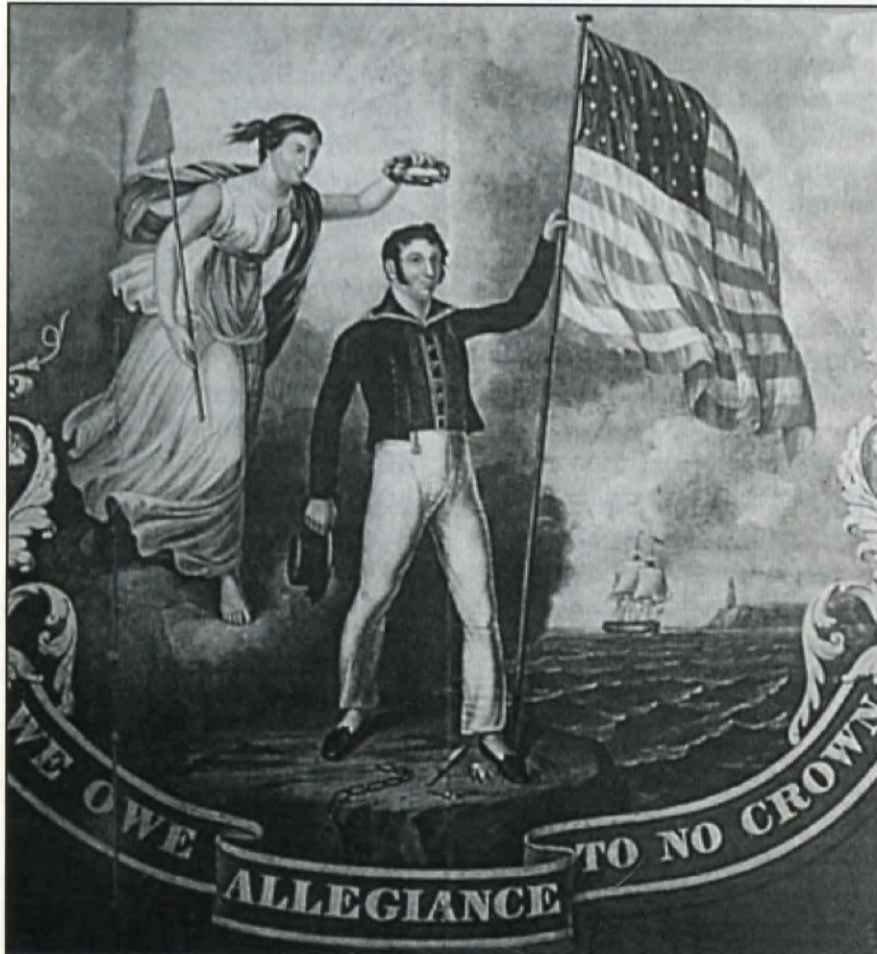


issue 20 summer 1999

# HASTINGS TRUST **quarterly**



## America Ground Launch

The Trust has been working in partnership with the Town Centre Management Group, English Heritage, Hastings Borough Council and English Partnerships/SEEDA on a study for the future of the America Ground.

Following almost a year of work, the America Ground Investment Area Strategy was launched on May 25th in the United Reformed Church, Robertson Street by the

Mayor, Cllr. Godfrey Daniel. Speeches of support came from Cllr. Richard Stevens; Monica Adams-Acton, Town Centre Manager, Jackie Jowett, SEEDA and Christine Goldschmidt, stepping into the breach for Peter Cusdin, SEEDA's area director.

Revealed within the study are plans to turn the America Ground into a major tourist attraction and thriving commercial centre with an

improved range of shops and restaurants. A working group is meeting regularly to take the strategy forward.

Photocopies of the strategy are available from the Hastings Trust Resource Centre.

### **New Deal Delivers**

Congratulations to Scarlett, Jane, Jeevan and Jodene, all with jobs following their time with the Trust on New Deal.

