

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

October 2010 Parish News

**The new Stade Open Space and Community buildings
– early results from our Survey**

[The Parish News is prepared for the printers mid-month. This is only an initial report of the 'headlines'. More Surveys are expected to be returned after this interim report has been written. A fully detailed report will be presented next time]

Strong support was recorded for the following –

- >Special events throughout the year including those already happening
- >Christmas, Easter and Whitsun markets
- >A weekly Farmers Market
- >Monthly Art and Craft, and Antique markets

Clear opposition for a monthly Car market and mixed views about a General market.

On Cultural events there is good support for a mix of Film, Theatre, Music and Dance in its many forms but a negative response for Twirlers groups.

Special Open Meeting Friday 29th October at 7.00 at St Mary Star of the Sea hall – entrance from The Bourne. This will consider the full report on the Survey. Hopefully it will show what activities will get support from residents of the Old Town. Once considered our findings will be submitted to the new charitable body that will run the facilities.

Having established WHAT will be popular the next, and more challenging, step is HOW these wishes can be met. This process is not closed and will continue to be a 'work in progress'. HOTRA hopes that an inclusive variety of activities will emerge over the coming months so that when everything opens next summer there will be a good choice. The challenge is to cater for residents, traders and visitors to create a vibrant space.

Pelham Playa

The multi use games area will be officially opened on Thursday 14th October (Hastings Day) following the installation of roof netting. Use is FREE but teams and groups wanting a fixed time will need to pay £19 per hour. Bookings can be made with Aaron Woods – a.woods@hastings.gov.uk

Isabel Blackman Centre

The refurbished building is now open. It is managed by Age Concern, East Sussex and Newhaven CDA on behalf of ESCC. The bigger plan is to create a

Community hub that offers services and activities not only to the Day Centre users but the wider community. HOTRA fully supports this idea. BUT there have been some worrying early reports. Cllr John Hodges has raised them on our behalf to try to clarify and modify to improve the current offer. More details later.