



# NEWSLETTER

## May 2018

Dear members,

To the delight of trustees and committee, membership has steadily increased to over eighty which indicates a genuine concern to protect the integrity and character of our surviving legacy here in Bexhill-on-Sea. I would like to thank our pioneer members for placing their confidence and trust in supporting from the start since fledgling organisations often raise the doubt of survivability. We appear to have not only survived but indeed, flourish.

Last month's AGM resulted in a packed room with dissemination of heritage information and achievements since our launch last November; a fine talk by David Hatherell about our associate Bexhill Museum and partner Local History Study Group, and a raffle which caused much amusement. Members participated and voted in committee and trustees, and one lesson learned is that although the room was adequate, we will in future be hiring a larger ground floor room with disabled facilities in order to accommodate all.

Projects are all progressing well with priority being the West Station clock restoration which is to be ceremoniously re-started after 50 years of neglect on Sussex Day 16th June at 3pm, and we are closely monitoring the current East Parade Sea Angling Club proposals and shelters project, seeking participation.

The presence of Bexhill Heritage is having a positive effect on developers; Rother District Council officers and Councillors – even to the point of Bexhill Charter Trustees awarding Bexhill Heritage the use of the Bexhill Town Crest on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. This is a considerable vote of confidence after such a short time in existence.

Raymond Konyn  
Chairman



*Cow shed at Barnhorne Farm; close to the proposed Spindlewood development.*

Officers of Bexhill Heritage continue to devote a considerable amount of time and effort to reviewing, and where appropriate, commenting on planning applications to Rother District Council. Recent plans to be reviewed by Bexhill Heritage include those at Spindlewood in Little Common and the Cemetery Lodge on Turkey Road.

Work on restoring Bexhill West Station clock is continuing and it is scheduled to have it back to full working order by Sussex Day, 16<sup>th</sup> June. A ceremony will be held at 3pm when the clock will officially start ticking again. Sponsorship is progressing well and patrons will be invited to the ceremony in June.

In addition to the clock, a number of other projects are at various stages of development one of which is the bus shelter on De La Warr Road close to the junction with College Road. This shelter was constructed in 1930 and was dedicated to former Mayor, Herbert Gray. He devoted many years to public service within the town as well as being Mayor 1918 - 1920. Few people know this shelter is dedicated to him something Bexhill Heritage hopes to rectify at the same time as giving the shelter a well-earned restoration.

Bexhill Heritage is keen to raise its profile amongst the local population and continue its recruitment drive so the charity will be represented at the forthcoming local events. Bexhill Cycle Event 10<sup>th</sup> June, Sussex Day 16<sup>th</sup> June, Great Gatsby 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Bexhill 100 Classic and Custom Car Show 27<sup>th</sup> August and Festival of the Sea 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Most of these events will be based on the Metropole Lawns or the Polegrove.

## Architecture Spotlight



Brookfield Court, Lionel Road. Modern style designed by Hugh Hubbard Ford in 1934. Hubbard also worked to complete the bays at St. Augustine's Church and was responsible for much post-war planning around East Sussex.

This building boasts interesting external curvature and a recessed centre. Note the loss of the Crittall windows in the comparison image above, which added to its original character.

## 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.

Are you interested in being actively involved in the charity? Email us about attending our members meetings, starting at 7pm of the following dates:

-  4<sup>th</sup> June 2018
-  3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018
-  12<sup>th</sup> November 2018
-  10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## East Parade and Bexhill Sea Angling Club

A concept design proposal has been put forward by RX Architects on behalf of RDC for the enhancement of the area around the angling clubhouse on East Parade. [[view the design](#)]

Being a gateway area that occupies an important, prominent open position on the walking and cycling coastal route - Bexhill Heritage has taken this opportunity to propose its own upgraded design. Pointing towards a striking and different concept to incorporate a visual reference to the Martello Towers which once stood by, not in an attempt to create a whole tower, but as an allusion to the notable round structure.

As members of Bexhill Heritage, do give us your feedback on these new designs.

## Drinking Fountains and Troughs

The Metropolitan Free Drinking Fountain Association was set up in London in 1859 to provide free drinking water at a time when water provision was usually from private water companies. Even so public drinking water was often contaminated. Cattle troughs to support animal welfare in the capital were included from 1867. The scheme spread throughout the country and many examples of, often philanthropic, public drinking water fountains and granite cattle troughs appeared.

A list drawn up in the early 1920s and held by Bexhill Museum comprises five water fountains and sixteen cattle troughs within Bexhill-on-Sea. Today however only three survive; Henry Lane's Memorial Drinking Fountain was erected in Buckhurst Place in 1898, a large rectangular granite cattle trough can be seen in Collington Lane West nearly opposite one entrance to Birchington Close and, thirdly, a smaller rectangular trough with the dedication "A gift from Rex to his friends 1901". Rex was a dog and his owner donated the trough in his memory. Unusually horses could drink from the top and dogs from the bottom of the trough. It was originally sited at the junction of Hastings Road and De La Warr Road and later, when King Offa Way was created in 1980, it moved to the current position in the Manor Gardens close to the public toilets.

