

# Bexhill News

JULY 2022 | ISSUE 01

FIRST EDITION

**FREE**

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YOUR **FREE** COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR BEXHILL, COODEN, SIDLEY, PEBSHAM AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE...** LOCAL NEWS • EVENTS • FEATURES • MOTORING • SPORT



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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



I'm absolutely delighted to bring you the first edition of *Bexhill News* — your free community newspaper for the town.

The town has been ignored for far too long so we've created this newspaper to bring back truly local news, features, local events and sports to Bexhill. Bexhill is a massively developing town, so it needs a publication just like this to not only bring the town together but to keep residents informed of the stories that need to be raised.

We've received a huge amount of support from residents and businesses in the run-up to this first issue which is free to pick up from all the local major supermarkets and many other small retailers in the town who have kindly agreed to stock it.

Please remember, this is *your* newspaper. It has been created to give a fresh voice to the local groups, charities, events and people that make this town amazing. It's a community newspaper so it's here for you to get your word out there to our 10,000 readers locally.

I simply cannot wait to be out and about in early July meeting readers and local businesses and finding out what really matters to the people of Bexhill.

You can always contact me by using the details below if you have a news story, event or issue that you feel our readers should know about. You can also send a letter to me which could be published in our dedicated letters pages in future issues.

For now, I hope you enjoy the first edition of *Bexhill News*, please spread the word and get involved wherever you can.

Paul Gibson, Editor



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# THOUSANDS TURN OUT FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Photos: JTP53 Photography and Andrew Crotty

**E**vents took place across Bexhill to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last month. The official beacon, based at Galley Hill, was lit during a ceremony on June 2, which coincided with the lighting of 1,500 other beacons across the UK and Commonwealth.

During the events, a Piper performed *Diu Regnare* as a personal tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, which was followed by the official lighting of the beacon at 21:45.

The Collonade also hosted some free-to-attend Jubilee celebrations with songs from the Rother Community Choir and live music throughout the evening.

Meanwhile, more than 300 residents gathered to help create a massive Union Jack image taken from a drone at the De La Warr Pavilion.

Organiser Roger Crouch said: "Strong winds were making life difficult for the Drone, but against the odds, 300 of our community created a wonderful atmosphere on the Terrace of the De La Warr Pavilion."

He added: 'All ages took part and fulfilled



the objective of producing a community commemorative image of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, thanks to the Bexhill Chamber of Commerce for their sponsorship, De La Warr Pavilion for their support and to Carlie Hosseingholizadeh, Howard Martin, Garry Fellows and Fiona Hemsworth for their

great help. The greatest thanks of all are to the fabulous community of Bexhill."

Union and Platinum Jubilee flags were erected across Western Road, Devonshire and Sackville Roads throughout the celebrations. These were organised by resident Andrew Crotty with the financial help of Bexhill Town Council. They were put up with help from Jason Cooper of Cooper's Cherry Pickers.

Councillor Paul Plim, Mayor of Bexhill told us: "What a weekend the platinum Jubilee weekend was. I felt so proud to see how the people managed to make the most of the events and facilities Bexhill had to offer.

"I had the pleasure of visiting several primary schools that celebrated her Majesty's reign in the most wonderful style. Such effort parents and teachers had gone to in order to celebrate the occasion. The care homes of the Town pulled out all the stops to ensure that their residents also celebrated in style. I was humbled by the effort our local care workers are going to, to ensure that those in their care felt part of the events that took place.

"Lastly, thank you to my family who hardly saw me over the Jubilee weekend as I dropped into many a street party, garden party and helped the Town celebrate."

## YOUR 60-SECOND COFFEE BREAK

WITH **CHRIS DABBS** TO LISTEN FOR THIS ISSUE'S FUN FACTS, SCAN THE QR CODE



# BROADBAND SUPPLIER TO SERVE WIMBLEDON SPECTACULAR TO THE COMMUNITY DURING BEXHILL CHARITY PICNIC EVENT

**B**exhill residents are invited to join a leading internet supplier for a 'grand slam' get-together in aid of charity. The final day of Wimbledon including the men's final and women's doubles final will be projected onto a big screen at Box Broadband's bring your own picnic event taking place on Sunday, July 10 on the lawns at Bexhill Seafont.

During the event, the Cranleigh-based internet provider will be raising funds for Bexhill Lions, a charity which has supported the community for nearly 50 years, through the sale of approximately 200 punnets of strawberries and cream. All profits will be donated to the charity.

A licensed bar, additional food stalls and children's entertainment will also be available on the day, organisers have announced.

Steve Garrood, Commercial Director for Box Broadband, said: "We really cannot wait to stage this Wimbledon event as it will bring our wonderful community together."

"It will be an action-packed family day out which will provide first-class entertainment. It will certainly be a day to remember."

He added: "The funds raised from this day will go straight back into helping the community as we are proud to be donating the money to the phenomenal Bexhill Lions."

"We hope lots of people will attend the event and get behind our fundraising efforts - the money raised will hopefully improve the lives of people living in Bexhill."

Box Broadband has collaborated with the Bexhill Chamber of Commerce to host the 'Box Bexhill Wimbledon Picnic'.

Box Broadband is a Surrey-based company that provides employment opportunities for local people to help build in areas where the internet is poor. Currently delivering in Surrey and Sussex, Box Broadband has plans for expansion as it continues to grow.

The company has recently launched a decrease on their permanent pricing. This permanent price change includes reducing the cost of its 300Mb/s and 1Gb/s products. To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Box Broadband will also be offering free installation and providing three months of free broadband to new customers.



Anyone for tennis? Steve Garrood, Commercial Director of Box Broadband raising funds for Bexhill Lions

 **BoxBroadband**  
Connecting communities

Box Broadband has been actively building its fibre optic networks in Surrey and Sussex with a growing customer base

of residential and business users for its Full Fibre services.

Box Broadband differentiates from competitors through its commitment to connect rural communities, delivering a customer-focused service using the latest full fibre optic technology to transform the digital lives of its customers.

**For further information about Box Broadband, visit: [www.boxbroadband.co.uk](http://www.boxbroadband.co.uk).**

Hey Bexhill,  
Join us at our **Wimbledon Picnic**  
and watch the final!

Sunday 10th July | 10am - 6pm

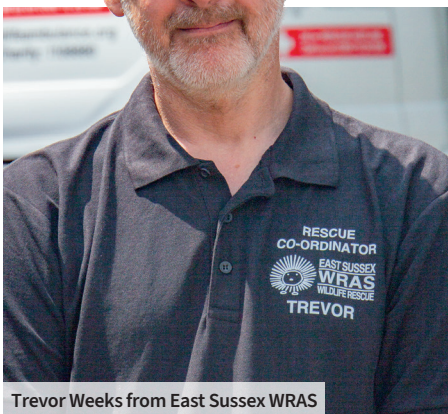
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Bexhill seafont lawns, West Parade, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1DP



# 'IT'S A DISASTER ZONE'

## BIRD FLU DISCOVERED IN BEXHILL



Trevor Weeks from East Sussex WRAS

**A**vian influenza (more commonly known as Bird Flu) is hitting the bird population of the south coast of England and mainland Europe very hard, according to wildlife experts. It's devastating the gull community locally and putting a local Wildlife Rescue charity under extreme pressure which it simply cannot cope with.

