



# NEWSLETTER

## November 2021

Dear members,

Much is happening with Bexhill Heritage behind the scenes, adding to our record of achievements making a positive difference to Bexhill through our wonderful volunteers. Committee members are working very hard indeed and all minutes may be found on our website which is continually evolving.

One of the most recent achievements which you may not have noticed is the installation of a magnificent Bexhill Heritage information board near Shelter No. 3 on East Parade which will be officially unveiled in December. This completes the No.3 shelter project as volunteer focus now turns in full to the Bandstand restoration.

In September, a Mayor's Civic Award was officially presented to Bexhill Heritage by the Charter Trustees at the Town Hall as a recognition of serving the local community. Bexhill Heritage received one of the twelve awards presented by our past mayors – Councillor Lynn Langlands and Councillor Kathy Harmer. The Charter Trustees have now handed over their duties and responsibilities to Bexhill Town Council.

Local photographer Margaret Hayles is generously donating all the proceeds from her 2022 Bexhill Calendar to Bexhill Heritage. Funds from the sale of her calendar will go towards the restoration of the Bandstand on East Parade and other projects. If you would like a calendar delivered to your door, simply contact [treasurer@bexhillheritage.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bexhillheritage.org.uk) or phone 01424 575065 with your requirements (we have small and large versions available priced at £5 and £9 respectively). They will also be available at the Christmas Lights switch-on at our stand in Devonshire Square on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Finally, some excellent news. Bexhill Heritage has officially converted from being a small charity to being recognised by the Charity Commission with a registered charity number 1196525. This will now appear on our stationery and website.

Raymond Konyn  
Chairman



*Phil Hart of Bexhill 100 presents a cheque for £1,500 to Steve Johnson, Vice-Chair of Bexhill Heritage*

Bexhill 100 raised £15,000 at their August Bank Holiday Classic and Custom Car Show, generously dividing the proceeds between ten local charities. Bexhill Heritage's committee is very grateful for this wonderful support which will help fund our planned restoration projects in the town.

### **Sackville Road Methodist Church is for sale, community groups have the legal right to make a bid**

Earlier in the year, Bexhill Heritage made a successful application to Rother District Council for Sackville Road Methodist Church to be registered as an asset of community value.

Our application pointed out that, over the years, the church and its adjacent rooms have been used by a wide range of charities and community groups for meetings, sales of goods and even concerts. We argued that the church building has the potential for even more valuable and extensive use by the community given its prime town-centre position.

The church is now for sale and community groups have until 10<sup>th</sup> December to register with Rother District Council as potential bidders. If a community group does this, then it has a further six months to raise the funds required. There is no obligation in law for the owners to sell to the community group, even if the required funds are raised, but registration does at least provide the opportunity to 'save' the church for future community use.

Please contact [treasurer@bexhillheritage.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bexhillheritage.org.uk) for more information.

## Architecture Spotlight



St Andrews Church, Wickham Avenue

This once Anglican church built by Joseph Barker Wall, opened in March 1900 and closed December 2011.

Three applications by the developer originally wanted to demolish St. Andrews Church and build a four-story apartment block. Thankfully Rother District Council refused permission until a new application was submitted to retain the building's significant heritage features. Bexhill Heritage gave its full support to this application.

The building reopened as St Andrews Place in September 2021 containing 11 flats.

You can view more photos on the architect's website: <http://hjarchitecture.co.uk/projectpages/Con06/01.html>

## Keep in contact

 [bexhillheritage.org.uk](http://bexhillheritage.org.uk)

 [/bexhillheritage](https://www.facebook.com/bexhillheritage)

 [info@bexhillheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhillheritage.org.uk)

 01424 575065

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

Our next members meeting is being held online at 7pm on the following date:

 **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

Help select this year's Civic Pride Award Winners from three categories; shop fronts, public open spaces and building restorations.



*The new interpretation board, detailing the history of East Parade and its shelters.*

As part of our volunteer work on East Parade we've researched and designed a new board that can be found just east of Shelter No.3. It may surprise you to learn the period photos shown were all originally black & white. After we removed dirt and scratches from the photos, we used a machine learning technology called DeOldify to add colour to them giving a realistic look at life in Bexhill over a hundred years ago. There will be an official opening of the board on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am, all are welcome.

## Pop-ups

Thanks to all our volunteers who helped out at our various events during the summer. We managed to raise over £1,000.



## Bow Ties, 39 Western Road

Long-time member Alison Frost owner of Bow Ties café has offered to host Bexhill Heritage's monthly information point usually held at St. Barnabas Church.

Our first information point will be held here on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm-4pm. Come along and discuss local heritage issues and the planned work of the charity over a hot coffee.