



NEWSLETTER

May 2021

Dear members,

Yet another period of lockdown has passed since our last newsletter and our charity has weathered the Covid storm well. Membership is steady and strong; finances are healthy and projects are now recommencing with a project development plan in place. While progress has been slower than we would have liked on the Bandstand renovation project, work starts very soon to lower the floor. That will be followed by work to the roof and structural timbers. We're assessing how best to restore the West Parade Clock Tower and the Normans Bay K6 phone kiosk and will be working on these projects through the summer and autumn. There is also a chance that we will be putting together a team to prepare Shelter Number 4 for painting! Meanwhile we're assessing some other exciting projects suggested by our members.

We continue to carefully monitor and comment on planning issues when prudent to do so since our heritage is invariably under threat. Bexhill Heritage has a good track record of protecting our built environment.

Your committee has been very active in the background, achieving some remarkable progress with a robust organizational plan in place. We could always do with some assistance if any members feels that they would like to participate on the committee. There are various roles which are vacant, so do please let us know if you would like to know more.

With summer now here, you will notice some of our team appearing at various outside "pop-up" locations and at our monthly St Barnabas Church info point outside the main entrance when the weather is fine, so do feel welcome to come over and ask any questions, or purchase the fabulous local scene cards or 2022 calendars which local photographer Margaret Hayles has produced for Bexhill Heritage.

Raymond Konyon
Chairman



The Bexhill Town Flag being flown over Cooden

On Monday 4th September 1893, Viscountess Cantelupe unfurled the Bexhill Town Flag for the first time. With its distinctive colours of white, red and green, the flag was flown on many town occasions.

Today the colours are still used by the Bexhill Rowing Club and most recently on East Parade's shelter restorations. Now you too can have the Bexhill Town Flag to fly or display on notable days such as 21st May when Bexhill was first incorporated and Bexhill Day on the 22th August. Manufactured by a UK supplier, the flag is printed on 100% Ministry of Defence Standard Knitted Polyester supplied with toggle and rope. A certificate accompanies the flag that describes its history together with a presentation box. The flag measures 152mm by 91mm (5' by 3'). The cost is £55.00. To express your interest and secure your flag, please email us. We will send you an invoice when the flag has been manufactured.

We have some limited edition Shelter No.3 cards, from a collection by local photographer and BH member Margaret Hayles. With two blank centre pages they can be used for any occasion. The rear has text on the history of the shelter. Each A5 card comes with a white envelope and clear plastic sleeve. £2.00.



BH window stickers can be fixed inside car windscreens or inside the home. £1.00 each.

Both of these will be available at events, meetings and monthly information point.

Architecture Spotlight



The Lane Memorial Fountain, Town Hall Square

Erected in 1898 in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lane (1827-95). Designed by George Ball and built of York stone and red granite by J. M. Whitehead and Sons Ltd at a cost of £225.

Lane was known as the 'Father of Local Government in Bexhill'. He was the first Chairman of the Bexhill Local Board, the Bexhill Urban District Council and the first resident Justice of the Peace for Bexhill. He lived at Broadoak Manor (now the Deerswood Lane estate).

Tabards

If you were on our East Parade shelter renovation team and borrowed a blue Bexhill Heritage tabard, do let us know so we can collect it from you.

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.

Our next members meetings are being held online at 7pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Annual General Meeting. With a talk from Dave Hatherell (of recent BBC fame) will be giving his popular talk on Bexhill in the Second World War.

Join via internet: meet.google.com/zub-wmar-gmz

Join via telephone: 020 3937 4515 PIN: 947 559 909#

Town Hall Renaissance Project



Undecided proposal for the Town Hall

BH was invited to meet with Rother District Council officers back in January to seek our views on the project to refurbish Bexhill Town Hall and the redevelopment of land surrounding it.

Our only concern was a proposal to demolish the two town houses on the west wing and replace it with an office block that is lacking in scale and design (shaded blue above). Although the original buildings are not striking in themselves, they do contribute to the setting of the Town Hall Square and its Victorian architecture.

If a replacement was to be made, BH will be strongly recommending that RDC selects a proposal that maintains and enhances the homogeneity of the area. Being the central point of Bexhill, the Town Hall Square sets an important example for the rest of the town going into the future.

Conservation Area Wall Survey

We've completed our photographic survey on garden walls around the conservation area. This will act as a record if there is an uptake in residents demolishing walls and gardens for vehicle hardstandings, which creates a significant loss of character on the area.

BH Community Garden

If any member would like to either participate in organizing or with joining in with some practical gardening at The People's Garden, St Barnabas Church, please contact us for more information.

BH Historic Plaques Scheme

Beginning this year is a new scheme to record and bring attention to persons of notable importance who had a significant connection to Bexhill. These commemorative plaques will be chosen and voted on by members. If you wish to join the working team please contact us for more information.