Trevor Weeks from the animal veterinary charity, East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS), told us that they are being deluged with calls from people on their emergency hotline to report



disorientated birds.

The devastation to the bird community is huge with reports of a beach in Rye that was littered with as many as 70 dead gulls. They have been found on the roof of Eastbourne's Beacon shopping centre as well as in local parks and gardens.

WRAS has this advice: "If you find a gull which is injured or sick please contact your local vets practice. Please do not take birds inside the vet's practice. Call them and let them know you are outside with a bird. They will have no option but to euthanize the bird sadly."

A local resident told Bexhill News: "When I was at the allotment in Old Town, two guys approached me. high-vis vest, clipboards, ESCC IDs etc and asked if there were any animals in the allotment. I said no, only bees. They asked if I knew anyone with chickens? I told them someone near my house has some

I can hear. I told them where I live and they disappeared at a rate of knots!"

Following the recent discovery of the disease in Bexhill, The Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) confirmed it was found in poultry at a premises north of the town, all poultry on the premises were humanely culled, and a 3-kilometre Protection Zone and a 10-kilometre Surveillance Zone around the premises was set up.

Residents within the 3km protection zone and keeps poultry were contacted to ask them to complete a survey of birds kept. This will help scientists assess the risk of spread among birds.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has said that avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low.

Mr Weeks emotionally concluded: We're an animal welfare service, so, when we have to shut our doors or say we can't admit something, it goes against the grain and it's really difficult for us to turn around and say, Sorry, we can't help!"

"It's a disaster zone out there. At the moment, all we can do is help people to get them into a local vet where they can be euthanized because we have no other options. We're trying our best to take in as many animals as we can, but we're running out of space. We just don't have the space to take them anymore — it's heartbreaking."

If you find any dead wild birds in any location, including swans, ducks, geese, gulls, or birds of prey, please report to the DEFRA helpline at 03459 33 55 77. Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

**To find out how to volunteer and how to donate visit: [www.wildlifeambulance.org](http://www.wildlifeambulance.org)**

## TOWN HALL RENAISSANCE

Residents in Bexhill were invited to have their say on plans for a massive redevelopment project of the Town Hall. Named the 'Town Hall Renaissance', the project is aimed to create a more community-focused area whilst giving the 120-year-old historic building a minor facelift and at the same time improving its energy efficiency.

Part of the proposals are to build a brand-new Civic Centre extension to the west of the Town Hall offering business space, a public café, efficient meeting areas and improved pedestrian access, according to the architects.

Recent research carried out by Rother District Council found the town centre lacks a focal point. Due to the grid layout of the town centre, the shopping offer is spread out across a relatively wide area. It was raised that the Railway line is a physical barrier which divides the town with limited connection points, the research discovered.

The plans for the redevelopment project were displayed at the Town Hall last month with residents being invited to view them and leave their comments both in-person and online. The event ran for one day. There has been criticism from some members of the public over the lack of notifications about the event, the short period of time it was hosted and the tight deadline for comments to be submitted.

Visitors were shown a number of different designs and options and were told how pedestrianising the front of the Town Hall would make it more inviting, safer and reduce noise ingress into the current building a new business space.

A spokesperson for Rother District Council said: "The proposed redevelopment of the Town Hall and construction of a new Civic Centre will have huge benefits to Bexhill and the wider Rother district.



"In line with the council's Climate Emergency Declaration, sustainability is at the heart of the proposals and the environmental improvements will be significant, directly reducing the council's carbon footprint.

"The project will promote economic growth in the town centre area with the development of new central employment space, improved pedestrian access and space for new business tenants. It will help realise the area's full potential as a place where people want to live, work and visit."

A 'preferred option' for the Town Hall development was produced following stakeholder engagement according to the authority. This option has been selected based on its merits in terms of conserving and enhancing the heritage of the area, providing a 'civic heart' for Bexhill, a publically accessible ground floor with a cafe and car parking provision at the rear amongst other plans.

**The full details of the proposals can be seen online at:**

[www.rother.gov.uk/business/local-regeneration-projects/town-hall-renaissance/](http://www.rother.gov.uk/business/local-regeneration-projects/town-hall-renaissance/)



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Concept view of the Main Entrance

# NHS SEEKS PLANNING PERMISSION FOR NEW BEXHILL HOSPITAL

**The local NHS has submitted a detailed planning application to Rother District Council to build a new 54-bed mental health hospital on a site in Mount View Street in Bexhill.**

It's hoped to replace outdated services at the Department of Psychiatry in Eastbourne. Funding for the new hospital is being made available under the national eradicating dormitories programme.

At the same time, it has submitted an outline planning application for a second phase on the same site which could potentially provide a further 72 beds, depending on further funding becoming available in the future.

The NHS East Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) held a formal public consultation into the proposals between June and September 2021 – and hundreds of people made their views known. Most people who responded to the consultation

strongly supported the proposals, with the site in Mount View Street being the preferred location.

A further pre-planning application consultation with residents living near the site was held in March 2022. Most local people either strongly agreed or tended to agree with the plans to build a new mental health hospital on the site.

Also, most people either strongly agreed or tended to agree with plans to potentially extend the site in the future to create a campus to provide all hospital-based mental health services in East Sussex.

While there were few objections to the principle of a new mental health hospital on the site residents expressed concerns about, among other things, access roads, traffic levels and impact on wildlife. These concerns have been addressed in the formal planning application.

Programme Director, Paula Kirkland, said; "This planning application marks a major step forward towards

implementing the first phase of our wider vision to create new modern facilities to address all inpatient mental health needs on a single site for people across East Sussex and beyond.

She added; "We are delighted that most people we have consulted have agreed that there is a need for a new mental health hospital and that the land in Mount View Street is a suitable site for the new facilities. Obviously, local people have some specific concerns but we are confident we can address those as we progress with our plans."

Residents have until 19 June to comment on the plans which can be found on the Rother District Council website: [bexhillinpatientmentalhealthfacility](http://bexhillinpatientmentalhealthfacility)

More details of the plans can also be found on the Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust website at: [www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/redesigning-inpatient-services-east-sussex-rises](http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/redesigning-inpatient-services-east-sussex-rises)

## BEXHILL CYBERPHOBICS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMBAT DIGITAL FEAR

**Cyberphobics wishing to combat their fear of the internet and computers are being given the opportunity to attend free in-person digital skills classes as part of a community-focused broadband supplier's commitment to connecting the forgotten communities of Sussex.**

Box Broadband, the first alternative network provider to invest in the Bexhill area, is funding the free weekly training sessions as part of its generous commitment to "light up" Pebsham Community Hub with free full-fibre ultrafast broadband for the next two years.

Dedicated to bridging the digital divide, Box Broadband has also donated laptops and televisions to help the local community reap the benefits of full-fibre connectivity.

Computer technician and proprietor of Compuhelp Bexhill, Andy Lawes, has been enlisted to deliver free face-to-face training and guidance so people can develop their skills in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Andy said: "The sessions provide the perfect opportunity for anyone of any age to come along and find out all they need to know about Microsoft Office, Windows 10 and 11 and internet safety. The sessions are completely adaptable so we can cover a whole range of subjects from programming TVs, gaming or whatever topics are requested."

Since launching, the sessions have so far attracted people in their 40s, 60s and 70s wanting to find out more.