The Trust offers the chance to develop new skills, improve existing ones and help the environment. Opportunities on offer include:

Painting & decorating;  
Landscaping; General building work; Administration; IT; Reception; Research & development; Fund-raising; PR & marketing and the chance of an NVQ in: Painting and decorating; Brickwork, Administration / Reception, IT or Customer Service

and if you want, some help with maths and English

We'll also support you in looking for work by assisting with: letters to employers; application forms; CV's & preparing for interviews, etc.

If you are still not sure, you can come and spend a day in the office or on site

To find out more contact Heather on 446373

## Enhancement Team Update

After many months of negotiations and fund raising the Trust finally secured sufficient funds to proceed with enhancement works in the Old Town. The main project concentrates on the Victorian gates at St Clements Church and is currently underway. Other work includes the redecoration of handrails and bollards in the vicinity.

Our gratitude goes to The Isabel Blackman Foundation for assistance with the project costs via a successful grant being awarded. This was match funded by Hastings Borough Council which enabled the project to proceed.

Moving onwards to a project of a different nature at Cobourg Place flats, the Trust was approached by The Hastings Cottage Improvement Society regarding the design and landscaping the land fronting the property.

We were delighted with the opportunity to participate in such a scheme and six weeks later and a lot of hard grafting the garden was completed.

There must be little doubt in everyone's minds that the project has totally transformed the flats and the surrounding area.

Many thanks to Roy Sanford at W. A. Bryan & Co for his enthusiasm and vision.

It has been proposed that the voluntary and community sectors come together to form a network of networks across the South East Region to inform the work of the new regional assembly and to elect voluntary sector representatives onto the new South East Regional Assembly, SEERA.

Called SEVECON (South East Voluntary & Community Network) in the first instance, the group have now changed their name to RAISE (Regional Action and Involvement South East) and have identified both geographical and interest areas for voluntary groups to register their interest. Unfortunately, there is not yet a coastal strip area nor a regeneration area for the Hastings Trust to register its interest in. Which is a pity, since the elections will be held at the end of June.

We hope to have more positive news in the next newsletter. Anyone interested in RAISE should contact

Christine on 446373 and/or see HVA's latest newsletter.

The South East England Development Agency, SEEDA, came into being on April 1st. and it's role is to create wealth within the region, tackle social exclusion and ensure sustainability. SEEDA have taken over the SRB and English Partnership's budget allocation which, at £70,000,000, is the second lowest in England. As this newsletter goes to press, the SEEDA Board are deciding on which areas are to receive funding under SRB Round V.

In the meantime, Christine Goldschmidt, the Executive Director, has been appointed to the South East England Development Agency Voluntary Sector Committee as an adviser. The Committee is currently working on its contribution to SEEDA's Regional Economic Strategy. The approach it is taking should be familiar to Trust members: the value of the voluntary and community sectors to the economy of the region generally and locally and development of the social economy amongst others.

The Committee, under the Chair, Jim Baker, is also working on a strategic approach to the sector's involvement in the development of the region and pressing the issue that there is a great cost to not involving the community in regional development and that there should be an open and sustainable process.



Sadly, this will be the last time that "Wheels" is featured in this newsletter. Due to insufficient funding the project has no other option than to close. The last wheels trainees attended their last session on the 20th May and the workshop will officially close on June 15th.

I'm sure that there are, and will be people who will be quick to criticise and suggest ways in which "Wheels" could have been saved. Generally, these will be people who if asked, would not be able to explain why Wheels existed and who would benefit from taking an active role in local projects rather than mocking them.

Wheels lasted for the full 3 year term of it's lottery funding. My staff and I believe that we never dropped our teaching and promotion levels. As a result, 128 young people learnt many workshop skills, skills which led 9 of them into full-time employment. Whenever the project attended public functions such as the Bexhill 100 or Autograss race meetings, our displays, race cars and young people were always impressive and admired by others in attendance. I think our proudest moments came at race meetings. Seeing 3 wheels cars in their gleaming livery on the same start line with their pit crews cheering them on was a very special moment. More recently, young people

from the Pupil Referral Unit attended 5 daytime workshop sessions. Ruth Adams, has reported that all of them had a great time and having struggled so hard to raise the required funding she is sad that future sessions will not be possible.

