

HOTRA Parish News March 2011

Storytelling Festival Great News

Our plans to create an annual Storytelling Festival have been given a huge boost. Quentin Blake has agreed to be our Patron. He also hopes to be able to attend at least one session, if his commitments permit. He has also offered to create a logo. Most people associate Quentin Blake as the illustrator to Roald Dahl's books but he also writes childrens books and is an accomplished artist of international repute. The Festival could not have had a better start.

The Hastings Storytelling Festival will hopefully become an annual event every November, But to give us a chance to find out all aspects that need to be arranged there will be a 'pilot' session on Friday 29th April [Royal Wedding Day] in the new Stade Community hall. More details next month. This is the start of the Jack in the Green weekend so hopefully the audience will include some visitors as well as residents.

NHS changes

HOTRA are writing to the Roebuck and Clive Vale Surgeries to ask how local peoples voices will be heard when GPs set up their new consortium.

Old Town Community Club

This meets on Monday mornings in St Mary Star of the Sea downstairs hall. They usually have speakers. On Monday 28th March at 10.30 I will give a talk entitled *The new Old Town*. Please come along if you can.

Hastings Community Network

This body represents the voluntary and community sector across Hastings. Kate Francis has been elected as our new representative.

Street Lamp Survey

East Sussex CC are responsible for supply and maintenance. Hastings Council are responsible for Conservation matters. It is no surprise that issues arise as a result. Anne Scott, Cllr John Hodges and I spent a chilly afternoon completing a survey recently. Some outstanding repairs have been identified and a list compiled of lamps needing replacement. {This is known as playing a long game!}

Crown Lane tree

At the rear of the Crown Inn was a Holm oak that was not thriving even though it was less than 10 years old. It has been removed and will be replaced by a plane tree – either London or Oriental. HOTRA has written to thank HBC for funding this valued work.