



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

Dear members,

I hope that you've all enjoyed a wonderful July and August. Your committee and many volunteers have been active during the holidays on a variety of ventures.

At the Bandstand, our chartered surveyor Tony Lightly has secured a supply of best-quality structural oak for the new columns this lovely Victorian building has been waiting for. After some frustrating delays and one heart breaking false start when we were supplied with unsuitable timber, we've finally got our hands on some top-quality European oak. The whole restoration team is delighted. Suddenly we're on a mission to complete most of the work by early October and open 'officially' next spring. Come and see us at the site. If we're not using power tools or climbing around on the scaffolding, we may be able to treat you to a peek inside! If you can't make it, please check our website for the latest photo and video updates of our progress.

John Swap has made sure that Bexhill Heritage has a regular presence on the promenade and at the town's summer events. We're grateful for volunteers Lorraine Parkes, Jane Kirk and Logan Loake for assisting at the Bexhill Charter event on the Metropole Lawns and the annual Bexhill 100 Motor Show at the Polegrove.

In preparation for the Bandstand opening, Geoff Tompkins and our IT Support Officer Alexis Markwick have prepared an automatic booking system for Bandstand users (the newly-restored Bandstand will, of course, be open to everyone for use as a 'shelter' most of the time).

With all this going on, it's pleasing that more members have come forward to share the load. Natasha Hamblin is set to join the committee as Health and Safety Consultant and Peter Darnell is to become Assistant Treasurer. More members have also volunteered to help out with projects. Please let me know if you would like to play a more active role in BH.

Thank you for your support as members. Each one of you helps give weight to our influence with planners, developers and local politicians. We couldn't be successful without you.

Please also make a date for our next Members' Meeting: 7pm, 12th October. I look forward to seeing you there. Should you like a lift to the meeting and home again, please email or phone us.

Steve Johnson
Chairman

Working on the Bandstand



Volunteers have spent hundreds of hours continuing to work on the Bandstand. Look through the screens and you'll see the renovated building beginning to take shape. Soon you'll notice the replica ridge crest gracing the roof and tilers installing hand-made tiles. All contractors are local tradespeople. In October, we'll be installing the electrics and you may see the lights shining on dark afternoons as we finish the job. Due to delays with permissions and supplies of oak, we've postponed the 'official opening' to the weekend before Easter but may open 'unofficially' during the winter.

Behind the scenes, our volunteer chartered surveyor, has been working hard liaising with suppliers, contractors and Rother District Council.

Replacement windows in the Town Centre Conservation Area

Bexhill Heritage's policy is to promote sliding sash windows throughout the Conservation Area so that the vision of the original Victorian architects and builders is respected. The buildings were designed to be fitted with sash windows and other designs look out of place. Some say that sash windows are draughty, but they don't have to be. Well fitted wooden windows can be draught proofed or supplemented with secondary glazing to make them snug and thermally efficient. However, we do understand that wooden windows may be difficult to maintain especially on upper floors. It's also the case that they can cost slightly more. For these reasons, we feel that residents should be given the choice of replacing wooden windows with well-designed sash windows in UPVC so retaining the overall 'look' of the Conservation Area. We hope to persuade Rother District Council that this is a sensible policy that can be supported by most people.

Architecture Spotlight



Bowls Pavilion, Polegrove

Constructed in 1935 and designed by William Pearce, the then Borough Surveyor. Its modern design probably took influence from the De La Warr Pavilion which opened in the same year.

Pearce also built the Egerton Park Bowls Pavilion, to a much traditional park design.

This colourised photo is from 1936 showing an Open Bowls Tournament, with thanks to Bexhill Museum.

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.

Next Members' Meetings will be held at St. Barnabas Church, Sea Road at 7pm on the following dates:

 **Wednesday 12th October 2022**

Bexhill Heritage's Project Coordinator, Simon Allen gives a talk on 'The bandstand's secrets and what we've learned during the restoration'.

Followed by a Q&A session.

NOTE: This date has been changed from the 5th October.

 **Wednesday 30th November 2022**

Details TBC.

Development of the Town Hall site



We support the Council's aspirations to bring more jobs to the town centre and to make the Town Hall site more environmentally friendly. We applaud the plans to renovate our striking Victorian Town Hall and to fine features more prominent. We are much less happy with the rather 'brutal' new building planned to replace the two villas adjacent to the Town Hall. This will overshadow the site and has not been designed in such a way as to complement the Town Hall's external architectural features. We are currently crafting a detailed critique of the Council's plans in the hope that councillors will listen and require changes.

Summer events and on the promenade



Thanks to those of you who have come along to our promenade information point outside the Bandstand or visited our stall at some of the town's summer events. In addition to telling people about Bexhill Heritage, we've gained new members and raised well over £500 to fund our projects.

And finally...

Two minutes of your time could secure £1,000 for Bexhill Heritage.

Please nominate us in the Benefact Group's September draw by clicking on the link below and entering Bexhill Heritage (by 12th September):

<https://movementforgood.com/#nominateACharity>

Please classify Bexhill Heritage as being an 'environment and climate charity' (it's probably the closest). Thanks again for your support. Your membership is our lifeblood.