



# NEWSLETTER

## May 2020

Dear members,

I hope that all of our members are safe and well at this very strange time in history in which every one of us is a reluctant witness and participant. It does bring to mind the importance of our Open Spaces which are such precious assets and incorporated within our BH purposes.

Although almost all current physical BH charity activities and events have been brought to a shuddering halt from the effects of coronavirus, your trustees and committee are still very much active in the background, meeting regularly by video conference and planning for better times ahead and even more committed to delivering within the parameters of our constitutional purposes with many exciting future projects in the pipeline and building on the incredible progress so far achieved.

One curious positive from Coronavirus is the Co-op Community Fund which many of you have registered BH as your chosen charity. We receive 1% on selected Co-op branded products and so far, the total is £1,338.70 so please nominate BH if you haven't done so already, and keep shopping at the Co-op if you venture out at the moment!

Those members on email will have already received notice of our Member Consultation - registration with the Charity Commission, and this newsletter will complete the distribution. It was only because of the integrity of our original constitution (brilliantly created by our treasurer Steve Johnson), that caused Rother District Council to sit bolt upright; take notice; start to work with us and awarded us the Charter Trustee Crest within four months of establishing the charity! The changes to the constitution are important and necessary, and the more robust the constitution, the stronger leverage Bexhill Heritage will have in making a positive difference to Bexhill.

Please also continue to support this charity by renewing your membership when the you receive your renewal reminder, and do tell others about us and how to become a member.

I look forward to meeting and associating with members in person again soon, and meanwhile our BH sails are set on course and remain steady in anticipation of a fair wind and better times ahead.

Wishing all safety and good health.

Raymond Konyn  
Chairman



*Bexhill Heritage Treasurer (and painter!), Steve Johnson has been working regularly in the shelter over the lockdown period to continue the refurbishment.*

Like a caterpillar cocooned in its chrysalis, Shelter Number 3 is beginning to stir. Before the end of the summer, we hope that the plastic can be stripped away, the scaffolding removed and like a beautiful butterfly, the shelter will emerge to grace Bexhill's seafront just as it did when it opened almost 100 years ago.

During 'lockdown' we've moved to single-person working inside the shelter and four other Bexhill Heritage volunteers have been working from home restoring the benches. While this has slowed our progress significantly, all ceilings are now fully painted as are two of the six bays. As you would expect we're using traditional techniques and the best oil-based paints supplied by Rother District Council to our specification.

Work on the roof is almost completed and the roofers will return once the hand-made tiles become available. We're also planning to install new lighting.



An interpretation board is being designed to 'tell the story' of all our traditional seafront shelters. We hope to install the board to the east of the shelter.

We hope that it will be possible for Bexhill Heritage to host an

## Architecture Spotlight



The Cooden Beach Golf Club-House.

Designed by Cyril Bazett Tubbs & Arthur Albert Messer of Endwell Chambers, Bexhill in 1912. These architects probably undertook much of Larkin's architectural work before 1934 and were responsible for some of the larger houses in Cooden. Tubbs also designed offices for London Waterloo station in 1902.

## 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.

## Membership extension

With everything slowed down due to coronavirus, the committee is aware that some memberships are due for renewal during lockdown.

We have decided to extend all existing and period of grace memberships by three months from the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. You do not need to do anything - we will adjust the system accordingly, and everyone's membership will be rolled forward as they come up for renewal.

If you have already paid, don't worry, we'll just add those three months on top of your subscription.

opening party but that, of course, depends on how such an event might be possible. Please let us know if you have any alternative ideas of how to mark the occasion.

## Bexhill's Last Kiosk No.6 Telephone Box

The iconic K6 was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V. It was in production until 1968 and about 11,000 remain in Britain today.

Bexhill's last working K6 can be found in Normans Bay. Upon recent inspection the box needs some repair work but is in relatively good condition.



The use of payphones has declined by over 90% in the last decade, attributed to the wide use of mobile phones. In the last 12 months, only 3 phone calls have been made from the Normans Bay kiosk, meaning British Telecom has now listed the telephone to be decommissioned.

Bexhill Heritage has been approached as a possible adopter of the telephone box, meaning we may have the opportunity to reuse it as a great community asset.



If successful, some of our ideas for reuse are an art gallery, a heritage / nature information point, or to house a defibrillator.

West of Normans Bay in Beachlands, they have made theirs into a community book and DVD swap.

If you have any ideas of your own, we'd love to hear them.