

## **November 2013 Parish News**

### **2013 Hastings Storytelling Festival 11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November Patron Sir Quentin Blake**

In 2011 HOTRA organised the first ever Storytelling Festival. Events happened right across the town and lasted for 2 weeks. Children and families were a key target audience. In 2012 Mandy Curtis was appointed Creative Director. Mandy has a wide experience of organising Arts events and lives and works in St Leonards. The 2012 Festival was a huge success but spread over 1 week. The final Sunday saw over 1,000 people on the Stade. Stories were told in a yurt, in a marquee and even by a talking seal.

The original HOTRA intention was to nurture the Festival for a couple of years and then establish an independent body. Now in 2013 there is a company limited by guarantee, allowing HOTRA to step aside.

This year's budget is 4 times the 2011. The programme details can be found at [www.hastingsstoryfest.org.uk](http://www.hastingsstoryfest.org.uk). Many events are free and mainly happen on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>, Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> and grand finale on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>. This starts at 12 with various events through to 4. You can sit in a giant whale, learn circus skills, and watch the children's parade of creatures inspired by Quentin Blake's drawings. Look out for the lovely booklet which will be delivered to all Old Town households. Please get along to some if not all events.

### **Clean Seas Please campaign**

After our Open meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October there are a series of discussions. There is much that individuals can do to help by wise disposal of waste products. HOTRA's main concern is what happens at the other end of the waste pipe. Southern Water need to improve their performance and the Environment Agency needs to show clear, robust expectations. Nobody wants the signs to go up on Hastings beach saying 'unsafe to bathe'.

### **Extra residents parking**

With Cllr John Hodges and an officer from ESCC Highways I spent a couple of hours recently walking around the Old Town and helping to identify extra on-street parking spaces. At least 10 spaces were easily achievable and maybe as many as 30 if other statutory bodies are helpful. There will now be an appraisal followed by the inevitable Public Notice process. This will take a couple of months. In 2014 the much increased demand will be better met but there will never be enough.