Steve Garrood, Commercial Director of Box Broadband (pictured),



said: "We're so pleased to announce the provision of face-to-face digital skills classes in communities where they are most needed. These in-person classes will further support the local community's participation online. This will help ensure they have the appropriate access and skills to engage with digital services, along with expanding the possibilities on offer to them from the digital shift.

"Box Broadband is committed to giving people in Sussex and Surrey more choices and empowering them to learn the skills

they need if they do want to get online. Classes are free and I encourage any person who would like to improve their digital skills to get in touch and sign up."

**Morning, afternoon and evening sessions lasting 90 minutes are available every Friday at Pebsham Community Hub in Seabourne Road, Bexhill-On-Sea. For further information and to book contact Andy Lawes on 07923 458516 or email [compuhelp@esas.org.uk](mailto:compuhelp@esas.org.uk).**





## SUMMER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**BOB MARLEY 50TH CELEBRATION 16 July**

**MODEST MOUSE 17 July • JOHN CALE 21 July**

**BEXFEST 2022 23 July**

**ORCHESTRA BAOBAB 6 August**

**JOHN FRANCIS FLYNN 14 August**

**SUNSET SCREENINGS 13, 20 & 27 August**

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# FOODBANK VOLUNTEER AWARDED PLATINUM CHAMPION

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Royal Voluntary Service presented a number of awards to those who have made special contributions to the community, going the extra mile to improve the lives of others. One of the 490 Platinum Champion awards was given to Bexhill Foodbank Volunteer Lisa Young who accepted the award on Sunday 5th June at the Jubilee Lunch at the Kia Oval in London.

Lisa commented: "The award reflects the ongoing work of CTiB Foodbank, particularly during the pandemic when the Foodbanks in Bexhill and Battle refused to give in and maintained a vital service to all who had need of us. We remained open throughout and I accepted the award on behalf of all volunteers at the Foodbank".

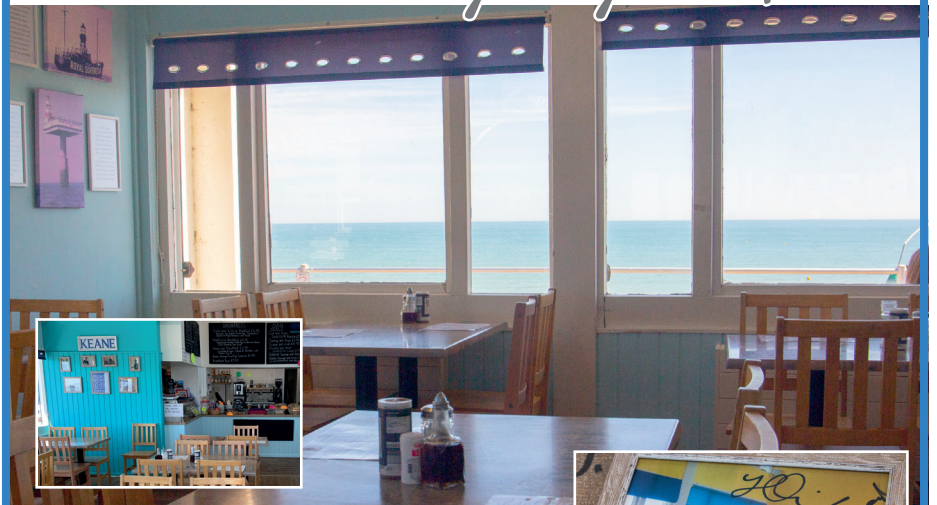
Michelle Pannell Foodbank Project Manager, added: "Bexhill Foodbank wants to say a big thank you to Lisa and all her fellow volunteers who make our vital service possible. It was Lisa's fellow managers who wanted to nominate her for the award as they felt it would have been hard to get through the Covid challenges without Lisa's strong administration and organisational skills, her dedication and hard work, as well as her caring nature."

Last year Bexhill foodbank collected 84,600kg of food from the public and provided emergency food to 6498 people of which 1938 were children. The Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days' emergency food to people in crisis. Over 90% of food given out is donated by the public.



Lisa Young accepts her award

## GREAT ATMOSPHERE, GREAT FOOD at the Sovereign Light Cafe



A warm and family friendly cafe situated directly on Bexhill's promenade and a stones throw from the De la Warr Pavillion

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## POLICE APPEAL FOR E-SCOOTER INCIDENT WITNESSES

Police are appealing for witnesses following a collision involving a car and an e-scooter rider in Bexhill. A rider, a 32-year-old man, suffered injuries and required hospital treatment after the collision at Woodsgate Park at about 9pm on May 18.

The other vehicle was believed to be a dark-coloured, possibly an Audi, but the driver did not stop at the scene.

Investigating officer PC Stuart Kenway, from the Roads Policing Unit, said: "We are appealing for witnesses to come forward."

It happened near the junction of Woodsgate

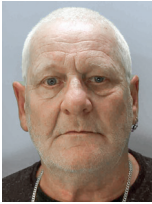
Park and Buxton Road. The rider travelled south down Buxton Road, while the car travelled in Woodsgate Park in the direction of London Road.

"In particular we wish to speak to the driver of the vehicle in connection with this incident, and with two women who stopped to help the e-scooter rider at the scene.

"Anyone who saw what happened, or anyone with relevant dashcam or CCTV footage in the area at the time is also asked to come forward.

"Information can be reported to Sussex Police online or via 101, quoting serial 1339 of 18/05."

## BEXHILL MAN JAILED FOR HISTORIC SEX OFFENCES



A Bexhill man who committed a series of sexual offences against a young girl has now faced justice with an 18-year prison sentence.

Keith Alan Fairbrother, 59, of Glovers Lane, Bexhill, was

sentenced at Chichester Crown Court on 9 May, having been convicted on 6 April after a two-week trial, of four offences of rape and three offences of sexual assault by penetration.

Fairbrother, then in his forties, assaulted the girl over a five-year period in the early-2000s when she was in her early teens.

Detective Constable Ella Bigsby of the East Sussex Safeguarding Investigations Unit said: "He had come to know the victim's family and gained her confidence over a period of time, enabling

him to exploit her for his own sexual gratification.

"His victim showed great courage in contacting us, supporting the investigation and giving evidence in court, resulting in his conviction and the removal from the streets of an opportunist but predatory sex offender."

The victim said: "In coming forward to the police I finally did what adults around me should have done all those years ago, and became the person I needed when younger. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the case, with a special thank you to DC Ella Bigsby for being my strength, barrister Jennifer Gray for being my voice, and the jury."

DC Bigsby said: "This is another example of the way in which justice can be achieved for victims of sexual offences, no matter when the offending took place."

## IVY TURNS 109

A Bexhill resident enjoyed lunch on the beach recently to celebrate her 109th birthday. Ivy Galpin is officially the 24th oldest person in the UK and last month met with friends and family to mark the occasion. Ivy, born in 1913, lived on her own until she was 104 years old and is the eldest of four sisters, but sadly the only one surviving.

She visited Pebbles on the Beach Restaurant to enjoy a seafood lunch which is her favourite meal. Ivy said: "I avoid all exercise, I can't be doing all that. I can't wait until my 110th birthday".



Ivy celebrates with friends and family at her rest home

## LARGE SINKHOLE CLOSES BEXHILL RESIDENTIAL ROAD

Fire crews were called to a road in Bexhill recently after a dangerous sinkhole appeared in the carriageway. Colebrooke Road was closed to all traffic after an apparent water leak caused a 'massive' void under the road.

