



NEWSLETTER

August 2021

Dear members,

Hopefully some good news now that some local events are emerging, so Bexhill Heritage hopes to be represented at most of these events. Look out for our stall (a new blue and white gazebo), and please do come along for a chat and an update on progress. Also, our pop-up table is appearing in random locations from time to time when the weather permits. Incidentally, we would really appreciate a BH events coordinator to step forward and help the committee!

We continue to make steady progress on the bandstand project and are fortunate to be working with local architect, Iain Exley, who has helped to resolve some of the design dilemmas we faced through the spring. Iain's design has won approval from local district councillors recently and will form the basis of our planning application. We are now working with the Council to draw up a costed plan of work for the main part of this exciting project and can look forward to completion and the grand opening next year.

Other exciting projects on the BH Development Plan are in the report stages, and one or two projects should be started soon, probably the red K6 telephone kiosk at Normans Bay being the first on the list.

The wonderful hard-working BH committee has certainly not been idle (as you may have noticed from our published meeting minutes which can be found on our website). Although much of our active restoration work has been scaled back over the last twelve months, our governance structure has been worked on, fine-tuned and greatly improved. Our application for full charity status (CIO model) has also been submitted and we await approval. This has been a complicated process requiring many hours of careful administration but it will all help to make Bexhill Heritage stronger for the future.

Your BH committee look forward to meeting you in person again very soon.

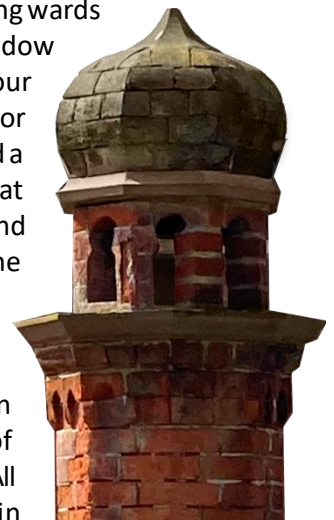
Raymond Konyon
Chairman



Concept diagram of the restored Bandstand by Iain Exley

If you've been along the seafront in the last few days, you may have noticed that the old roof has been stripped from the bandstand and, inside the screens; the concrete floor has been excavated and lowered. So, we're underway at last! Your committee is especially grateful to Hailsham Roadways who generously donated their time and equipment to remove the old floor.

Those Rother councillors representing wards in Bexhill have met to choose a window design from the two options that our project co-ordinator presented for consideration. Councillors expressed a clear preference for a design that reflects the Mughal style around Marina Arcade (right). Behind the scenes, local architect Iain Exley has been working with Bexhill Heritage's Chartered Surveyor, Tony Lightly, to finalise the window design and to provide the last few bits of detail for our planning application. All of this work respects and is in accordance with the building's Grade II listed status.



Meanwhile our Bandstand Events Coordinator, Geoff Tompkins, has been meeting people to develop a strategy for the bandstand's management and use. It's planned as a multi-purpose space where people will be welcome to relax, enjoy refreshments, meet friends or simply watch the world go by. There'll be performances too, and opportunities for local

Architecture Spotlight



Bexhill Post Office, Devonshire Square

Designed by David Nicholas Dyke and built by Richard John Barwick, opened on the 14th November 1931.

Dyke was responsible for a large number of similar red-brick buildings with detailed doorways. Take note of the Caduceus symbol above the front door, a staff carried by Mercury, the messenger of the gods.

Pop-ups

We hope to have a table set up by the Bandstand Shelter on weather dependant Saturdays or Sundays throughout the rest of the summer. In addition you can visit our stand at the following events:

Bexhill-on-Sea Festival, 21st-22nd August – Glyne Gap Field

Bexhill 100, 30th August – Polegrove

Vintage Swing Festival, 18th-19th September – Glyne Gap Field

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:

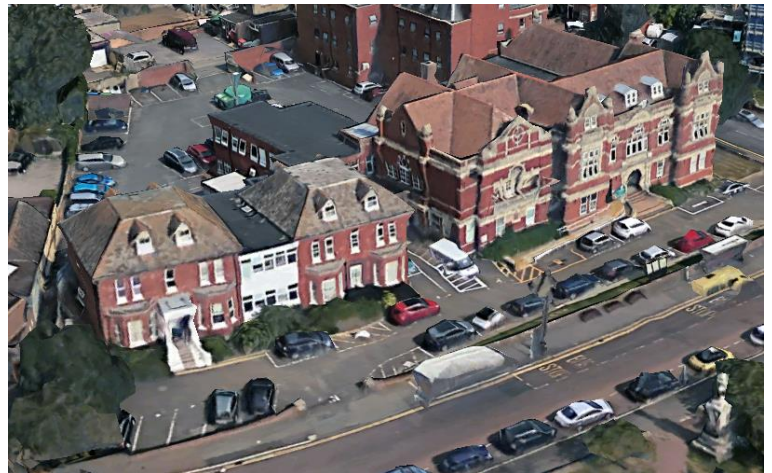
 **Wednesday 6th October 2021**
Talk and venue to be announced.

 **Wednesday 1st December 2021**
Talk and venue to be announced.

charities and community organisations to use the space to promote their activities. All uses will be carefully managed so that everyone can enjoy the bandstand while keeping our neighbours happy. The bandstand will be locked at night for security reasons.

Although Rother District Council have pledged £60,000 for the restoration, Bexhill Heritage will be paying for some of the 'extras' just as we did with Shelter Number 3 last year. We've already received almost £1,000 towards our costs from Bexhill Heritage members and local residents. If you would like to make a contribution or know someone who might sponsor the bandstand, please contact treasurer@bexhillheritage.org.uk.

Town Hall Renaissance Project Update



Bexhill Town Hall (source Google)

As reported in our previous newsletter, Rother District Council is embarking on an ambitious plan to develop improved office accommodation at its site on Town Hall Square. Members and officers of the Council are involving Bexhill Heritage's committee in a consultation process to finalise a design for the site. We welcome this opportunity to help shape this important and welcome development. The Council's aims are to bring additional employment to the town centre and make this rather neglected area of Bexhill a space to be proud of. We applaud the Council's ambition. We also welcome the news that the Town Hall's impressive facade and its important historical interior features will be retained and renovated as part of the overall plan.

Bexhill Heritage's committee will be making a strong case to retain and restore the two handsome Victorian villas on the site. These sit to the west of the Town Hall and form an important part of the historic 'streetscape' that gives character and focus to this part of our town.

Meetings with architects are scheduled for early autumn. We hope to persuade them that we can have the best of both worlds - retaining and enhancing the town's important heritage assets while, at the same time, incorporating the very best modern designs.