



# NEWSLETTER

## February 2018

Dear members,

Just thirteen weeks ago, Bexhill Heritage was publicly launched. It seems incredible that so much has been achieved within this short timeframe. This would not have been possible without the concentrated effort of a few trustees and willing volunteers.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at creating working groups for projects and writing committee role descriptions in time for our AGM in April, and will also be consulting members on a meeting structure more appropriate for a charity with a larger membership. Our aim is to give all members better opportunities to share ideas and to learn more about our town's heritage.

Our website has progressed dramatically over the past few weeks, and is a cornerstone of the charity. It is also proving to be a helpful archival resource to Rother District Council (RDC) officers. Incidentally, trustees have met many RDC officers over the last few weeks and are well on the way to establishing healthy working relationships.

Bexhill Heritage has played a key part in kick-starting the East Parade Shelters conservation project which RDC now has in hand. We are hoping to be able to step back from this project so that we can focus on other projects such as the restoration of the West Station clock and of the memorial bus shelter on De La Warr Road.

(cont.)



*Bexhill Heritage team at West Station, Terminus Road.*

An initial appraisal has recently been undertaken by Bexhill Heritage members on the clock above Bexhill West Station to determine if it can be restored to full working order. The clock mechanisms were found to be remarkably intact with few missing parts, and after a second visit to remove the years of dirt, more detailed restoration work can now be undertaken.

Bexhill Heritage is very grateful to Andy and Gina at Eras of Style for allowing access to the clock tower.

An important role for Bexhill Heritage will be to review and comment, as appropriate, on planning applications to Rother District Council (RDC) which have the potential for a significant impact on the heritage of Bexhill. So far Bexhill Heritage has responded to recent planning applications regarding St Andrews Church, Wickham Avenue; 10-12 Egerton Road and 11 Ellerslie Lane (Moleyns Mead). Details of Bexhill Heritage's responses may be viewed here: [bexhillheritage.org.uk/our-progress/planning-correspondence](http://bexhillheritage.org.uk/our-progress/planning-correspondence)

There will be a public talk at St Barnabas Church on Saturday 24th March 2018 from 10.15am to 12.30pm; refreshments will be served. Our guest speaker is Daryl Holter from Sussex Police whose theme is "heritage crime" and how to deal with it. Members, guests, and anyone interested in

Finally, a thank you to our members who are so passionate about preserving the character and integrity of our town.



Raymond Konyn  
Chairman

## Architecture Spotlight



Saxons, South Cliff - International Modern Movement style built by J. E. Maynard in 1935, now Grade II listed. Designed to take advantage of the surrounding sea views with a glazed sun room on its flat roof.

## Keep in contact

 [bexhillheritage.org.uk](http://bexhillheritage.org.uk)

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

 [info@bexhillheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@bexhillheritage.org.uk)

 01424 575065

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

Are you interested in being actively involved in the charity? Email us about attending one of our monthly committee meetings.

protecting and enhancing “the best of Bexhill” will also have the chance to learn about Bexhill Heritage’s mission, current work and forthcoming projects.

It appears that RDC holds no general buildings asset register apart from a Community Asset Register which only contains financial assets (such as woodlands and open spaces). Bexhill Heritage is proposing to establish a working group of interested people who could help create a local list which would eventually be shared with RDC. Such a list would need to strictly follow the Historic England guidance template. Those who may be interested in helping such a project are asked to contact Bexhill Heritage initially by email.

## Cast-iron Fire Hydrants in Bexhill

Keen-eyed residents may have spotted one of the cast-iron fire hydrant plaques that are still serving a useful purpose around our town.

They have been placed on nearby walls and indicate the position of the connecting point for fire hoses.

Usually they are painted with a yellow background



*Fire hydrant plaque in Glenleigh Avenue, 2015.*

and the letters and numbers picked out in black. A good example can be seen to the left of the Endwell Road entrance to the main post office.

So far 28 such plaques have been recorded in 25 roads around the town. Although many are within the main centre of town, examples have been found in Glenleigh Avenue, Newlands Avenue, Cranston Avenue and Close, Willow Drive and First Avenue. Their date of installation is unclear but a number have been placed near roads not constructed until the late 1930s. In recent years some have been replaced by modern-day plastic signs so maybe we need to enjoy them while we still can.