



# NEWSLETTER

## March 2022

Dear members,

Thank you to everyone who braved gales to attend our Members' Meeting in February. It was the first face-to-face Members' Meeting for two years. It was lovely to renew acquaintance with familiar faces and to welcome so many new members. Thanks to Alison Frost of the Bow Ties Café for providing such lovely refreshments and to all the guests who joined us to receive their Civic Pride Awards. Thanks also to our former Chairman, Raymond Konyn; Howard Martin, President of the Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism; and Patrick Stapleton of Redwell Estates for presenting the awards. It was a wonderful evening where we could recognise the magnificent efforts of those local businesses, organisations and individuals who have conserved, restored and enhanced Bexhill's built environment and public open spaces to such a high standard. I'm already looking forward to our next face-to-face Members' Meeting in April.

It's been a spring return to work for our keen team of Bandstand Restorers. We work every weekday until around 1pm. Our tasks include: making replica sections to replace those too damaged to restore; removing 125 years of coatings from posts, boards and ceilings; substituting original iron fixings with stainless steel equivalents; and preparing woodwork for painting. We hope to be applying primer by the end of March. I hope there'll be scope for a few more members to join our hard-working team at that point. We're still on target to open in August as long as our professional partners are able to meet their deadlines. We'll keep members posted.

Finally a warm welcome to Rother District Council's new Conservation Officer, Simon Richard. We look forward to working closely with Simon to support our relentless focus to protect, conserve and restore Bexhill's heritage features.

Steve Johnson  
Acting Chairman



*Back to face-to-face meetings at the Civic Pride Awards.*

A converted church building is the winner of Bexhill Heritage's annual Civic Pride Award. Steve Johnson, Vice-Chairman, of the heritage charity praised the quality of this year's entries. "We've had some stunning nominations; all of which demonstrate the huge pride that so many businesses and local organisations show for our town. The St. Andrew's Place conversion on Wickham Avenue is outstanding and a worthy overall winner."

Bexhill Heritage members also recognised some of the town's most striking heritage shopfronts with the Haus of Brooks (Wilton Road) and the Talbot Foot Clinic (Endwell Road) being joint winners. An award for most inspiring open space was presented to the Footbridge Gallery with St. Andrew's Place being voted 'best conversion'. St Andrew's Place was also the overall winner.

Developer, Peter Stavri, receiving his award from Raymond Konyn, former Chair of Bexhill Heritage, explained that no expense had been spared to retain St Andrew's heritage features during its conversion from a church into eleven homes. "It was my mission to create



something beautiful where people wanted to live while, at the same time, respecting the building's rich heritage. We also sought to support Bexhill's local economy by involving local tradespeople throughout the conversion process."

## Architecture Spotlight



tristan forward, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

### Bandstand, De La Warr Pavilion

Designed by Niall McLaughlin and co-designed with children from six local schools in 2001.

The canopy was fibreglass coated, stressed ply skin structure, which sat on a stepped steel base. It was made by hand in a workshop using ship-building techniques. The shape of the canopy was based on computer analysis of sound projection from the stage platform.

The structure collapsed during Storm Eunice on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022, its future is now uncertain.

## Keep in contact

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

 [fb.com/bexhillheritage](https://fb.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 will be held at St. Barnabas Church, Sea Road at 7pm on the following date:

 **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

A joint meeting with Bexhill Heritage and Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Members of both organisations will have an opportunity to understand more about promoting tourism in the town.

## Donate your ink cartridges to help us

Recycle4Charity is a free, easy to use ink recycling programme and also a simple way to help the environment whilst raising money for Bexhill Heritage.

Visit the website below and follow the instructions to see if your cartridges are eligible:

<https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/Register/C135666>

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Treasure Hunt



### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee "Treasure Hunt"

Search for clues in the *window displays* or *inside* the many participating outlets in Bexhill.

Use the clues to complete the puzzle – it's a *phrase* associated with the *Queen* - on the **FREE Treasure Hunt Entry Form**.

Bring the completed **Treasure Hunt Entry Form** to the **Bexhill Heritage** stand which will be at the **Queen's Jubilee** event in Egerton Park, Bexhill - on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June - and complete a final fun **Royal Challenge** to gain entry into the **Prize Draw**.

**Starts Monday**  
9<sup>th</sup> May

**Ends Saturday**  
4<sup>th</sup> June

Watch out for further details and access to the **FREE** competition **Treasure Hunt Entry Form** on the **Bexhill Heritage** website: [bexhillheritage.org.uk](http://bexhillheritage.org.uk) ... or at the **Bandstand shelter, East Parade** on weekday mornings from early April.

Organised by "Bexhill Heritage"  
In conjunction with "Made in Bexhill"



## Bandstand photographs

We have collected quite a few photographs of the bandstand throughout its history. We have a good understanding of its construction. This has enabled us to carry on with the restoration. We would like more photographs. There are a few areas where there is some uncertainty as to whether we are looking at a feature of the building as it was originally constructed or a repair at some point. If you have family archives or know of photos please let us know. We are particularly interested in the time around 1900 and the two following decades. Let us know if you can help.