



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

Dear members,

Having recently restored and opened the K6 phone kiosk in Normans Bay and Shelter No.4 on East Parade, we're busy giving the Bandstand its biennial 'facelift'. We've serviced all the doors, locks and ventilation panels. A weak entrance threshold has been replaced and most external surfaces have been repainted. All our chairs have been given new 'feet' and the floor will be repainted in September when it will be more realistic to close the building for a few days. I'm grateful to the renovation team for their hard work and dedication. Their painting skills are awesome. A special mention to Jeff Webb, our foreman, who remains calm whatever challenges come along. Next up are two 'heritage' bus shelters in the town.

Summer is the time for everyone to enjoy Bandstand music at the seaside! This year, we've arranged music every Friday afternoon in June, July and September from 2pm to 3pm. There's something to suit all tastes throughout the season from the wonderfully engaging Spinning Jenny folk band to the woodwind performance by Fipple Consort. That's all in addition to our weekend concerts most of which, as you would expect, feature a brass, silver or concert band.

Again, this year, we've teamed up with Bexhill Festival of Music to promote summer music at the Coronation Bandstand. Our intention to make the Bandstand a popular and respected community asset that people enjoy.

Shelter No.2 (opposite Brassey Road) is a significant challenge. It has a cast iron frame which is very badly corroded. Parts of the frame must be replaced before anything else can be done. A recent structural engineer's report confirms that action must be taken 'sooner rather than later'. We're about to estimate the cost of a restoration and identify professionals who may be able to help with the ironwork. A very significant budget will be required! That's the difficult bit. Can anyone help?

I'm grateful to Edmund Bird and Alex Markwick for curating the Local List (right), and to Dru Tramaseur, Carmen Keeble, Chris Eastwood, Yolanda Laybourne and Alan Mead for their hard work on the Conservation Area proposal.

I hope to see you on the promenade during the summer.

Regards,

Steve Johnson
Chairman

A Local List for Bexhill-on-Sea

Bexhill Heritage is currently putting together a draft list of buildings and structures with architectural, historical and cultural significance which enrich and enliven the character of Bexhill.

This local list highlights and promotes the rich history of Bexhill, and it is an opportunity for local councils to work with the local community to better understand what built heritage is valued by residents.

The buildings and structures included within the Local List are 'non-designated heritage assets'. This means they are not 'Listed Buildings' maintained by Historic England, but they are recognised to have local significance, which will be taken into account when determining planning applications.

Thus far we have selected 100 candidates to be considered for local listing and are now urging BH members to support, disagree or submit their own.

You can view the current listings with a form to submit nominations here:

locallist.bexhillheritage.com

Alternatively you can write to us by post or email locallist@bexhillheritage.com and include:

- Full address/location of the building, structure or open space.
- Photographs of the main elevations of the building, structure or open space (if possible).
- Any information about the building, structure or open space you may have (e.g. the date it was built, the name of the architect, past function or historical associations).

We will be meeting with Rother District Council's planning officers to urge them to recognise and ratify the Local List. We're also hoping to persuade them to adopt Bexhill Heritage's proposals for a new Conservation Area in south-east Bexhill.

Together we can preserve and enhance our town for future generations.



Architecture Spotlight



Drinking Trough, Collington Lane West

This large granite horse drinking trough was presented by the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain & Cattle Trough Association to replace a way-side pond. Once used by both thirsty pedestrians and animals it has been a much-appreciated feature of Bexhill since 1905.

In 2003, a car struck and demolished the fountain; thankfully it was restored due to efforts by former Mayor Brian Kentfield. Today it is used as a decorative flower-bed.

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

 **Thursday 12th June 2025, 7:00pm**
St. Barnabas Church

AGM. Speaker: Simon Stevens from Archaeology South East. Excavating the past - searching for Lowther's Lambs and evidence of the First World War. Findings from the Cooden Camp dig 2024/25.

 **Thursday 2nd October 2025, 7:00pm**
St. Barnabas Church
Speaker: TBC

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Bexhill Heritage: Your Legacy

After looking after your family and friends, please consider leaving Bexhill Heritage a gift in your will.

An unrestricted legacy gift is one of the most valuable contributions a member can make to Bexhill Heritage's continuing work. You will be giving us useful discretion in using your donation where it's most needed.

Should you wish to support a particular project or discuss a potential piece of work in your name, then please contact us for a confidential discussion.

Please help Bexhill Heritage to thrive for years to come.

K6 Telephone Box



On the 5th April 2025, we invited local residents and BH members to come along to the reopening event for the restored K6 Telephone Box in Normans Bay.

The Residents' Association provided refreshments and asked journalist and former presenter, David Dimbleby to cut the ribbon.

Restoration began in August 2024 with help from the local community. It will now be used as a public bookcase and seed swap.



bexhillheritage.com/normans-bay-k6-telephone-box

Shelter No.4



On the 19th April 2025, Chairman of Rother District Council, Richard Thomas and Mayor of Bexhill, Paul Wilson cut the ribbon to reopen the refurbished shelter on East Parade.

Starting in November 2023, Bexhill Heritage volunteers have spent more than 3,000 hours on the restoration. A new 'Heritage Gallery' at the eastern end of the shelter is now on display, this showcases historic photographs of places around Bexhill contrasted with the same scenes today.



bexhillheritage.com/repair-of-shelter-no-4-east-parade

VE Day at the Coronation Bandstand

