



Dear members,

It has been a very positive few months since our previous newsletter with increased membership and volunteers stepping forward to assist various teams.

You may have noticed that one of our primary concerns - the East Parade shelters, are now progressing well. Stimulated into action by condition reports from BH, to their credit, Rother District Council have commissioned some excellent craftsmen to undertake repairs. One shelter is now finished to an unexpectedly very high standard and is looking spectacular. One is undergoing extensive repair work, and we look forward to the remaining two shelters receiving similar attention.

Our Projects Team have been very active lately. The West Parade Clock Tower is now drying out as a result of an emergency condition report carried out again by BH. Blocked ventilation has been opened up; the internal ladders have been repaired and the structure will be monitored over the coming months and when dried out, assessed for further attention. The reinstatement of the missing Max Faulkner placard and the unveiling of the new interpretive board at Pages Gap both created great interest, and add to the list of successful projects accomplished.

Our Events Team has been very busy with pop-up displays and operating gazebo stands at large events, and many members have joined as a result. More events are planned before the end of the summer.

Our Local List Team is working on the considerable project and a template is now in place.

Our Refreshments Team continue to keep our members fed and watered in their usual efficient manner for which we are all grateful, and the BH Garden Party this Saturday (17th Aug) is a delightful addition.

Our Planning Team have one of the more challenging but interesting tasks, but progress has been made. After a great deal of legwork preparing detailed reports and surveys, we are pleased to report that the immediate threat of the inappropriate demolition of the Drill Hall has subsided – although the situation will continue to be monitored. Other heritage demolition threats lurk in the background however, and are being monitored.

There is much still to do but we are chipping away at the huge task ahead, and all these little stepping stone achievements add to the unique sense of place that Bexhill has to offer. Our direction is mostly steered by our members, so please do offer your suggestions; feedback and expertise where possible. Thank you.

Raymond Konyn
Chairman

NEWSLETTER

August 2019



Left: Mayor Kathy Harmer & Council Leader Doug Oliver unveil the Max Faulkner placard.
Right: Mayor Kathy Harmer & Keith Rhodes unveil the Pages Gap interpretive board.



Bexhill has had the good fortune to see two commemorative boards unveiled this summer and BH was involved in both.

The first took place on 16th June at Sutton Place for golfer Max Faulkner. Faulkner was born at 36 Havelock Road on 29th July 1916, the son of a professional golfer, he was a talented sportsman and went on to win the 1951 Open Championship – one of only four Englishmen to do so in the previous 40 years. Max's father Gustavus Kirkham, taught his son the game at the Bexhill Golf Course. These golf links extended from De La Warr Road to East Parade to Galley Hill and had been built on the De La Warr Estate in 1880.

On 26th July at Pages Gap we unveiled a new interpretive board which tells the history of the area, the ramp which helped disabled children access the beach and a background of their home at Colwall Court. The project was managed by BH member Keith Rhodes over a nine month period with help and design by Alexis Markwick.

Clock Tower Update

In our last newsletter we reported on the worrying high humidity and poor state of the interior of the clock tower on West Parade. We are pleased to report that with prompt assistance from RDC we reopened the vents last month, this made a noticeable difference, with the relative humidity (RH) dropping from 80% to a comfortable 50%.

Architecture Spotlight



War Memorial, Marina.
Created by prolific sculptor Louis Frederick Roslyn at a cost of £1,400. It was unveiled by Brigadier General O'Donnell on the 12th December 1920. The bronze figure is of Victory grasping the sword of sacrifice and a wreath as she looks out over the sea towards the Western Front. The tablets around it are engraved with 331 names of local men.

Afternoon Tea & Garden Party

Saturday 17th August at 2:30pm, Bexhill Heritage members Madeleine and David are kindly opening their garden for those who have an interest in the charity and our town's heritage to interact and relax.

£2.50 entry - includes hot drink and cake.
36 Collington Avenue, TN39 3NE.

Keep in contact

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If you like what we are doing then please encourage your friends to join with us and strengthen our society.

Are you interested in being actively involved in the charity? Our next members meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House at 7pm on the following dates:

 Wednesday 28th August 2019

 Monday 28th October 2019

 Wednesday 18th December 2019

Sainsbury's Mural

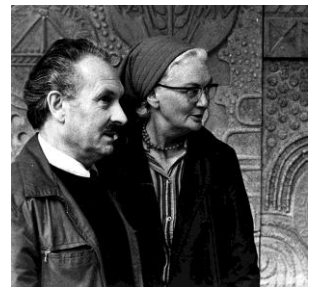


Top: 1976 – bright and clean | Bottom: 2019 – in desperate need of a refresh

Opposite the Town Hall you may have noticed a concrete mural commissioned by J. Sainsbury Plc, revealed when the supermarket opened in June 1976.

The three arched panels depict various local historical events, culture, industry and landmarks; created by sculptors Joyce and Henry Collins of Colchester.

The husband and wife team created murals for all over the country during the 60's and 70's, extensively researching history before creating moulds to which concrete was then poured into. There is a fantastic documentary on their legacy which can be seen here: <http://henryandjoycecollins.co.uk/film/>



Bexhill Heritage's project team is now trying to contact the manager of Sainsbury's to propose a clean-up, repair and repaint of the mural, giving some recognition to the artists.

Quiz Night and Buffet



Join us on Monday 21st October between 7pm and 9:30pm for a night of fun and education at the Sackville Bistro.

We'll have a variety of question, picture and musical rounds; together with a raffle and a buffet.

To book, either visit our website below, fill in the attached form, or call our Treasurer Steve on 07790 632698. <https://bexhillheritage.org.uk/quiz-night-and-buffet>