Ben Hewes, South East Water Distribution Manager told Bexhill News; "We're really sorry to anyone impacted by our road closure in Colebrooke Road, Bexhill. We were alerted to a hole in the road and found a leaking pipe."

He added; "All customers in the area had their normal water supply and work to repair both the damaged pipe and the road surface are ongoing. We cannot say with certainty when the road will reopen but please be assured we will carry out the repairs as quickly and safely as possible."



# SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY, HOUSEBOUND AND LONELY OF ALL AGES LIVING IN BEXHILL

For a yearly membership of £25 clients in the TN39 and TN40 postcodes have full access to all our services

Introduction to self-employed carers, domestics, shoppers, gardeners and handymen, all at very favourable hourly rates.

Costs for these services can be advised by our office

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Taking you to medical appointments in East Sussex and surrounding areas. This can be for appointments at surgeries, hospitals, opticians, chiropodists etc. Our driver will wait for up to 2 hours. We are now also supplying cars to take clients to funerals.

### DIAL-A-RIDE BUS

Minibus with tail lift (for wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties) to take you anywhere in Bexhill. This can be for shopping, the hairdressers, lunch with friends etc. (escort goes free).

### DAY CENTRE FOR THE ELDERLY IN BEXHILL

To include transport to and from Day Centre. Refreshments, two course hot lunch, activities, entertainment and occasional trips out at a cost of £20 per day

### MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

We sell a range of medical equipment such as zimmer frames, commodes, toilet frames, three and four wheel walkers, walking sticks and incontinence pads.

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Email: [info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org](mailto:info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org)



Bexhill Caring Community

(Registered Charity No. 1108312; Company No. 5312954)





# CARNIVAL RETURNS TO THE STREETS OF BEXHILL



**T**housands of people are expected to flock to Bexhill Carnival this month for an action-packed week of events. Launching on Saturday 23 July, the annual celebration, sponsored by Box Broadband, promises seven days of free-to-attend family fun, culminating with a traditional procession on Saturday 30 July based on the theme 'Past and Present'.

Jay Wootten, Chairman of the Bexhill Carnival Committee said 'We are delighted to be back, and have been working since last year to try and find the financial support to run carnival week.

"We are grateful to our new headline sponsor and other co-sponsors who have supported us again to enable the week to go ahead. We are hoping loads of people will



enter the procession this year, we have made the theme nice and easy! We also know it is the 1250th anniversary of the Bexhill Charter granted by King Offa in 772AD — some food for thought there!"

Celebrations will begin with a Carnival Quiz on Saturday 23 July, followed by Community Hymn Singing on Sunday 24 July.

From Monday 25 July a range of events including football tournaments and a dog show will precede the popular Party in the Park ticket-only event on Friday 29 July.

Local band The Cover Ups and Birmingham-based Bhangra Bros Local will be in attendance to help entertain the crowds. Reduced ride prices are available at the

fun fair when it opens to the public on the evening of Wednesday 27 July.

Rolling road closures will be in place on Saturday 30 July to allow the carnival procession to pass freely. Turkey Road will be closed from 11am, except for floats, ahead of the procession starting at 1pm. The route will start from Turkey Road and finish at The Polegrove at approximately 3:30pm.

Everyone can enjoy free entry to the fun fair from Wednesday onwards.

Steve Garrod, Commercial Director of Box Broadband said: "We are delighted to support the Carnival Committee in hosting this week of free events.

"To see the committee of volunteers give up their week to support the community they serve is amazing and supports our company ethos. We hope to see lots of people turn out for the events and also lots of floats in the procession."

For last-minute updates check Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bexhillcarnival](https://www.facebook.com/bexhillcarnival) or via the website at [www.bexhillcarnival.co.uk](http://www.bexhillcarnival.co.uk).

Headline sponsor, Box Broadband has been actively building its fibre optic networks in Surrey and Sussex with a growing customer case of residential and business users for its Full Fibre services.

Photos: JTP Photography

## KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH YOUR CONSERVATIVE MP FOR BEXHILL & BATTLE HUW MERRIMAN

### RECENT DISCUSSION ON THE RAIL STRIKES

"These strikes are such a huge shame to this industry. We have a situation where diesel is rising to £2 per litre, we have challenges at the airport and we are going into the summer months looking at the leisure market. This should be the time when we can grow our rail market back to the levels it was pre-pandemic. Let us remember that rail services used to pay for themselves—indeed, back in 2018 they paid £200 million to the Exchequer—but we have seen that situation reversed to a £16 billion taxpayer subsidy.

In my years both on the Select Committee and chairing it, I have always tried to engage positively with the trade union movement. I certainly did when it came to airlines' cutting staff; I remember being on the picket line with hon. Members from Brighton with Unite staff. Indeed, Lloyd Russell-Moyle said that someone had asked, "Which one of you is the Tory?", which one would not normally expect with him.

I have always spoken out where I have felt that the workforce have been treated badly, but I must say that rail workers have always enjoyed positive pay. I fished out a



release from the RMT back in 2019 where it congratulated itself on an inflation-busting pay rise for its members. Rail workers earn 70% extra on a median basis compared with the typical UK worker. This is a well-paid

workforce, and I will always continue to ensure that they are supported and well paid, but they must bear in mind that we need reform on the railway if we are to make it better and safer for passenger and worker."



### RECENT VOTES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS JUNE 2022

- 20 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted yes on High-Speed Rail (Crewe - Manchester) Bill
- On 15 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted yes on Rail Strikes
- On 15 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted no on Rail Strikes
- On 14 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted no on HM Passport Office Backlog
- On 13 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted no on Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill — Clause 1 - Duties of registered higher education providers
- On 13 Jun 2022:** Huw Merriman voted no on Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill — New Clause 4 - Appointment of the Director for Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

**TWITTER:** @huwmerriman  
**FACEBOOK:** @HuwMerrimanMP

Southern Rail image credit: Mattibuck, Wikimedia



# BexhillEvents

Are you holding a charity or non-profit event?  
For a **FREE LISTING**, submit details at: <https://bit.ly/BN-Events>  
or scan the code using your SmartPhone's camera



## FREE WELFARE BENEFIT ADVICE

Friday 1,8,15,22 and 29th July  
between 10am-4pm.

The Pelham, Holliers Hill, Bexhill

The Pelham is a Christian charity with a mission to benefit the Bexhill-based community as a get-together hub and coffee lounge, through many projects & effective partnerships working. Free Welfare Benefits advice for Bexhill and Sidley residents. Appointments only. Ring Teresa on 07936 953494 to book an appointment.

## PEBSHAM INDOOR MARKET

Sunday 3rd July from 2pm-4pm  
Pebsham Community Hub

Come along to our markets and visit a variety of amazing stalls from local talented sellers. Every bit of support is very much needed and appreciated right now. Please also bring along any donations you may have for the local Foodbank Collection. Free entry.

## PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL TRAINING

Wednesday 6th July at 6:15pm  
Gunters Lane, Bexhill

Bexhill Rovers will be recruiting new players at its pre-season football training event. Ages 16+. All welcome.

