

HOTRA, East Hill House 13 Tackleway Hastings TN34 3DE

## **August 2009 Parish News**

**Isabel Blackman Centre** For nearly 2 years a working group of various voluntary organisations including HOTRA has been meeting with ESCC Older Peoples Services. Throughout that time the promise has been repeated that the Centre will not close. Sadly a decision was taken by ESCC Cabinet to close having given just 7 days notice. >From August for 1 year the users will transfer to the Moreton Centre in St Leonards. The IBC will be refurbished and then in 2010 the users will return. The way the decision was taken caused distress to many of the vulnerable elderly users. The staff have been treated poorly. This recommendation was made within 15 days of the June County Council elections. It shows ESCC in a very poor light.

**Courthouse Street** On 12<sup>th</sup> August the street will be closed so that the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of placing a new coloured finish can take place. This has to 'cure' for about 8 weeks. Then in October the final top dressing will be done. The end result should make a big difference to the appearance of this Pedestrian street. In this case ESCC have gone to great lengths to keep residents and traders informed.

**Butlers Gap** Sarah Evans has been working with pupils at Torfield School with great success. Their ideas and designs will now start to be included in the steel sculptures that Leigh Dyer will produce over the summer. Leigh hopes to be able to show 1 design as a 'work in progress' in Butlers Emporium window in August. Other work will be going on through to the autumn and a target finish by November.

**Pelham beach Multi Use Games Area** We have asked Hastings Council for help with the capital costs and await their reply before going elsewhere.

**George Street Licensing Review** The first 3 premises – The Anchor, Hastings Arms and the Pumphouse all owned by Shepherd Neame – have been reviewed by HBC Licensing Committee. The main conclusion is that they will stop serving dinks outside from 10.00 pm. The other 3 premises – Dragon Bar, Black Market and Venue U – will be considered on 11<sup>th</sup> August.

**Stables Theatre** The HOTRA Management Committee congratulates the volunteers at the theatre who have helped make the flower beds look so lovely.

**Rubbish sacks** This perennial problem gives us all a challenge. With wheelie bins not being an option for the Old Town please help limit the mess made by the seagulls by covering your bags with a piece of old carpet or net.