For me personally, Wheels has been a good experience. I've met some wonderful young people and have been taught many skills by our team of volunteer instructors. Our Camping / Fishing weekend was a great laugh and our motocross sessions were good fun. Camping on a Bexhill street corner was a weird experience and beating a 500 BHP Cosworth in our 1300cc Escort tube car will remain a fond memory.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Sarah "Bubbles" Taylor for all of her hard work. She has developed her office and computer skills to a much higher level, which I'm sure will be of great use in the future. Also, Mick "Pops" Prestedge whose past experience allowed us to teach techniques to a level that I've never dreamed of. He constantly worked 40 - 50 hours weeks although only contracted for 21 hours and somehow found the energy to return to the workshop on the Saturday night of a 2 day race meeting to change a blown engine so that the boys could race on Sunday. He did this having just completed a 100 hr week which ensured that we were able to race in the first place.

*Cheers, Matt*



**Wheels Racing Mini**

# Make a Difference

Early in March I was welcomed to the Hastings Trust as the new Project Worker to 'Make a Difference' - A Young Volunteers Development Project. This is an opportunity for young people to make a contribution to Hastings, the chance to do something different and to learn new skills, to make new friends - and have fun!

The first stage of the project was to look at the extent and range of current volunteering activities and ways of developing new sustainable strategies to increase young people's involvement in volunteering.

Following this it was decided to use the expertise of other partners to carry out more detailed work so that an overall strategy can be developed by the end of 1999. The results of this are now starting to come together and the published work will be celebrated at an event in November, details of which will be advertised later in the year.

I have been fortunate to have Robbie Clark, a student at Hastings College, as a young volunteer assisting me with the project. Robbie and his friends produce an excellent youth magazine called 'Hip 'n' Happy' copies of which are available at the Trust.

I am looking forward to early

July when I will join the 40 other national Project Workers in an event in London to celebrate the success of the programme with Paul Boateng, Home Office Minister.

In the meantime, if you are aged between 15 and 25 and interested in volunteering or an organisation that would welcome young volunteers please contact me at the Hastings Trust. I look forward to hearing from you!

'Make a Difference' is partly funded by the Home Office and is supported by: Hastings Trust, British Trust Conservation Volunteers, Hastings Voluntary Action, Hastings Volunteer Bureaux,

Hastings & Bexhill Youth Service, Xtrax, Tressell Training, Hastings Borough Council, Health Promotion Unit, Education & Business Partnership, Hastings Youth Council, Hastings College.

*Cheryl Davis*



Pictured from left to right: Robbie Clark, Gladiator 'Rio', Cheryl Davis and David Southerden with prospective volunteer at the Priory Meadow Shopping Centre for National Volunteers Week.

# Beach Concert

## Hastings Free Beach Concert

1999

Saturday 7th August

2pm - 8pm

The Lifeboat Stade,

Hastings Old Town

1999 sees the annual beach concert go into its eleventh year. This year's event has two unique features, which sets it apart from previous concerts. Firstly it is the first time that the beach concert has been fully funded, taking a weight off my shoulders. So I don't have to lose sleep worrying about the consequences of the event not going ahead, which in the past would have left me with bills that still need to be paid. But no funds to pay them with. Secondly it is the last concert of the present millennium, so I plan to start the celebrations of the new millennium with the best beach concert ever.

This year, with nine acts booked, we are reverting back to non-stop live music. **Ugenix, The Bassment, The Blues Brothers, Pass the Cat** and Hastings very own UB40 tribute band **One In Ten** are the main bands on the stage. **Madeline Milla, Donna Terenzi, Chris Fyfe**

**and Friends** and **Ma Binghi Ba** will provide the live entertainment during the change-overs.

As part of my on-going policy to increase the input of local artists, across the whole spectrum of the arts. On the high water bank, during change-overs, The Shorelink Community Writers and Friends will be inviting us to sample their humourous and often thought provoking "Performance Poetry". Also there will be a lot more visual art, provided by the hard work of Linda King, along with Angie and Chris and all the other local artists involved with "The Same Sky" arts group.