## SIGNING SOCIAL

Friday 8th July from 4:15pm-5:15pm  
All Saints, Sidley

As part of our Communication Accessibility project, we are pleased to be able to offer sign language workshops. These sessions are open to all, meet at the main entrance of the school.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

Saturday 9th July between 1pm-3pm  
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners Scheme,  
Ingrams Way, Sidley

Sessions supporting local women of any age to learn new skills and also find out how being outdoors and gardening, in particular, can not only support mental health but also physical health.

## YOUNG POLLINATORS PICNIC

Saturday 9th July at 1pm  
Egerton Park Cafe, Bexhill

Calling all 13-19 year olds. We're holding a Pollinators Picnic event for anyone interested in finding out more about our new Young Pollinators programme.

## SUMMER MARKET

Sunday 10th July between 11am-3pm  
Manor Barn, Bexhill

The second seasonal Market of the year with craft stalls, treats, demos, entertainment and so much more. Free to attend and supports St. Michael's Hospice (Hastings & Rother).

## FREE NHS HEARING AID MAINTENANCE & BATTERIES

Wednesday 13th July between 10:15-11:45  
Little Common Community Centre, Shepherds Close, Bexhill on Sea

Free drop-in service for NHS Audiology patients plus hearing-related information & advice. No need to book. For further info call: 01323 722505 or email: [mail@eshrc.org](mailto:mail@eshrc.org) or text: 07950 855580.

## BEXHILL GETS ACTIVE EVENT

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17th July between 9am-3pm.

A to Z Fitness Studio, 27-29 Sackville Road,  
Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3JD

A community get-together to support a local charity. Jack Jeffreys Superhero Trust is a non-profit organisation set up in memory of Jack Jeffreys who bravely fought Stage 4 High-Risk Neuroblastoma but sadly lost his fight on 21st July 2018. Various local activity providers will be showcasing their magic, cake sale, plus, meet the lady behind the charity Katie. Tickets at: [www.bookwhen.com/bexhill-gets-active](http://www.bookwhen.com/bexhill-gets-active)

## ANIMAL SANCTUARY VEGAN FUNDRAISER

Saturday 24th July between 1pm-5pm.  
Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary, Pipzedene  
Freezeland Lane, Bexhill-on-sea, TN39 5JD

A free, fun and positive Vegan Fayre for all the family at the Barby Keel Animal Sanctuary. There will be stalls from ethical Vegan owned companies, Animal Charities and Activist groups together with information on Veganism. An all-female lineup of speakers giving talks on Veganism, wildlife gardening, Animal Welfare and rights. You don't have to be Vegan to attend.

## BEXHILL OPEN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

Sunday 31st July - 6th August.  
Polegrove Bowling Green.

Please come along to watch and/or participate in the event sponsored by Birchwood Group. Everyone is welcome and the cafe will be open as usual serving plenty of snacks and drinks.

## BEXHILL RECORD FAIR

Saturday 13th August between 10am-4pm  
De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill.

Thousands of records for sale (including many rarities and bargains), with DJs playing throughout the day. There will also be an outdoor film screening at sunset. Free entry.

## NEW VENUE FOR STAMP FAIR



The summer Bexhill Stamp and Postcard Fair took place recently at the Bexhill Sailing Club, which was a brand new venture for the club.

Previously, fairs were held at a hall in Little Common but a decision was made by the club to host them at the new location on Bexhill seafront.

Apart from the interest in stamps, the club says there is a large postcard following in Bexhill. So, they are inviting anyone with an interest to visit their regular meetings and events.

The next light-hearted and entertaining meeting will be held at 7.30pm on the 27th July at St Augustine's Church Hall, St Augustine Close, Cooden Drive, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3AZ.

**BEXFEST**  
SATURDAY 23RD JULY  
DE LA WARR PAVILION

LINE UP

LEEROY THORNHILL  
(FORMERLY FROM THE PRODIGY)

DJ LUCK & MC NEAT

LINDY LAYTON  
FROM BEATS INTERNATIONAL PERFORMING DUB BE GOOD TO ME

OXIDE NEUTRINO

3PIED PIPER

URBAN COOKIE COLLECTIVE  
PERFORMING I'VE GOT THE KEY (I'VE GOT THE SECRET)

ANGIE BROWN  
FROM BIZZARE INC  
PERFORMING I'M GONNA GET YOU BABY + PLAYING WITH KNIVES

CHARLIE TEE

MISS MELODY

SOLENT STEEL COLLECTIVE  
+ MORE TBA

TICKETS: [DLWP.COM](http://DLWP.COM) / [SEETICKETS.COM](http://SEETICKETS.COM)

DE LA WARR PAVILION See TICKETS

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[www.bullstleonards.co.uk](http://www.bullstleonards.co.uk)  
Facebook: @bullinnstleonards

**A traditional, family-friendly pub at the heart of the community**

Traditional freshly cooked 'Pub Grub' with many classic favourites with homemade pies are our speciality. We also serve Goddard's traditional Pie, Mash and Liquor. In addition, our traditional Sunday Roast is served every week. Enjoy our secluded beer garden, we have a large car park at the rear and we're dog friendly too!

Also, we host: **Regular Charity Events • Monthly Folk Sessions**  
• **Monthly Karaoke Nights • Fortnightly Quiz Nights**  
• **Sunday Meat Raffle • Live Music** and much, much more...





The team from Bexhill 100 enjoy the curry buffet



Chairman Howard Martin presents a mystery prize

# BEXHILL CHAMBER RAISES THOUSANDS FROM UKRAINE FUNDRAISER

**M**embers of the Bexhill Chamber Commerce turned out in force to raise thousands of pounds for the Ukraine appeal during a recent curry night.

Almost £3,000 was raised from a charity auction and raffle during the evening held at the Shiplu restaurant in London Road. Chairman of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce, Howard Martin said: "How incredible generous at the people of

Bexhill? The situation in Ukraine is of course a very serious matter — but by having fun raising money we are able to help in a small way to ease a little bit of the misery."

He added: "A massive thank you to everyone who participated, donated and helped raise the money. Special thanks to the Lions for all their incredibly hard work and dedication."



Just some of the prizes in the raffle fundraiser



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- Live music events
- 3 x full size snooker tables
- 2 Dart boards

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Meads Avenue,  
Little Common,  
Bexhill TN39 4SZ.  
Tel: 01424 842710  
[littlecommonlegion.co.uk](http://littlecommonlegion.co.uk)



**Your Social Oasis in Little Common!**

- ✓ Weekly Meat Raffle
  - ✓ Monthly Quiz
  - ✓ Line-dancing
  - ✓ Bridge/Whist Club
- MEMBERSHIP**  
**Just £20 per year**



# LANDLORD FINED £12,000 FOR UNSAFE BEXHILL HOME

**A** landlord has been fined £12,000 after setting up unlicensed and unsafe apartments in a Bexhill property. Ryan Antony Otto, Director of Otto Investments Ltd of Regent Street London was fined by Hastings Magistrate's Court for failing to licence a house in multiple occupations and failing to comply with two Improvement Notices issued by Rother District Council.

Mr Otto, 42, converted a two-bedroom house at 38 Barrack Road into five bedsits and charged tenants between £370 to £470 a month.

