

BEXHILL HERITAGE MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday 27th November 2025 7pm
At ST BARNABAS CHURCH, SEA ROAD, BEXHILL

Committee attending:

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| Steve Johnson | (SJ) | Chair/ outgoing Treasurer |
| Simon Allen | (SA) | Projects Coordinator |
| Alexis Markwick | (AM) | Deputy Chair/IT Support Officer/Historian |
| Yolanda Laybourne | (YL) | East Parade monitoring |

1. APOLOGIES – Alan and Hue Mead, Judith Fuhr, Joan Wilson, Philip Howard-Knight, Chris Eastwood, Jean Morris, Terry Clothier. Christine Nee, Russell Norman-Noakes, Steve Hall, Annie Coote, Susan Rochefort, Edmund Bird, Christina Muskin, Carmen Keeble, Yvonne Menzies

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER MEETING: No matters arising. Minutes were approved.

3. UPDATES

De La Warr Road commemorative bus shelter

SA reported that: the unsightly paint had been removed; the roof repaired; guttering fixed and a litter bin relocated. The damaged and decayed window had also been replaced. This work had been carried out to a specification drawn up by Tony Lightly by Lee Botting Ltd. Funds had been granted by Bexhill Town Council who now have responsibility for bus shelter maintenance. Bexhill Heritage volunteers will provide finishing touches when weather permits. These include staining the fascia boards, painting the ceiling and renovating the interior bench. An interpretation board about the shelter's origins will be added to the rear wall. SJ thanked Simon for his supervision of the project.

Hastings Road bus shelter

Following planned roof repairs and window replacements by contractors engaged by Bexhill Heritage, our volunteer renovators had been stripping paint from the interior walls. This would be completed by the end of the year, allowing repainting to take place in the spring. It was hoped to add a mural to the interior and remove earth from outside the shelter to avoid damp issues in the future.

Shelter 3 seating

Bexhill Heritage's renovators had repainted the benches. Minor repairs and repainting of the shelter were planned for 2026.

Sainsbury's mural

This had been given a thorough annual clean and was now as good as new again.

Tree Survey in the proposed Eastern Conservation Area

The survey had been completed. Many trees were missing and had not been replaced. Others were in poor condition. Most trees were sycamores which, as they had grown, had damaged paving. This had caused problems for pedestrians. Historical research had shown the location of original street trees.

The survey group had proposed two small schemes. One would seek to replace existing trees and fill empty tree pits on the northern part of Brassey Road. The other would seek to plant street trees in the eastern part of Lionel Road. Consultation with residents was recognised as being essential as was research into more appropriate species and paving.

Blue Plaque Scheme

SJ informed members of a commemorative plaque scheme to be undertaken in partnership

with the Bexhill Old Town Preservation Society. It was hoped that Bexhill Museum would also be involved. The scheme would commemorate significant individuals, groups and organizations as well as highlighting significant buildings. A heritage trail would also be devised.

East Parade and Shelter 2

SJ reported that prospects for the renovation of Shelter 2 were good. It was hope that preliminary work might start in January 2026.

4. Civic Pride Award 2026 – call for nominations

SJ announced the nominations made so far. These were in four categories: shops, services, places to meet and open spaces. Members were invited to make further nominations by December 9th. A copy of SJ's presentation would be circulated shortly after the meeting. The presentation of awards was planned for our February meeting.

5. Merchandise decisions

LP asked members to decide what merchandise Bexhill Heritage should make available for sale. Members were asked to indicate their opinions on a form that was distributed at the meeting.

6. Guest Speaker

PC Darren Holter of Sussex Police spoke on the issue of heritage crime giving several examples from across Sussex and beyond. He suggested than many offences were committed because of ignorance of the law and lack of understanding of the importance of Britain's heritage. He warned that some heritage items were stolen to order, often during the working day, by people posing as contractors. Major thefts occurred on Christmas Day over several hours with stolen items taken away by lorry.

PC Holter asked members to report thefts, damage and anti-social behaviour on the Sussex Police website using the title *Heritage Crime*. Such messages would reach him.

Following questions from members, PC Holter was thanked for his interesting talk.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – None

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday 12th February – 3.30pm – ST BARNABAS CHURCH
(subject to confirmation)**

The February meeting will incorporate the presentation of the Bexhill Heritage Civic Pride awards.

SJ thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 21.00