As usual the event will be raising funds for the Hastings branch of The Royal National Lifeboat Institute. A volunteer group of men and women, who command my utmost respect for their bravery in putting to sea in all weathers to save the lives of others. So please show your appreciation of these hardy people by putting at least £1 per head in the collection buckets, which is not much to ask in return for six hours free entertainment.

I would like to end with a thank-you to all of the sponsors of this year's event.

They are (in alphabetical order):

**1066 Scaffolding**  
**Barnes Watson printers**  
**French & Son Haulage Ltd**  
**G.H. Graphics**  
**Harpers - Bar**  
**Hastings Borough Council**  
**Hastings Community Fund**  
**Hastings Windsurfing**  
**Havelock Accommodation Service**  
**JR's Nightclub,**  
**The First in Last out - public house**  
**The Hastings Trust**  
**The London Trader- public house**  
**Speedy Hire Centres.**

I hope to see you all at this year's event. Bye for now.

*Dave "Sax" Weller*

*Organiser,*

*Hastings Free Beach Concert*

P.S. Should any of you like to offer your services as a steward for this event. Please contact me at -

The Hastings Trust,  
 35 Robertson Street,  
 Hastings, TN34 1HT.

Or phone on 01424 446373.

## Date for your Diaries

The Trust's AGM will be held on September 10th in the Marina Pavilion.

The Resource Centre began almost a year late amidst the dust and noise of a building site. Despite the adverse conditions the Centre, to justify its funding, needed to achieve a number of SRB outputs.

### Flexible working

It is a triumph of the Centre's flexibility that, with nearly a year to run, outputs are well on target with some already reached and even surpassed. See the table below.

These outputs would have been impossible without the Centre volunteers. The good humoured, friendly atmosphere, the variety of Centre users combined with a

real sense of purpose have attracted and kept high calibre volunteers. Volunteer hours average over 90 per week.

### Recent & continuing work

The Hastings Credit Union has been given marketing advice (one of many organisations see the outputs table). Databases were set for 1066 Enterprise (Factory Watch), the Womens' Network and the Alzheimers' Disease Society. New Deal trainees benefited from advice and on the job training. The Centre now hosts regular meetings of the Local Agenda 21 Forum and the Local Agenda 21 Transport group. GEMS, the local LETS (Local

Exchange Trading System) can be joined at the Centre and its database of services browsed.

### Future work

Partnerships with Hastings College of Arts & Technology and with the ESCC's library service will promote the Centre both for training and education. Planned for the coming year are workshops and courses in computing, career and personal development as well as seminars and courses in sustainable economic development, web site design and the impact of the Net for businesses. A major marketing company is looking at how to 'rebrand' Hastings.

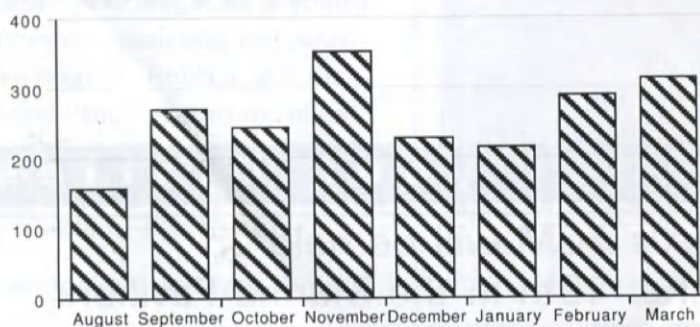
#### Targets for SRB outputs April 1997 to April 2000

Jobs created	2
Training weeks	460
Young people benefiting ( <i>no number given</i> )	24
Businesses advised	44
Voluntary organisations supported	36
Individuals in voluntary work	60
Community Enterprise start-ups	2