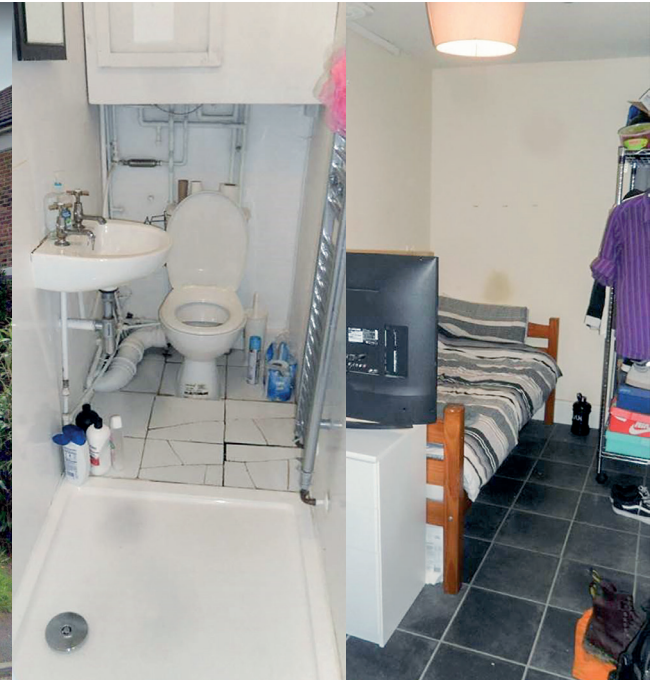
In 2018, the landlord was told he must apply for a House of Multiple Occupancy license for the property as it had five tenants, but his application was refused because the council deemed that he was not a fit and proper person.

Mr Otto was advised to reduce the number of tenants or find another person to manage the property but failed to do so.

Following a complaint from a tenant about the condition of the property in March 2021, Rother District Council officers inspected the property and served notices requiring Mr Otto to make repairs and improvements to areas including an unfit toilet/shower article and electrical installation that had not been inspected and tested.

At Hastings Magistrates court on Tuesday, June 14, Mr Otto was fined £6,000 for running an unlicensed HMO and £3,000 for breaching Rother District Council's improvement notices. He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £190 and cover the council's costs which totalled £3,705.

Cllr Terry Byrne, the district council's portfolio holder for housing said: "This prosecution is a good result for private



tenants in Rother and for the council.

"It clearly shows that our officers have the expertise and the will to pursue and prosecute private landlords who offer unsafe and sub-standard accommodation for rent on the private market.

"We are committed to raising standards in this sector and

have several schemes to help landlords achieve these. We always prefer to work with landlords but, if we do not get the required level of co-operation, we will prosecute."

Tenants of unlicensed HMOs may be able to reclaim their rent by applying for rent repayment orders. Tenants can contact Citizens Advice for more information.

HAVE YOU GOT A  
**NEWS STORY?**

**Have you heard anything  
Bexhill should know about?**

This is **YOUR** newspaper, so get in touch with planning issues, readers' letters, events, local sports news, business launches, charity news or anything else you need to tell the town

Contact Us

**01424 76 21 28**

or email: [editor@bexhill-news.co.uk](mailto:editor@bexhill-news.co.uk)

**BexhillNews**

KEEPING BEXHILL LOCAL





**Book free computers  
at your local library**  
Job applications, printing, video  
editing, family history and more  
[eastsussex.gov.uk/DiscoverLibraries](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/DiscoverLibraries)



Volunteers and supporters unveil the new signs

# SIGN INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN BEXHILL PARKS

**N**ew signage has been installed in a number of recreation areas across Rother in the hope of breaking down barriers when it comes to learning sign language.

Volunteers from DeafCOG (Deaf Cultural Outreach Group) unveiled the signage in Egerton Park, Sidley Recreation Ground and All Saints Primary School recently.

The signage not only aims to teach visitors some basic British Sign Language, but also to help break the barriers some deaf, hard of hearing, or developmentally delayed individuals face on a daily basis.

Other play areas across the district are also benefitting from the signs including areas in Battle, Bodiam and Rye.

As part of the British Sign Language campaign, a range of booklets have been printed allowing readers to learn from home. These are available to pick up from the library or Strive Cafe or can be delivered by emailing: [Hello@communitysupporters.org.uk](mailto:Hello@communitysupporters.org.uk).



Local children learning vital sign language





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# BEXHILL SEAFRONT HOSTS MOVING FALKLANDS WAR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

REPORT AND PHOTOS: DEREK CANTY

**B**exhill seafront played host on Saturday, June 18th, to the 40th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War. In glorious weather, Little Common and Bexhill Royal British Legion members marched along the Promenade from the Clocktower to the lawns of the De La Warr Pavilion, where invited dignitaries, The Little Common Legion Band, and onlookers witnessed a moving ceremony.

At 11am, the event was opened with a poem read by Mrs Jean Rogers, County President of the RBL, followed by a blessing from Rev. Jonathan Frias. The Band then struck up with a rousing version of 'Sussex By The Sea'. Little Common Branch President Ernie Eldridge recited the Kohima, which was followed by the National Anthem.

The dignitaries, which included Mayor of Bexhill Paul Plim, Councillors Abul Azad and Kathy Harmer, then carried out an inspection of the Legion members, and an informal chat with the parade, before thanks from Little Common Chairman John Jennings and Ernie Eldridge.

After the formal proceedings, Veterans of the conflict were asked to sign the Falklands Flag, which will be placed in Bexhill Museum.

The Falklands Conflict was a 10-week undeclared war between Argentina and the UK in 1982, over two British dependent territories in the South Atlantic: The Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The UK lost 255 soldiers, with 775 wounded. Argentina lost 649 troops, with 1,647 wounded. Three Falkland Islanders were killed by friendly fire. The War lasted 74 days and ended with an Argentine surrender on June 14 1982.





# ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

A ROUND-UP OF THE LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT YOU CAN ENJOY AROUND BEXHILL AND SURROUNDING AREAS

## REGGAE NIGHT PACKS DANCEFLOOR

BY DEREK CANTY

A right-on Reggae night was held at the Poppy Club in Little Common on recently, by tribute act Lee Weller

They enjoyed a packed house, up and grooving to the reggae rhythms from the very start. The following three hours never saw an empty dance floor.

From Millie's 'My Boy Lollipop' through to a selection from Madness, Bob Marley, and UB40, the dancefloor was never bare of revellers.

Lee closed with a regular rousing version of Sweet Caroline and sent a hundred happy folk home.

The Poppy Club, in Meads Avenue, Little Common, has live music events every month in the 100-seater hall and entertainers in the main bar most Friday nights. A Members Club, affiliated to The Royal British Legion, new members are welcome.



## SEAFRONT MUSIC GRACED WITH SUNSHINE



The Shady Ladies (and two blokes) entertained a good crowd at The Albatross Club on Bexhill seafont on Sunday, June 19 with an eclectic mix of favourite old numbers.

Songs ranged from Buddy Holly's 'It Don't Matter Any More', 'There's a Guy Works Down The Chipshop Thinks He's Elvis' (Kirsty MacCall), and The Traveling Wilburys' 'End Of The Line'.



Customers at the Custom Cafe can now enjoy their food and drink from a 1950's 'Chevvy Lounge'. Based on the A259, Barnhorn Road, the Custom Cafe revealed its renovated 1950s Flatback Chevy and turned it into a mini bar for customers to enjoy. The vehicle allows up to four people to squeeze in and enjoy views of the garden. Pop in to check it out.

## MUSIC FROM THE DECADES



Songs from the 1960s and 1970s will be performed by the Little Common and Bexhill Players on three dates in July in Little Common.

