



NEWSLETTER

June 2023

Dear members,

Summer at last and Bexhill Heritage volunteers are poised to resume work on East Parade's Grade II Listed seafront buildings.

The newly renovated Bandstand has become a much-loved and well-used seafront feature. Our Coronation Bandstand Committee is promoting the building's use and bookings are very healthy indeed. So far, we've provided a venue for musicians, Bexhill Museum, Jesus Loves Bexhill, poets, game-players, dancers, meetings and more. If you would like to book the Bandstand, just visit our website and click on the Bandstand Booking tab (BH members may book the Bandstand for small private parties with family, friends or colleagues). When not booked, the Bandstand is open to the general public to rest, chat and enjoy refreshments.

But what of the other East Parade shelters? We completed the renovation of Shelter 3 in August 2020. It now needs re-painting as part of a three-year redecoration cycle. We aim to complete this during the summer. Shelter 4 is boarded up but, behind the screens, carpenters from Rother District Council have been successfully drying out the timber, carrying out repairs and preparing the wood for a paint system. We've offered to paint the shelter during the winter - ready for opening in spring 2024. Shelter 2 is in a sorry state. It needs significant repair and restoration. We've prepared a report and are proposing a comprehensive renovation in partnership with professional tradespeople. We hope that this may start next year.

We continue to check and, where appropriate, comment on planning applications made for land and buildings in Bexhill. Our aim is to protect heritage buildings from unsuitable development and to promote high standards of design throughout the town. This month we have commented on a veranda modification in Marina Court, a new development in Endwell Road and a proposed window replacement in Albany Road.

Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson
Chairman

Bexhill Heritage Tours' 2023

Trip A: Minibus Tour of Bexhill's Hidden Secrets
Sunday 13th August, 10:00am & 4:00pm



We will take a look at various historical places and landmarks around Bexhill.

Starting and finishing at the Coronation Bandstand, the tours will last approximately 2 hours. Both morning and afternoon tours are identical and there will be places for 14 BH members on each. Walking will be minimal although some areas may be undulating. An authorised Bexhill Community Bus Driver together with Alexis Markwick (BH's Historian) and Keith Rhodes (BH's Safety Conductor) will be guiding the tour.

Trip B: Guided Tour of the De la Warr Pavilion
7th September, 10:30am



This is a bespoke visit, concentrating on Design and Construction issues followed by Historical impact. The visit will finish around lunchtime.

The maximum group size is 20. Presentations will be made by Executive Director Stewart Drew and his colleague

James Cosens.

Donations are welcome and members may wish to avail themselves of tea, coffee or lunch, which can be purchased in the DLWP Café Bar at the end of the tour.

Trip C: Escorted Tour to Camber Castle
28th September, 10:00am



This 16th century Device Fort was built near Rye by King Henry VIII to protect the Sussex coast of England against French attack. The first fortification on the site was a small, round artillery tower, constructed by Henry between 1512 and 1514. It overlooked the Camber anchorage and the entrance to Rye Harbour. Owned and maintained by English Heritage, it sits within the grounds of the Sussex Wildlife Trust based in Rye harbour.

We meet at 10am on Sea Road by Castle Farm Lane at Winchelsea beach. Tour duration is 2 hours. The maximum group size of 16 (4 cars) has been granted on the basis of car-

Architecture Spotlight



Wilton Court Mansions, Marina and Wilton Road

Designed by William Cooper and built by Padgham and Hutchinson, opening as Wilton Court Hotel in August 1900. William Meads originally funded the construction of the building.

Wilton Court Hotel was described as having 40 rooms, a spacious lounge, ballroom, garage and an electric lift.

It remained a hotel until 1970 after which it was converted into apartments.

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 7pm on the following dates:

 **Thursday 8th June 2023 - AGM**

St. Barnabas Church
Speaker: Gordon Smith, Trains, Boats and Planes –
What's New at Bexhill Museum

 **Thursday 12th October 2023**

Location and details TBC.

 **Thursday 30th November 2023**

Location and details TBC.

sharing. This means that our group can drive along a single, shale track direct to the castle. The short walk from the cars may be shale over undulating ground.

How to Book a Trip

Ticket booking forms will be available at our AGM on the 8th June, at the Bandstand on Sussex Day 17th June and again at the Bandstand on Friday 30th June.

A Royal Letter

Chairman Steve Johnson was at Cheltenham Festival early March visiting the race course on business. Knowing a royal visit was taking place; Steve took the opportunity to gift a copy of our Coronation Bandstand Souvenir Brochure to Queen Consort Camilla. Not long after, we received this smashing letter from Clarence House:



Our Annual General Meeting

Bexhill Heritage's AGM will be held at St Barnabas Church, Sea Road on Thursday 8th June. Our guest speaker is Gordon Smith from Bexhill Museum on the theme of 'Trains, Boats and Planes - What's New at the Museum'. All members are welcome. There will be opportunities on our new committee for members who would like to become more involved in helping to run our charity. I look forward to seeing you there.

We'll soon need more materials and equipment for our ongoing renovation work. Please bring potential raffle and tombola prizes to our AGM to help our autumn fund-raising drive.