

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

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February 2012 Parish News

Its all going to happen on the Stade

Good news for the Old Town is that a strong programme of events will take place over the next 2 summers. Arts Council and other support has been secured for an impressive number of activities. Visual and performing Arts, classic and modern music, Olympic related events like the Boat Project and the Olympic torch, will all demonstrate the potential of the Open Space. With the Jerwood Gallery and the Stade Hall all tastes will be provided for. Some sessions will be small scale, others will be huge. Every weekend something will be happening – a bit like Covent Garden. One hope is that visitors will be attracted because they will always find something on. Add this to the regular big events and Hastings is clearly the place to come.

Winkle Island

HOTRA is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Winkle Club. A small joint working group has been set up to plan significant improvements to Winkle Island. With the installation of Leigh Dyers stunning new sculpture in April there is an urgent need to make this special Old Town feature look really lovely. Once some ideas have been agreed HOTRA will help the Winkle Club find funders. It could end up as big an attraction as the Stade ! More details later.

2012 Storytelling Festival

A review of the 2011 Festival took place just before Christmas. There had been 30 events across the whole of Hastings with about half specially targeted at young people. Attendances varied enormously but altogether nearly 800 people came to the different venues. With a grant from the Arts Council paying over 80% of the costs the final spend was just over budget. Lots of lessons were learned. Interest in the delight of stories was stimulated with some good response from audience members. 2012 will see a second festival in the autumn but with other smaller events during the year as part of the programmes. For instance the White Rock Theatre plan to hold some free session during February.

Membership

Please help support the work of the association and pay your subscriptions promptly. The cost is £10 per person and this is due in January so if you have not paid since Christmas please do so now. Simply put your name, address – and email address if you have one – on a piece of paper. Place it with your cheque payable to HOTRA in an envelope marked HOTRA and leave it at Nelson House Antiques in the High Street [opposite the Electric Palace] or drop it through our Treasurers letterbox Phil White Eight and a Half Exmouth Place, Hastings.

Website look at www.hotra.org.uk for other Old Town stories