The 'Magic Moments' event includes sketches that have been written by members and contain snatches of songs from the 1960s and 1970s. Performances will take place on Thursday 14th July at 7:30pm, Friday 15th July at 7:30pm and Saturday 16th July at 2:30pm matinee and at 7:30pm at the Shepherd's Theatre, Little Common Community Centre, Shepherd's Close, Little Common, TN39 4SQ. Bookings can be made in advance from 01424 222801 or 07796 923610. Group seating at tables. Refreshments will be available during the interval but you are welcome to bring your own.

## SATURDAY 2 JULY

RAFA Albatros Club: 15 Marina Arc, Bexhill-on-Sea.



The Elasticated Waste Band. From 8pm. Tickets £5 in advance. Available from the bar. £6 on the door. Tel: 01424 212916.

## FRIDAY 8 JULY

RAFA Albatros Club: 15 Marina Arc, Bexhill-on-Sea.



The Other Band. Kicking off a weekend festival of music from local bands. From 7.30pm to 10pm. Kicking off a weekend festival of music from local bands.

## SUNDAY 17 JULY

Rocksalt-on-Sea, 29 Marina, Albert Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1BP.

The Other Band. Always a great atmosphere at Bexhill's bustling brasserie. From 5pm.

## SATURDAY 30 JULY

The Custom Café, Barnhorn Road (A259), Pevensy Levels, Bexhill, TN39 4QR

The Other Band. Outdoor musical brunch with the bikers, families and other folk at the creative Café.

## FRIDAY 29 JULY

Carnival In The Park 2022. The Polgrove, Brockley Rd, Bexhill TN39 3DP.



The lineup for Party in the Park 2022 includes The Coverups and Banghra Smash Up. Sponsored by Box Broadband. All tickets are free. On the night you will need to produce your tickets via your phone or printed tickets.

## OTHER EVENTS

Wheatsheaf, Little Common.

Ashley's WheatJam open mic night. Every Tuesday from 7pm at the Wheatsheaf, Little Common.

CUSTOM CAFE, Barnhorn Road

"We're Jammin" - Open Mic Night. Thursdays. 7pm





Kathy Harmer, Chair of Rother District Council official opens the skatepark

# SKATE-OF-THE-ART PARK AIMS TO GIVE SIDLEY A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

A state-of-the-art skate and BMX park in Sidley has been officially opened in Sidley with thousands of local fans flocking to the park.

**R**other District Council in conjunction with the Bexhill Skate Park Action Group built the community facility with financial support from Sport England, British Cycling and Heart of Sidley, and has already been hailed as one of the leading venues for bikers and skaters in the south-east.

The park, which was constructed by Trinity Civil Engineering in conjunction with specialist BMX track designers Forte Trailscapes and skatepark engineers Canvas Spaces, was officially opened by Councillor Kathy Harmer, Chair of Rother District Council, during a special event where hundreds of youngsters turned-up to make use of the facilities.

Leader of Rother Council, Councillor Doug Oliver told Bexhill News: "I'm just so proud of this because it's working collaboratively and that's what it's all about. You have to work together. This was kicked off some years ago with really great local support from the community who wanted to get it going."

He added: "It's a wonderful facility, this is part of a vision going forward that we should be looking after, what we've got

To build something new costs megabucks these days but we're dedicated to getting that."

The local skateboarding community have been actively involved in the skate park design, which features a mix of street and transition elements including quarter pipes, grind ledges and rails, and granite kerbs.

Kyle from the Bexhill Skateboard Action Group told us: "Since the skateboarding was on the Olympics, I've seen so many picking up a skateboard for the first time which is fantastic to see. I'm loving seeing all these new faces, a new passion for skateboarding. Now, we've got a functioning skatepark, I wouldn't be surprised if we see some sponsored professionals coming out of Sidley in the future."

The initiative was given a further boost recently when international BMX star and track designer Kye Forte of Forte Trailscapes and his team joined Trinity Civil Engineering on-site to work on the detailed shaping of the race track features.

Sidley Councillor Sam Coleman said: "This is one of the most exciting days, I think of my entire career as a Councillor. Just to see so many people enjoying themselves to me, just having a great time is incredible."

He added: "There are so many young people in this area, just looking for something to do, and a way to develop their future, and this is an incredible way to do that. I'm really excited - It's

been quite a hard slog to get here."

The event was also an opportunity to officially unveil the new Skate Park's graffiti wall, which was funded by Bexhill Lions, Bexhill Trust and Bexhill Academy with donations from Bexhill Chamber, Bexhill Wheelers and other local businesses.

It provides an opportunity for local people to try out their street art creativity and skills legally. The Skatepark Action Group worked with local street art champion Carol Cook and her team of street artists under the banner of WAVE Arts.

Councillor Christine Bayliss said: "We were lucky to get Carol on board to organise the weekend session and we'd also like to thank Dam Pierce from Evolution Interiors who organised the construction and gave his time for free".



CCTV and extra patrols will take place at the site







# Life & Style

Home | Health | Fashion | Food | Travel | Money

## IT'S SKINCARE BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT

**F**or the last two years, we've largely been urged to work from home, and many of us found our grooming regimes changing as a result. The absence of a daily commute and early starts means we've been paying more attention to our skincare.

This in turn has led to a surge in demand for non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as "medical aesthetics" which are rapidly becoming increasingly accepted as an integral part of a beauty and wellbeing programme for both men and women. Nearly a quarter of people are more interested in aesthetic treatments than they were before the pandemic.

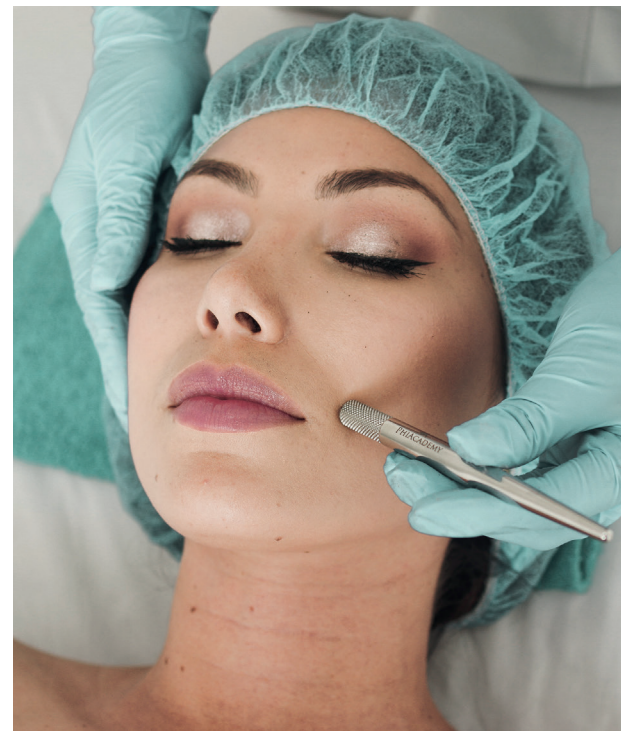
Nine out of 10 cosmetic procedures in the UK are now non-surgical and online searches for "aesthetic treatments" and "tweakments" grew by 50% from January 2020 to July 2021.

