

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

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November 2011 Parish News

Hastings Storytelling Festival 9th - 20th November

Good news. The Arts Council have agreed to fund the bulk of our programme. Please see details in the separate feature in this Parish News or go to www.hastingsstoryfest.org.uk All events are free except for the Grand Finale at the Italian Way restaurant 7.00 Friday 18th November. £20 for good food and great Storytelling. Phone 435955 or go to info@italianway.co.uk to book tickets.

High Street Pedestrian Safety

By the time you read this Cllr Jeremy Birch will have presented our petition to East Sussex County Council. They are responsible for all Highway matters. Also HOTRA's meeting on 20th October will have been the first opportunity for the whole community to discuss *local* ideas. Traffic experts from ESCC will be there to hear *local* ideas. The challenge is complex. The needs of residents, traders, pedestrians, cyclists, parents with children in buggies, and people with mobility issues – all have to be balanced. No decisions have been made. As the debate moves forward some things could be done quickly. Major changes will take longer. The full impact of changes at the Stade, especially the new traffic lights at Rock-A-Nore will have to be carefully assessed. The traffic increases in the High Street caused by 'rat-running' are worrying. At some point in 2012 ESCC will bring back their proposals and consult. Together matters can improve.

The Boat Project

Earlier this year people had the chance to donate wood that could be used in the building of a boat at Chichester. The deck of the boat will be made from these gifts. During 2012 the boat will sail along the coast and stop at various places before making its way past the North Foreland and up the Thames to arrive at the Olympics. Steve Ashmore, who lives in the High Street, has been selected to train as part of the crew. Congratulations to him and its good that a local person can share this honour.

Croft Road

ESCC have started to improve the top end of Croft Road. Fly –tipping, burnt-out cars and drug dealing have all happened there. Hopefully some of these problems will be designed out.