



Dear members,

Reflecting on the past twelve months, 2019 has been an incredibly positive and productive year for Bexhill Heritage. Membership numbers have increased and some wonderful ideas and suggestions have been proposed, some of which have already been implemented; some pending and some have fallen outside our constitutional purposes which we are unfortunately therefore unable to pursue.

Probably our most challenging project so far has been East Parade shelter No.3 which arrived more by accident than design in the form of a request for help from Rother District Council in September. Most materials have been provided by RDC and we have provided the labour with over 1,200 volunteer hours expended on the restoration work so far. It has not been an easy task with the adverse weather conditions but the project is now proceeding well.

Our website which was kindly built and is managed by Alexis Markwick continues to grow as a valuable resource. A useful calendar has now been added so that members can see at a glance when events and meetings are scheduled, and members are encouraged to check this regularly since new events are added from time to time. Our Partners and Associates page has also expanded in content as alliances with other groups and organisations grow.

A successful tourist / information point shop in Devonshire Road was provided at no cost and unfortunately proved to be short-lived when the freeholder needed it back after only a month. It was a useful trial run for expanding on the idea, and several options are in place to re-establish a similar facility.

There is no doubt that Bexhill Heritage is now a mature, robustly constituted charity which has become well recognised and warmly received by RDC Officers and Councillors, and is making a steady infectious positive impact on our community here in Bexhill-on-Sea.

I wish all of our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Raymond Konyn
Chairman

NEWSLETTER

December 2019



Concept art of how East Parade shelter 3 may look when finished in 2020.

In early September 2019, Bexhill Heritage received a request from Rother District Council to help with repairs to East Parade shelter No.3. We accepted the challenge and began work back in October.

With a steady team of BH volunteers, we've turned this project into a full restoration. Many layers of paint have been removed to uncover the shelter's pine wood and original detail. Each panel has carefully sanded, filled and primed ready for a paint scheme which fits the town colours chosen in 1893. The roof has been cleaned from a considerable ingress of sand and broken tiles, and as of this month it is being completely felted and retilled by a contractor. Windows are being replaced, and painting will continue ready for the official spring-time unveiling.

Regular photos and updates can be found on our website bexhillheritage.org.uk/repair-of-shelter-no-3-east-parade.

History

Shelters No.3 and No.4 were built in 1921 by Frederick William Parker (1850-1932) at a contract price of £380 each.

Parker was a builder and undertaker who set up a workshop at 22 Belle Hill (now under the west bound lane of King Offa Way, close to Edinburgh Road); he took over the family business established by his father Henry.



Workshop above, coffin store below and Chapel of Rest on the left, c.1950-60 (credit Peter Cole).

Parker's larger projects include the Cemetery Chapel, Cemetery Lodge, and the New Club (today the Waterfront Club). He carried out the last burials at Barrack Road cemetery and the first funeral at Bexhill Cemetery when it opened in 1902.

His great-grandson Peter Cole is still active in the town, being a Vice President of the Bexhill Hanoverian Study Group and a member of BH.

Architecture Spotlight



St. Michael and All Angels Church, Glassenbury Drive.

Consecrated in 1933, this neo-gothic church was designed by John Bernard Mendham and built from locally made bricks and dressed stone. The interior has a Sussex barn roof. Mendham was born in St. Leonard's-on-Sea but was brought up in Buenos Aires where his father worked as an engineer. As a result his designs have a strong Spanish colonial influence. Towards the end of his career he worked on Coventry Cathedral.

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 5th February 2020**
Reinstating the Bexhill Flag by Keith Rhodes.

 **Wednesday 4th March 2020**
The Friends of Edith project by Ian Jarman.

Our AGM will be held at St. Barnabas Church, 7pm:

 **Wednesday 6th May 2020**

Civic Pride Award 2019






BH members vote on the Civic Pride Awards, December 2019.

Our annual Civic Pride Award which showcases outstanding work that preserves or enhances the heritage around Bexhill-on-Sea was voted upon in December's Members Meeting.





Members voted on two categories with the following results:

1. Public Art or displays stimulating interest in heritage or demonstrating civic pride:

-  Bexhill Butterfly, 29 Wickham Avenue
-  Motoring Racing Heritage Centre, Sackville Bistro
-  Wall art, Barraclough Opticians, 41 Western Road



2. Building or public open space demonstrating civic pride through its restoration:

-  East Paradeshelter No.2, Rother District Council
-  Wetherspoons, 36-38 Western Road
-  Wickham Bistro, 11-13 Wickham Avenue
-  10-12 Parkhurst Road



Awards will be presented at the Town Hall after the New Year.

Polegrove

The grandstand at the Polegrove was 90 years old this year with the recreation ground being 100 years in 2020. BH's Project Researcher Keith Rhodes, has been working with Bexhill United Football Club and Bexhill Heritage to produce a new interpretation board to go on the side of the clubhouse.

The board will showcase the opening of the historic stand and the football club throughout their 96 years of playing at the Polegrove. It is set to be unveiled in January.

*The grandstand being constructed in April 1929
(credit Historic England)*