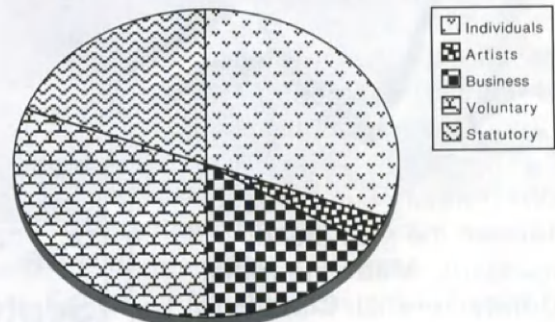
#### Actual SRB outputs November 1997 to April 1999

Jobs created	8
Training weeks	262 (approx)
Young people benefiting ( <i>no number given</i> )	24
Businesses advised	36
Voluntary organisations supported	49
Individuals in voluntary work	28
Community Enterprise start-ups	8

Visitor numbers August 1998 - March 1999



Visits by sector since July 15th, 1998



## Step by Step

is a series of Resource Centre courses aimed at people of all ages with little or no previous experience of computers.

These courses have been designed as a stepping stone for those wishing to take formal qualifications, and for those who are seeking to improve their chances of employment in the current job market place.

Wherever possible, the amount of typing and inputting of data has been kept to a bare minimum. For those wishing to learn or improve their keyboard skills, an interactive computer training program is available at the Resource Centre.

The courses will be carried out using Microsoft Works, an all-in-one software package offering a range of facilities, including:

- Word Processing
- Database
- Spreadsheet

The basic principles learnt during these courses can be used with many other well-known applications, including: Microsoft Office, Lotus Smart Suite, etc.

Prospective students will be asked to attend a short introductory session at the Resource Centre which will enable us to find the needs of each individual student.

For more details, please phone Chris Fyfe on 446373

## OASIS Too

Since the last newsletter OASIS Too (based at 46 Chiltern Drive) has really taken off. It is now being used four days a week, providing a Baby Clinic, Family Drop In (which include offering cheap lunches) and a newly formed support group for families with children who suffer from ADHD. As 46 Chiltern Drive is the ground floor flat and the whole block will be developed for community use. It is hoped that by the end of the year OASIS itself will re-locate to this building.

One local resident Jackie Gaunt recently won a "Can Do" award from the Millennium Commission. With the money she is co-ordinating the development of a Community Garden and Laundry, both of which will be based at 46 Chiltern Drive. These are very exiting projects and are involving many local residents as well as generous support from business and agencies. Any donations of plants and tools will be very gratefully received.

## Community Newsletter

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.

## Health

The Sexual Health Worker Helen Palmer has been work-

ing hard since coming into post and has provided several Women's Health talks. She shares information and advice on subjects such as Breast Screening, Smear Testing and Cervical Cancer. She has also managed to arrange for Mr Old the Senior Gynaecologist to come out into the community for two questions and answer sessions at OASIS and One Four Seven Community Flat in Farley Bank. Thanks to a very generous donation we have received a Touch Screen computer which holds information of all illness, conditions and symptoms at the touch of the screen. This is currently located in the 1066 Call Office in Broomgrove.

## Learning & Jobs

The University Of Sussex (CCE) continues to provide many of the courses and Taster Days. Subjects range from Women's Studies, Literature, Alternative Health, gardening and Volunteer \ committee skills.

A new service will shortly be available provided by Tomorrows People. This will be employment advice and a signposting service for the long term unemployed.

I am still available to offer any advice, information and general advocacy and support during office hours.

*Clare Croft-  
Centre Co-ordinator of the  
Oasis Centre.*

# Hastings Trust Vision

Designed & Produced by D Grando Tel: 01424 424006

'To create active partnerships between the public, private, voluntary & community sectors and to enable them to work together for the economic, environmental & social regeneration of Hastings'

The Hastings Trust, a registered charity, has these aims:

- To help those who live, work or visit here to care for the environment.
- To help the local economy to flourish in ways which won't spoil the place for those who come to us.
- To spread the word to all concerned about how best to regenerate the town and, at the same time, conserve all that's good in it.

If you would like to know more about the Hastings Trust, or would like to help in some way, please contact Heather Smith Tel: 01424 446373, or call in at our Resource Centre, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings, TN34 1HT

## 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

**Working to Regenerate Hastings**