



Dear members,

If I could have predicted just how vulnerable our heritage in Bexhill is to the constant stream of threats, and how many cases we would need to address, I would probably not have ventured into founding Bexhill Heritage back in 2017. Fortunately, committee members have emerged with skill, knowledge and professional expertise to form an incredibly effective collective team. In addition, we have created several groups such as refreshments team; events team; planning team and Local List research team. More help is needed, particularly a secretary, so please make yourself known if you have a little spare time on your hands and the desire to make a positive difference to our town.

Membership is growing. Please mention Bexhill Heritage to your friends and associates and ask them to become members too. Apart from interesting talks, quizzes and social gatherings, increased numbers mean that we have a stronger voice when it comes to heritage issues which are under threat. As a membership-driven organisation, Rother District Council Officers tend to listen a little harder when Committee represent a large membership at RDC meetings.

You will be glad to hear that after our initial very successful coffee morning; an afternoon tea is planned for 27th April. An opportunity to gather socially over delicious home-made cake and tea to discuss all heritage topics, and listen to a speaker or two.

Do keep up to date with events, meetings, projects and current heritage topics on our website which is constantly being updated. Alex has created for us a useful resource which is even used by RDC officers as a reference. We often post updates to our Facebook page too.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting many of our members at various events, socials and meetings throughout the summer.

Raymond Konyn
Chairman

NEWSLETTER

April 2019



West Parade Coronation Clock Tower, c1980. ©Bexhill Museum

Bexhill's Coronation Clock Tower came to the attention of Bexhill Heritage when we were approached by residents of Clock Tower Court as to whether the clock could be restored to strike as it did up to the 1960s. We asked Rother District Council to give us access to the tower and see if we could assess the feasibility of the restoration of the Bell which currently resides in the basement of Bexhill Museum.

Designed by Robert Hembrow in 1904, the Clock Tower is a late commemorative monument to King Edward VII's Coronation. Its principal display a clock made by Wright & Sons that would show the time on all four sides as well striking the hour and half hour. In addition it was augmented with a weather vane at the top and meteorological instruments in the panels at the bottom which would show various weather variables such as a barometer to measure pressure, a thermometer to measure temperature and possibly humidity. The principal construction was imitation Bath stone. In addition timber and steel was used.

For the tower's centenary celebrations Town Mayor Stuart Earl unveiled a plaque on 18th July 2004. The Clock Tower was refurbished and repainted, including repair of the weather vane and new lights to illuminate the tower at night, during summer 2015.

Architecture Spotlight



1A Buckhurst Road. Opened as an independent sub-office accountable to Hastings, on 1st April 1897. Built of red brick with Bath stone dressing. Designed by Mr G H Gray, surveyor and agent to the De La Warr estate (of memorial bus shelter De La Warr Road fame) at a cost of £1500. Closed as post office on 14th November 1931 when Devonshire Square head post office opened. Later became Inland Revenue office.

Afternoon Tea

On Saturday 27th April at 2:30pm, Bexhill Heritage is once again hosting a social event for those who have an interest in the charity and our town's heritage to interact and relax.

£2.50 entry - includes hot drink and cake.
Friends Meeting House, 15A Albert Road.

Keep in contact

bexhillheritage.org.uk

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

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? Our next members meetings are held at the Friends Meeting House at 7pm on the following dates:

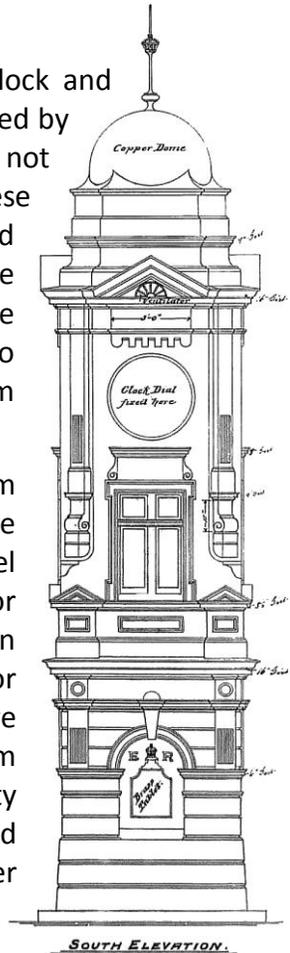
📅 Wednesday 26th June 2019

📅 Wednesday 28th August 2019

Inspection of the Clock Tower

We examined the outside of the clock and noticed that the four faces are covered by glass covers and frame. These were not present in the original design. These faces showed water collecting behind the glass and condensation on the inside. We were told and that the purpose of the glass faces was to protect the dial underneath from vandals.

On opening the door the mechanism was immediately visible. Of note were the surfaces of exposed steel which show rust. The interior brickwork which should be red in colour was black. On the first floor level we found moss, a fern and more rust on the rails securing the bottom of the steps. There was high humidity throughout the building, not helped by the fact there was a running heater and the tower's vents had all been sealed off.



We were quite surprised and shocked to see the interior in such a poor state. However, examination of the striking train shows it is intact and it would be possible to restore the mechanism to bell striking operation.

In our report to RDC, we have recommended that the vents be reopened, and once dry inside, the tower should be cleaned and made free of mould and rust back to its original condition. The bell should be reinstated and Bexhill Heritage undertake regular inspection and monitoring of the Clock Tower in the future.