



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2023

Dear members,

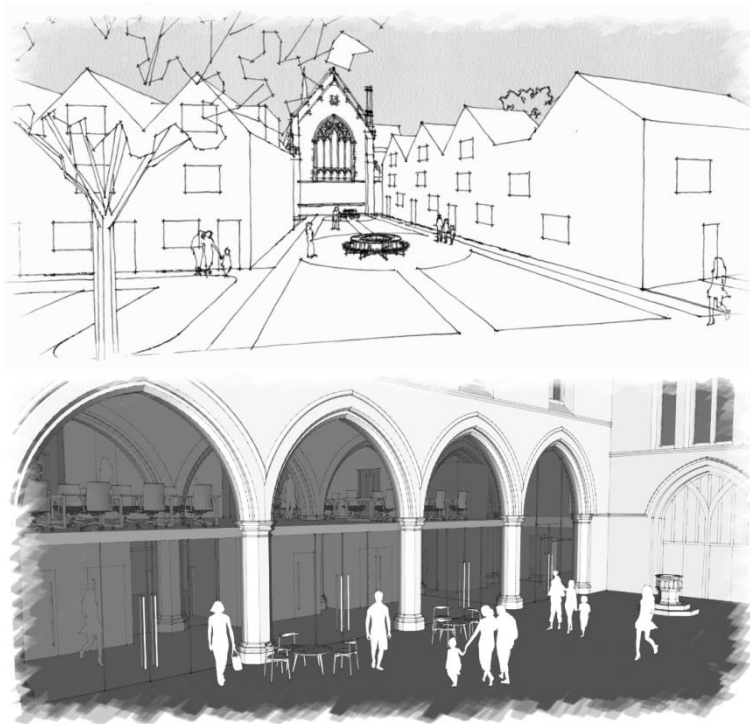
At the time of writing, we're putting finishing touches to the Bandstand renovation ready for our official opening on the weekend of April 1st and 2nd. The weather has been kind recently, so we've been able to complete most of the painting; the only big job is to prepare the floor for a special non-slip coating and then we're done after 15 months' of hard work.

Local musicians will be playing all through the weekend with Sussex Brass getting us started at 10am on Saturday morning. Cllr. Kathy Harmer, Chair of Rother District Council, and Town Mayor, Cllr. Paul Plim, will perform the opening ceremony at 11am. Please tell your friends and join us for two days of celebration. Programmes are available from the Bandstand and on our website.

One notable feature of the project is that all our materials, apart from a 'sound box' from South Wales, have been supplied by local businesses and we've used only local contractors for those jobs beyond the reach of our volunteers. All our funding has been raised locally too. It's been a local project for local people. I should like to thank Rother District Council for the trust that it has placed in our charity to complete the project and for committing substantial funds from its own budget.

Meanwhile, David Beales, our Planning Officer, and Tony Lightly, our Chartered Surveyor, have been working hard to persuade Rother District Council to update its approach on replacement windows in the Town Centre Conservation Area. We expect a judgement from councillors in the spring or early summer. This is one of several recent interventions by Bexhill Heritage on planning issues. We're being listened to and have a good record of success.

Steve Johnson  
Chairman



On 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, Bexhill Heritage held a joint public meeting to hear about some of the ambitious plans for the future of St. Barnabas Church, a Grade II listed building on the At Risk register.

John Bailey, the heritage architect and senior partner at Thomas Ford and Partners was the main speaker, giving an initial design presentation outlining the site location and proposals for new housing and use of the building.

The new housing would replace the southern house with nine, 1 bedroom apartments; The Vicarage to the north-east with four, 1-3 bedroom apartments; and part of Church Gardens to the east with an additional four, 2 bedroom apartments. Part of the gardens will remain as a communal public space.

The church will remain foremost as a place of worship, with space being allocated for meeting rooms, a café and other lettable rooms across two levels.

Mr. Bailey made assurances that the views of the church from Sea Road were not to change and it would remain the most prominent building in the area with all its features kept intact.

Bexhill Heritage will be looking at these plans carefully as they are unveiled in more detail in the coming months.

## Architecture Spotlight



Bexhill Library, Western Road

This Gothic architectural building was erected in 1893 as a school by Rev. E. Mortlock, under the auspices of St. Barnabas' Church.

Upon opening, St. Barnabas' Girls' and Infants' School was the only school in the town besides St. Peter's Primary School (now Chantry Community, Barrack Road).

Originally the ground floor was used for educating infant boys and girls, and the first floor was for church purposes. Further growth in the population by 1898 meant extending the school to use the first floor for older girls, whereas older boys were transferred to Reginald Road.

The school closed during WWII and reopened in 1951 as a library.

## Keep in contact

 [bexhillheritage.com](http://bexhillheritage.com)

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

 [info@bexhillheritage.com](mailto:info@bexhillheritage.com)

 01424 575065

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 7pm on the following dates:

 Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Location and details TBC.

 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - AGM

Location and details TBC.

## Bexhill Heritage Tours

By now you may have heard about the events and visits planned for the summer for our members. Keith Rhodes is leading on this important initiative and has put together the following list of trips as voted by you at November's members' meeting:

Tour	Transport	Votes
Bexhill's Hidden Secrets	Minibus	27
History Tour		
Aldershaw's handmade tile factory, Sedlescombe	Self-drive/Car-share	18
De La Warr Pavilion Building Tour	Self-drive/Car-share	15
Camber and visit to castle	Self-drive/Car-share/Rail	15
Faversham with optional brewery visit	Minibus	14
Winchelsea village and cellars	Self-drive/Car-share/Rail	13
Anne of Cleves House, Lewes	Rail	13
Batemens, Burwash	Self-drive/Car-share	12
Lavenham town with guildhall and little hall	Minibus/Coach	10

The top four have been chosen for trips in 2023. More details on how you can book your place will come shortly.



## Get Involved

We also have exciting opportunities for our members to engage in Bexhill Heritage's work as follows:

*Coronation Bandstand support* – we're looking for members to join a team to lock and unlock the building and help manage its day-to-day use. Team members will work with a partner and be part of a rota to suit other commitments. We would also like to recruit a 'games host' to liaise with local games clubs and support games sessions in the Bandstand.

*Carnival helper* – here's a chance to dress up and have fun. Join our Carnival float!

Please contact us if you wish to be involved.