



# NEWSLETTER

## December 2023

Dear members,

As we approach the year's end, it's a good time to review some of the charity's achievements and look forward to 2024.

This year our restoration team has completed the Bandstand and are very close to finishing Shelter Three's triennial redecoration. Appalling weather has meant that some benches still need a lick of paint but otherwise the lovely 1920s building looks very handsome indeed. We intend to return as soon as the weather allows. Undaunted, our growing team has begun work in the relative comfort of Shelter No.4. Hidden from the storms, we're smoothing the shelter's impressive and intricate woodwork for a protective and, we hope, attractive paint system similar to that used for Shelter No.3. If all goes well, the newly renovated shelter will be open in mid-2024.

So, what about Shelter No.2? This Grade II Listed building is in a very sorry state. Parts of its cast iron frame are rotting and, while not currently dangerous, some critical sections must be replaced. Two large sections of wooden panelling also need urgent renewal. So far, we've held discussions with Rother District Council and conducted a preliminary appraisal with the support of Robertsbridge Forge. Our next step will be to arrange further investigation and a cost estimate. A full restoration will be costly. We'll need to arrange a grant application.

The restoration of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution collecting box is another 2023 project affected by bad weather. Having finished most of it, we need to wait for a prolonged dry period to continue. It will be fully repainted in the RNLI's 'official' Oxford Blue during the spring.

Finally, after a three-year wait, Sainsbury's have granted us permission to restore the store's nationally important concrete mural. We hope to start in 2024. For more information on the mural's sculptors and the restoration of a similar mural, visit [henryandjoycecollins.co.uk](http://henryandjoycecollins.co.uk).

We're also applying for a community grant towards the restoration of the Normans Bay K6 telephone kiosk. If our application is successful, we hope to start the restoration in summer 2024.

Carol, Sarah, Sophie and Yvonne have joined our restoration team recently. Along with Jane and Lorraine, they've added an extra dimension to the formerly all-male team. With more projects planned, more help is needed. New restorers receive support and PPE. Join us to learn new skills for the New Year.

Steve Johnson  
Chairman

### Bexhill Heritage's Year in Review 2023

In February we held a joint public meeting to hear about the future plans of St. Barnabas Church, with a focus on new housing and meeting spaces.

April saw the opening ceremony of the Coronation Bandstand. It's given us a sense of pride to see the venue being used by so many musicians, charities and groups throughout the year. Of course we will continue to give access to the general public whenever it is not being used for an event.

As part of our East Parade redecoration cycle, we gave Shelter No.3 a fresh coat of paint with help from our ever-growing restorations team.



Two summer tours were organised especially for BH members; a bus tour of places of historic interest and a personal tour of the De La Warr Pavilion. There will be more to come in 2024.

We've almost finished restoring the RNLI coin collector and collected a large number of coins dating back 40+ years from its depths. Watch for a small plaque being affixed to the top to give context to its history and purpose soon.

Shelter No.4 has reached the stage of having its first undercoat applied, with work continuing throughout the winter months into spring next year.

Plus many things that take place behind the scenes; commenting on planning applications, finalising lease agreements, assessing new projects and organising events (even for Father Christmas, right) - just to name a few!

The Bexhill Heritage team thanks all members for your support this year. It really goes towards making Bexhill-on-Sea a unique and special place to live.



## Architecture Spotlight



Marine Mansions, Knole Road

Individually known as Stonehaven Court, Knole Court, Berkeley Mansions, Newdigate House, Carlton Court and Hartley Court, this terrace of 20 gables was built between 1893 and 1896.

Planned by the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl De La Warr, Reginald Sackville, and designed by Hicks & Alton; the design took its influences from Knole House in Kent (seat to the Sackville dynasty) and Dutch Colonial architecture.

In September 1940, Knole Court's gable and entrances were destroyed by a Luftwaffe bombing raid; the gable was restored in the 1960s and both entrances were faithfully restored in 2016.

Come and discuss local heritage issues and the planned work of the charity at our **Information Point** on the last Friday of every month (except December) at the Shelter No.4, 10:00 – 12:30.

Next **Members' Meetings** will be held on the following dates:

📅 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 3:30pm

St. Barnabas Church  
Steve Hall, local cartoonist, will reveal cartoonists' art from prehistoric times to today.

📅 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7pm

St. Barnabas Church  
Civic Pride Awards Evening.

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

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

## Civic Pride Awards 2024

The Bexhill Heritage Civic Pride Award showcases outstanding work to improve our town and, in particular, to design and build, preserve, enhance or maintain Bexhill's public open spaces.

There are five categories for you to nominate entries in: heritage homes, modern homes, shops, public open spaces and public buildings.

The nominations so far are as follows:

### Heritage Home, 2 Albert Road

- Original clay tiled path
- Traditional iron gate
- Original garden wall
- Original sun canopy
- Wooden sash windows and door
- Late Victorian style front garden

### Heritage Home, Marina Court Avenue

- Unique to Bexhill
- Street-level homes all preserve original features
- Note Mughal style windows and chimneys
- Original colour scheme

### Heritage Home, Marine Mansions

- Original Victorian features preserved
- High standard of exterior maintenance
- Wooden sash windows
- Iron balustrades
- Dutch design influences

### Modern Home, 16A South Cliff

- Modern family home on small plot
- Reflects the modernist buildings in Bexhill
- Doesn't overwhelm adjacent properties
- Panoramic south-facing 1st floor with balcony

### Shop, Maltby's - Sea Road

- Traditional glazing above the transom
- Traditional vertical columns and panelling
- Raised lettering for shop sign

### Shop, Holly Blakeley Hair - Sea Road

- A very sympathetic restoration
- Traditional glazing above the transom
- Traditional vertical columns and panelling
- Striking raised lettering for shop sign
- Traditional tiled entrance
- An attractive and sympathetic restoration

### Public Open Space, Tree of Hope

- A very fitting and well-executed memorial
- In a prominent position and easy for friends and relatives to sit and reflect
- Links with the surround memorials

### Public Building, St. Barnabas Church

- Nicely maintained
- Bexhill on Sea's 'mother' church
- Lovingly maintained
- Superb internal brickwork
- Impressive roof
- Skilled use of flint and stone
- Hugely impressive



Please nominate your own entries in the categories above by writing or emailing us at the usual addresses together with a brief outline of why you've made your choices.