

BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 8th February 2024 3.30pm

At ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SEA ROAD, BEXHILL

Committee attending:

Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Chair/Treasurer
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL)	East Parade
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Committee Clerk

1. APOLOGIES - Natasha Hamblin (NH), Alexis Markwick (AM), Philip Howard-Knight, Jane Minter, Lyn Markwick, Dave Hatherell.

2. CHAIR'S WELCOME AND UPDATE: SJ welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He explained that there would be a longer break at this meeting to enable members to talk with the committee. Cake will be provided too!

3. APPROVAL OF AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER MEMBERS MEETING: No matters arising. Minutes were approved - Proposed, Keith Rhodes, Seconded, Paul Lendon.

4. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES - SJ - TEMPORARY PLANNING OFFICER

BH objected to the application to demolish Beulah Baptist Church tower and hall, and replace both with modern versions. BH's view is that the replacement building suggested is not in keeping with the current building and streetscape. The application has been refused.

The committee considered the planning application to build a new home in the garden of a property on Heighton Close and provide vehicular access from that dwelling on to Collington Lane West. The committee decided that, if this proposal was to go ahead, there would be detriment to the character and amenity of Collington Lane West which is a historic route through west Bexhill. It is too late to officially comment, but it was decided to write a letter in of support of neighbours who are opposing the application.

Rother District Council (RDC) is currently dealing with a backlog of planning applications.

5. BEXHILL HERITAGE PROJECTS UPDATE – Simon Allen

SA has been working with SJ to refurbish the RNLI collection box on the seafront. The door problem has now been rectified. The door will be reinstalled, and the final coats of paint applied when the weather allows. A plaque will be erected if RDC agree.

Sainsbury's Mural - The mural consists of three large panels designed and made by Henry Collins and Joyce Pallot. The mural needs cleaning and restoring, and the damage repairing. Negotiations are still ongoing with Sainsbury's, but BH are hopeful that work can begin in May. The team of volunteer restorers will be split into two teams, some will continue the restoration of Shelter 4 and others will start working on the mural.

Restoration work is continuing Shelter 4. BH volunteers are working on Monday and Friday mornings. All the wood has now received the first coat of primer. Following sanding, another coat of primer and then gloss paint will be applied. Two hundred metres of beading will be needed for the glazing panels. No completion date has been set but it is hoped completion will be towards the end of the summer.

6. CHRISTMAS CARDS -Yolanda Laybourne

YL gave an update on the sale of the BH Christmas cards. It was the first time that BH has produced Christmas cards. The cards were sold as packs of 5. Sales went well and YL thanked members who had bought the cards. There is BH information on the back of the card which helps to raise the profile and they are not linked to a particular year and so do not become out of date. YL asked for feedback and of those who hadn't bought cards the majority were those who were not aware of them. Members suggested to perhaps have four different designs available and to add a printed greeting inside the card. The committee will discuss the feedback at their next meeting. Steve Hall (meeting speaker) said he is happy to give suggestions if required.

7. VISITS FOR 2024 - KEITH RHODES

KR said that last year's visits went very well. The visit to Camber Castle was cancelled by English Heritage due to health and safety issues, but the two other 2023 visits went ahead. The "Bexhill Secrets" tour was sold out. Thanks are due to AM for being an informative guide and to Alan Parkes for driving the minibus. The De La Warr Pavilion staff gave members a very informative "behind the scenes" tour. They were very welcoming and appreciative of the work that BH do. For 2024, the first visit will be to the Brede Steam Giants on 8th March. Members will be split into four groups for the tour and refreshments will be provided. Following this there will be visits to Rye Harbour, with a boat trip, and a private tour of Winchelsea cellars and St Thomas church. Dates will be confirmed at the next meeting. Car sharing will be arranged for all the visits. KR and Yvonne Menzies will be staffing a table in the break to take bookings for Brede. BH has a card reader to take payments. It is advisable to book early to ensure a place. Details of visits will also be on the BH website.

8. REFRESHMENTS and RAFFLE

9. MAIN ITEM

Guest speaker: Steve Hall, local cartoonist and historian. Steve talked about the history of animation.

Steve gave a very interesting talk about the history of animation which back to cave paintings 50,000 years ago where artists depicted movement by painting the same images with subtle differences to mimic movement. By the 17th century a lens and a light source, such as candles or an oil lamp, allowed images to be projected onto a wall. These could only be shown to a very small number of people at a time. In 1824, Peter Mark Roget—the same Roget responsible for the first thesaurus—published *Persistence of Vision about Moving Objects*. His findings that each image is held on the retina of the eye for fractions of a second before the next image replaces it led to further study of this phenomenon: the perception of movement occurring when images replace each other rapidly. Examples of this are the flipbooks that children were given. Émile Reynaud invented the Théâtre Optique an animated moving picture system, patented in 1888. From 28 October 1892 to March 1900 Reynaud gave over 12,800 shows to a total of over 500,000 visitors at the Musée Grévin in Paris. In the 1890s the Lumiere Brothers invented a camera that could take moving film. This was a huge step forward which made all previous inventions obsolete. Steve brought in many examples of the inventions he spoke about. Members were encouraged to examine the items. It was a fascinating talk.

10. Questions for the committee and any other business

There were no questions asked or any other business. SJ said that the next meeting will have the Civic Pride Awards as the main item. Nominations have been shortlisted by the committee. Members will be asked to vote as necessary. If a vote is required, it will take place by email or by post in the next two weeks. Winners will be announced and will receive their awards at the April meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 4th APRIL - 7PM - ST BARNABAS CHURCH

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 5.30