

## ***April Parish News***

### **A.G.M. Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 7.00 All Saints hall**

This years Agenda will include a presentation, the usual Minutes, Reports and Elections. If you would like to stand for the Management Committee, which meets every month, please let me know. After the main business we will learn from Steve Manwaring, Director of Hastings Voluntary Action, about how the plans are developing for the Community Centre and Open Space.

***First time ever*** –*an octopus will be present at our AGM. This large creature, measuring at least 12 feet long, will hopefully be in a calm mood.*

### **Isabel Blackman Centre**

There are increasing concerns about what ESCC are up to. The time table that they promised has already been broken. The re-opening by July is virtually impossible. The users who now attend the Moreton Centre are not happy about various aspects like transport and meals. With major questions still not answered by ESCC all Old Town residents are urged to challenge anyone connected with the May elections to do something positive.

### **Stade Highway works**

HOTRA has vigorously supported the improvements to the junction of the A259 and Rock a Nore Road over recent years. It is disappointing to see some of the first pieces of street lighting and street furniture is of the lowest design standard, especially at Winkle Island. We have asked for urgent talks to try to achieve a better position that reflects Conservation area status and recognises the strong local affection for this part of the Old Town.

### **East Hill Lift – and café**

The refurbished lift will open on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Hopefully it will be fully accessible for wheelchair users and give them access to the Country Park. The 2 lifts are key parts in the list of Hastings attractions and equally enjoyed by local residents. The suggestion for a café to be built at the top station was considered by the March Committee. It was decided to oppose the idea. The reasons are the intrusion into this unspoilt area, the issues relating to deliveries and likely increase in litter. Unfortunately the idea seems to have become a matter for ping-pong between the local parties – and unlikely to lead to the best possible outcomes.

### **Subscriptions**

The rates for 2010 are £8 for an individual or £10 for 2 or more adults at the same address. Please write your details on a piece of paper, make the cheque payable to HOTRA and post in an envelope marked HOTRA through the Treasurers door at 17 High Street. A membership card will be issued.