

**WARD REPORT - OLD HASTINGS - JUNE 2014**  
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**or 445540)**

**General Issues**

This month I have put together, from the Hastings Pier Charity's own newsletter, a comprehensive review of what is happening. I have also delivered my report early this month to allow those of you who wish to take up any of the events that are on offer, to do so.



Our archiving team have been handed some very interesting items to be photographed for our digital archive, including this original rivet hammer. This was found inside one of the piles when it was being replaced; obviously it had been broken during the original construction and fallen down the column. Hammers such as this were used to hammer in the rivets used to attach trusses to each other. The noise would have been deafening to anyone walking past the original construction site with people swinging hammers, laying the deck and heating the truss bolts on site. If you have

anything of interest for our volunteer archivists, be it a picture, object or story pop in and visit them at The Hub on a Wednesday from 11am – 12.30pm. For more information please visit our [website](#).



### **Construction Update**

Our construction team have been given a helping hand on The Pier in case of emergencies in the form of a brand new defibrillator.

The defibrillator is a fully automated machine, which means that even untrained people are able to use it if there is a medical emergency. The machine it is attached to will issue instructions to the user with a mixture of a recorded voice and for those who are hard of hearing a written alert. Unlike the defibrillators you see in films and television this one's



### **The Hub**

Its been a busy month at The Hub! We've had lot's going on in May and have plenty more to come in June, including an opportunity to learn some jive dancing! Our archive team had lots going on last past month, with their own open day and an outreach session at nearby Waverley Court.

Our open day on the 11th of May was, despite the bad weather, a success. We had a wonderful troop of dancers come and perform by The Hub with members of the public able to join

shocks are administered by pads which can be stuck to the body in positions shown on the automated display. To avoid an accidental electric shocks the pads measure the heart rate of the victim, and will instruct the users to perform CPR only if necessary.

"Following a cardiac arrest, the chance of survival decreases very rapidly on a minute-by-minute basis, so immediate medical treatment is vital" said Simon Opie, CEO of Hastings Pier Charity. "These machines allow life-saving action to be taken by members of the public. The longer the brain is starved of oxygen, the more lasting is the damage, so these machines really can save lives."

The defibrillator was supplied by [The Community Heartbeat Trust](#), a charity which looks to provide

in or watch. However the main feature of the day was the archiving in which members of the public brought in their items of interest for our digital archive. We are still looking for more things to put in to our digital archive, and if you have anything interesting about the pier and it's history then please come along to one of our archiving mornings on Wednesdays from 11am – 12.30pm or drop into the Hub during normal hours.

For families and other visitors we've had two interesting (and in one case particularly noisy) events. On the evening of 22nd of May local historian and ex pier DJ Andre Palfery-Martin gave a talk on the musical history of the pier from 1950s to the 1970s. This event proved so popular that we were completely oversubscribed and so we shall be hosting another

local communities with these 'ease of use' defibrillators.

As for current construction, our team are busy replacing the last few trusses on the parade extension and will soon be ready to move on to the middle section of The Pier. Our team's offices will be moved from the current pavilion to temporary buildings which will arrive in the middle of this month.

For more information on our current construction visit our [website](#) or pop in to The Hub on alternate Wednesdays for a Tea Time Update from one of our construction team.

talk on [Thursday 26th June](#). If you walked past The Hub on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May and heard a loud banging noise coming from inside, then you would have heard our African drumming workshop! Participants were taught about the musical heritage of the pier alongside learning a traditional West African rhythm on the djembe, a traditional drum.

Coming up in June we have a family [jive dancing workshop](#) session on 22nd, where you can come and learn how to dance like visitors to the pier did in the 1940s! The session is free but we ask you to pre-book as numbers are limited. For more information please visit our [website](#).

**It is always pleasing to be able to report that yet more is being done to provide play facilities that can encourage the psychological and physiological development of young children, as part of the natural process of growing up.**

As part of the partnership between housing association Orbit South and Hastings Borough Council, a new Play Space has now been developed and opened creating safe, creative play for residents and visitors in the Ore Valley area. This facility was opened by the Mayor of Hastings, Cllr Alan Roberts at a celebratory event on Wednesday (28 May). The opening celebration attracted over 40 local families with children of all ages who joined in with the many activities provided by the council's Play Hastings team and In2Play. Children took part in treasure hunts, painting and clay, badge making, face painting and sporty challenges. This wonderful addition has come to fruition through the hard work of local ward councillors, and on the day thanks must also go to the Local Ranger Service and Eat@ who provided the refreshments. Ore Valley Road Play Space will be maintained by the council's parks and open spaces team.

For more details about play in Hastings visit [www.hastings.gov.uk/play](http://www.hastings.gov.uk/play)

Overseas tourists are vital to sustaining Hastings' economy, and no country contributes more than Belgium. As part of our drive to continue this successful relationship Hastings was once again well represented, and indeed received, at the 'Oostende voor Anker' exhibition. The event, held on the quayside of the Belgian port, attracted over 300 000 visitors over four days during last month. Old towners Tush and Pat Hamilton, famous for their fishermen's rolls, were in attendance once again but on this occasion put away their frying pans for once, and instead answered questions about the town. The Hastings' stand was again very popular, not surprisingly as Tush and Pat are always a great attraction, but this year it was Tush making nets that drew the crowds. Tush and Pat also brought along their collection of historic ship models, which were very popular. They included one of our old lifeboat the 'Cyril & Lillian Bishop', which took part in the Dunkirk evacuation, just along the coast from Ostend. Tush also took his historic fishmonger's cart, the last one to be used in Hastings. This time it was Hastings the place he was promoting, rather than Hastings' plaise!

