

BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 10th April 2025 7pm
At ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SEA ROAD, BEXHILL

Committee attending:

Steve Johnson	(SJ)	Chair/Treasurer
Simon Allen	(SA)	Projects Coordinator
Alexis Markwick	(AM)	IT Support Officer/Historian
Yolanda Laybourne	(YL)	East Parade
Lorraine Parkes	(LP)	Volunteer Recruitment & Support/Minutes Secretary
Yvonne Menzies	(YM)	Company Secretary/Media & Marketing Coordinator
Edmund Bird	(EB)	Planning Officer

- 1. APOLOGIES** - Natasha Hamblin (NH), Christina Muskin (CM) Hazel Hanley, Anne Andersen, Angela Hart, Ian Hollidge
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING:** No matters arising. Minutes were approved.

3. Draft Local List of non-designated heritage assets – EB and AM

At the November members' meeting it was agreed that BH would request that Rother District Council (RDC) establishes a "Local List". This list identifies buildings and other structures within Bexhill which are considered to have significant architectural or historic importance. These may be domestic properties, features of infrastructure such as railway bridges, historic street furniture, archaeological landscape features or historic parks. Buildings on the Local List do not meet the strict criteria for national designation but local listing recognises their importance to the community and gives them some protection. EB and AM have produced a comprehensive local list. Our website, *bexhillheritage.com* gives suggestions of buildings to be included in the List. They are shown on a map of the local area along with photographs and additional information. There are 89 entries so far. Members are encouraged to study the relevant web pages and make suggestions for any additional entries. There is a nomination form for any additions and any supporting information or photographs included would be very useful. Please email the address on the website if you would like support with the form. Nominations will be open for the next two months.

4. UPDATES

Eastern Conservation area proposal – SJ

Bexhill Neighbourhood Board are aware of the proposal and are supportive. SJ and EB met with RDC's Chief Planning Officer who was initially unsure but following support from the Leader and Deputy of the Council, it is hoped there will be full support for the project which Bexhill Town Council has voted unanimously to support.

Shelter 4 opening – Saturday 19th April 10am – SJ

The boarding around the shelter is being removed tomorrow by RDC and fencing erected. The restorers will need to paint the soffits with undercoat and two layers of gloss paint. The plaques have been erected, the floor repaired and the heritage vinyls applied. The Chair of RDC, Cllr. Richard Thomas will officially "open" the shelter.

Bexhill Heritage Open Day – Saturday 19th April 11am at the Bandstand – LP

A new flyer has been produced to encourage members to consider volunteering with BH. There are many ways to volunteer. Whatever you are interested in and have time for will be welcomed. There are practical activities to try such as painting and sanding and a tombola. There is also an East Parade Trail from the Bandstand to Shelter 4 with clues to identify heritage buildings along the promenade.

Bandstand spring spruce up – SJ

BH restorers have begun repainting the outside of the Bandstand. They will return when Shelter 4 has been completed. The floor will be renewed and new chair legs have been purchased to minimise the damage to the floor.

Normans Bay K6 phone kiosk – SA

The box has been completely restored after being stripped down to a bare shell. The opening on Saturday 5th April was a great success. David Dimbleby, broadcaster and journalist, “opened” the box along with Richard Thomas, RDC Chair. Local councillors also attended. There was an enthusiastic audience of residents and supporters who were all very positive. The Chair of the Residents Association, Mel Dukes, is delighted with the restoration and the residents will look after the box which has been repurposed as a book and seed exchange.

Bus shelter renovations – SJ

The Third Avenue Art Deco style lozenge-shaped shelter is drying out so restoration work will begin when Shelter 4 and the Bandstand works have been completed. Contractors will be sought for roof repairs and window replacement.

Summer concerts – SJ

A flyer has been produced for the Bandstand free summer concerts. There will be a VE Day concert on Saturday 10th May and the Battle Ukulele Band will play a selection of 1940s music on Thursday 8th May. Every Friday in June, July and August live music will be played between 2pm and 3pm.

Member visits – Keith Rhodes

The first planned visit is to Windmill Hill Windmill will be on **Thursday 24th April at 10am**. There are some tickets left, and it would be useful to car-share as parking is limited.

Saturday 12th July is the date for the visit to the Dungeness Sound Mirrors. They are located on an RSPB island site. There is a 25 minute walk to them from the car park. Unfortunately the walk is not accessible for wheelchairs as the site is mainly shingle.

Thursday 11th September is the date for the trip around Rye Harbour. There are lovely walks (self-guided) around the Sussex wetlands and a discovery centre to explore. At 14.30 a safari boat will then take us around the harbour.

Refreshments, raffle and exclusive book offer

Members bought a signed copy of Bexhill in 50 Buildings by local historian Dave Hatherell and author Alan Starr.

5. Guest Speaker – Sarah French

Sarah gave a fascinating and in-depth talk of the lives and times of Bexhill’s Annie and Muriel Brassey. There are extensive collections of Annie’s photographs and journals in the Huntington Library, California and closer to home in the Hastings Museum. Muriel became a major public figure and was a staunch supporter of the Suffrage Movement.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - AGM – Thursday 12th June – 7pm – ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Guest speaker will be Simon Stevens of Archaeology South-East. Simon’s theme will be Excavating the past – First World War Treasures in Bexhill.

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 6.55pm