There was also a collection of 'ships in bottles' by local man Bob Arrowsmith, which also attracted a lot of attention. Tush, Pat and indeed our own Kevin Boorman are great ambassadors for our Town, and we are very grateful to Tush and Pat for volunteering to run our stand for us, and show off their collection of historic model boats, their fishmonger's cart and, of course, Tush's net-making skills.

It has long been recognised that culture is a significant component of our Town's drive towards regeneration. As such we have now made an appointment to the 'Cultural Specialist' post, who will lead the work to prepare a programme of events for the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in 2016. This appointment will be taken up within the next couple of months and promises good things for the future. We also had the first meeting of the Cultural Leaders' Group, which is the body we've established to lead the 2016 programme, and to supersede the Cultural Strategy Partnership group. The group includes representatives from the university, college, DeLaWarr, Arts Council, Jerwood, plus a collection of prominent local arts practitioners and local arts consultants (all of who are giving their time for free). However, 2016 is only part of the purpose, of course – the real aim will be to lift Hastings into a higher 'cultural league', making it a nationally and internationally recognised cultural destination, by blending the comprehensive home-grown cultural programme we have locally with nationally recognised arts organisations who have already shown an interest in working in Hastings, such as Hofesch Schechter dance company and Glyndebourne Opera. Hofesch Schechter, who did a Stade Saturdays event in 2012, have already been doing extended work with schools in Hastings, mostly at Helenswood, and have said how much they like working in Hastings, and want to keep on working here. Needless to say however, 2016 isn't far away now, so that work for this new cultural specialist will start in earnest with immediate effect

There have been some scheduling problems which have led to a delay with the programme for Stade Saturdays being published as yet, but it's currently being proofed, and is due to be published imminently. This year's events kick off with Louis Aguila, a 'French singer-songwriter who brings his mix of retro rock, harmonies and Euro romance' to the (FLAG-funded) Summer Fish Fest, which takes place on the Stade Open Space over the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June (programme for that will be on the website soon, too). Other acts during the summer will include rock and folk music, cabaret, circus, and comedy, as well as the Sea Shanty Festival, Buskers' Fair and Classic Car Show, culminating with Bonfire, as in previous years. Because we don't have as much funding as in previous years, it is unlikely that there will be any really "big names" appearing, but we've managed to put together a pretty full summer programme of professional events that should amuse and entertain. The Summer Fish Fest will also see the official opening of the Classroom on the Coast in the Stade Hall, a really superb addition to the facilities in this community space.

Hastings Police, Hastings Council and Amicus Horizon are working with Dogs Trust to host four free dog micro chipping events across the town. The law is changing - as from 6 April 2016 all dog owners must have their dogs micro-chipped. Collectively they are offering the residents of Hastings and St Leonards the opportunity to have their dog micro-chipped for free at four different locations:

Monday 16 June at Downs Farm Community Centre, Brightling Avenue between 11am and 3pm

Friday 18 July at Hastings Town Centre, Harold Place between 11am and 3pm

Monday 11 August at the Scout Hut, Oxford Road between 11am and 3pm

Saturday 16 August at the Hastings Town and Country Show, Alexandra Park between 10am and 5pm

All you need to do is bring your dog to one of the above events and the team from the Dogs Trust will micro-chip your pet. Inspector Chris Veale, of the Hastings Neighbourhood Police Team, said he would encourage all dog owners to take advantage of this free offer before the law changes in 2016. Quite often they receive calls from people stating that a dog is on the loose and the dog is then taken to the dog warden. Micro-chipping your dog is the sensible choice. No one wants to face the heartbreak of losing a beloved family pet because their dog has escaped. A micro-chip will identify the dog and help to reunite it with its owner. The Safer Hastings Partnership is supporting these events, which provide an opportunity for local residents to receive free micro-chipping and dog accessories such as leads and poo bags. Dog fouling is a key priority for local residents and these events support responsible dog ownership. These events also provide an opportunity for residents to speak to representatives from partner agencies and raise any questions or issues they might have around community safety and crime prevention in the local area.

For many years the council, through the Foreshore Trust, has agonised over the question of what could the future hold for the old White Rock Baths. Long abandoned as a swimming bath, and then subsequently as an ice skating rink proposals for an affordable and practical use have not been forthcoming. But now a proposed usage has emerged in the booming market of BMX cycles and skateboards. At the council's cabinet meeting on June 9th approval was given to a development proposal for this long defunct structure on Hastings seafront. The proposal made by local business partners and brothers Richard

and Marc Moore of The Source Hastings Ltd aims to develop a large part of the White Rock Baths site into a world class BMX and skateboarding facility for the use of residents and visitors. Using their 10 years experience and contacts gained through growing and operating a large retail store and skate park in Hastings already, the company proposes to develop a world-class skate park capable of hosting globally significant BMX and skateboarding events and expanding their coaching and development programmes for young people. The plan includes two BMX and Skate parks, the largest specialist retail store in Europe and a café for parents and spectators. The Charity Committee had agreed previously to approve the proposal including an investment by the Foreshore Trust who own the baths, and the council have also approved the development investment subject to additional funding being obtained from East Sussex County Council. Hastings has an impressive heritage in action sports and is seen as the 'home' of UK BMX, despite other towns and cities having far more extensive facilities. This proposal will utilise the unique location of the baths to build a world-class facility that would attract visitors to the town and raise the international profile of Hastings as the home of the BMX and the skateboard. The directors of The Source were equally delighted and made it very clear of their own excitement in being on the verge of creating a world class skate park in Hastings. They felt that it would be truly something that is going to be recognised in the BMX and skateboarding world as one of the best, and to have such a large and unique building under Hastings seafront for development was a blessing.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself with any concerns that you might have with regards to the ward, and are within my gift to resolve.

*Kind Regards John Hodges*