Local high streets have seen the arrival of medical spas (or "medispas") that are appeasing our new-found appetite for medical aesthetics. Among the traditional spa pick-me-ups on offer such as facials and massages, medispas are also licensed to perform procedures that at one time could only be found in cosmetic surgeons' clinics, such as Botox, microdermabrasion, laser hair removal and chemical peels.

Most people think of medical aesthetics as being purely for the reduction, reversal, or other treatments to minimise the signs of aging such as wrinkles, age spots, or loose and sagging skin. But it can also refer to treatments related to dermatological conditions or defects such as acne, prominent birthmarks or skin tags, and can also include treatments intended to disguise or diminish the evidence of surgical procedures.

Medical aesthetics can also combat areas such as the treatment of excess fat or cellulite, stretch marks, or other skin damage caused by obesity or rapid weight loss. There are even treatments to diminish or erase the appearance of scars, spider veins and other issues such as varicose veins, excessive sweating and skin discolouration.

With the majority of aesthetic treatments being more than "skin deep", anyone offering such services in the UK requires extensive training. Health Education England (HEE) published a report in 2016 aimed at redefining the standard of training that practitioners should undertake before they can carry out aesthetic procedures. The industry is regulated by collaboration between several cosmetic associations and



overseen by two independent bodies: the Joint Council for Cosmetic Practitioners (JCCP) and the Cosmetic Practitioners' Standards Authority (CPSA).

If you're thinking of taking advantage of the many advances in medical aesthetics, please do your homework and check out the practitioner's qualifications, experience and insurance by following these five simple steps:

1. Check they're registered with a regulatory body like the GMC, NMC or DMC
2. Check they're registered with a secondary regulatory body like the CQC or Save Face
3. Look for certificates for training and qualifications
4. Check for evidence they are up-to-date with the latest procedures, training and products
5. Confirm their clinic is insured and the products and equipment they use are licensed and genuine

## WANT TO AVOID THE COWBOYS? HERE'S HOW TO FIND A RELIABLE TRADER



**I**f you're planning some home improvements over the Summer, the key question will be where you can find reliable tradespeople with the right skills and experience for the jobs you have in mind. Most tradespeople are honest, competent, and hard-working. But, the Federation of Master Builders reports that one-third of homeowners are put off embarking on major home improvement works because they fear hiring a dodgy builder, and thousands of people call Citizens Advice every year seeking help with rogue traders.

So, where can you go to find recommendations for traders or services? Much of it depends on how much time you can spend on the research, but sometimes the biggest battle is knowing where to start looking. So we've gathered together some tips on some of the ways you can start to zero in on your ideal tradesperson.

### ASK AROUND

There's no substitute for word of mouth, so the first step is always to ask friends, family and neighbours who they've used for similar jobs in the past and who they've had good — and bad — experiences with. You're more likely to get "warts and all" feedback from the people who know you well and it's especially handy if you can inspect their handiwork for yourself!

### CHECK INDEPENDENT SOURCES

Take a look at independent websites such as The Federation of Master Builders ([fmb.org.uk](http://fmb.org.uk)), TrustMark, the UK Government's trader scheme ([trustmark.org.uk](http://trustmark.org.uk)), Which?

Trusted Trader — free to use for all including non-members ([trustedtraders.which.co.uk](http://trustedtraders.which.co.uk)), or even your local council (search their website for "approved traders").

Keep your eyes peeled while you're out and about. Take a stroll or a drive around your neighbourhood and look out for any building work going on. It'll give you an idea of the builders who are active close by and who work locally, plus if you see a builder's board, it's a sign that at the very least this is a builder proud of their work and looking for more.

### GET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER TRADESPEOPLE

If you've used a tradesperson before and liked what they did but you need a different service, ask them if they can recommend anyone. Most tradespeople get used to seeing the same familiar names around the sites they are working on and often have preferences for who they like to work with, and who they see as reliable.

### LOOK THROUGH YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER!

Our newspaper is full of information on local tradespeople, many of whom have been advertising with us for a long time and have established a good local reputation for being reliable.

Finally, never use somebody who approaches you out of the blue. If people knock on your door and offer you unsolicited services always turn them away. There are lots of con artists who operate in this way, and no reputable trader gets work by cold-calling on strangers.



# BEXHILL STORE NOW OPEN!



Your Local Independent Gift Shop



42 Devonshire Road  
Next to Iceland  
[www.maybugs.co.uk](http://www.maybugs.co.uk)





# BexhillShopping



## BEXHILL STREETS AHEAD WITH FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE OUTLETS

Bexhill is a thriving town and one that is so fortunate enough to still have at least one greengrocer, butcher, and fishmonger — and all within fifty yards on Western Road. Viktoria Cowley reports.



**Indeed, even neighbouring sister towns Sidley sports their own butcher and not only one, but two greengrocers and Little Common is the proud owner of an extremely successful family butcher and a cheese deli. Bexhill town centre also enjoys the added advantage of a very successful weekly market.**

The demise of local butchers, greengrocers, fishmongers and other 'high street' grocers has been a slow but steady process in most other towns across the region. The arrival and constant improvement of the big-name supermarkets have had a dramatic effect on local independent stores, but this is where Bexhill and its surrounding satellite villages have benefited, as the bigger giants remain in the outer retail parks.

Likewise, the eateries have benefited, as the bigger fast-food outlets are out of town which affords the town's cafés and restaurants to take advantage of those opportunities. It's hard to get the middle ground where both independents and the big giants can get a look in, but I feel Bexhill has completely nailed it.

### CHANGING SHOPPING HABITS

Nationally, shopping habits have changed and have threatened the livelihood of traditional retailers, including local butchers, greengrocers and fishmongers, but seemingly not in Bexhill. According to ONS statistics, 60% of adults accessed the Internet daily. The number of people who purchased goods online more than doubled between 2006 and 2010.

In addition to purchasing goods online, increasing numbers of people also make purchases of food, and that number has increased to the present day as we experience both online supermarkets and fast food delivery services.

Online shopping means people can have their orders delivered to their front door and since the pandemic, deliveries have increased exponentially, so much so, you can have your



delivery within the hour in some cases, when before you had to book it at least three days in advance from a supermarket. Nowadays you can order as little as a single item and still opt for home delivery.

### DELIVERY SERVICES

Takeaways to home delivery by car or moped have grown in popularity, and more so since the pandemic. With contactless drop-off and its sheer convenience, it's continued to enhance our freedom and meant that we don't need to do the donkey work when we want to eat or perform our weekly grocery shopping.

In addition, now people have either returned to the workplace or maintain a degree of working from home, the uber deliveries have not waned. There was speculation as to whether it would maintain its popularity after the pandemic but if anything, it seems to have paved the way to the 'new and continuing normal'. I think it's safe to assume that this is now a way of life and seems to be very much staying as a constant in our lives.

### FRESH FOOD SUBSCRIPTIONS

The other form of shopping which has grown in popularity is the farm shop boxes and subscription cooking packages. With our busy lifestyles, we're still keen on cooking with fresh ingredients and inspiring meals so these subscription boxes take the stress and necessity of planning out of the equation.

Depending on the company, you can have a box of random fruit and vegetables delivered to your door and then you decide what you can cook with it. If you're even more strapped for time you can subscribe to a fully planned out meal routine with the all the ingredients included together with the instructions delivered — all you need to do is decide how many people you have in your family, how often you want to cook per week and then decide on what your dishes for the week.

### SUPPORTING YOUR LOCALS

Whatever your shopping style, it's important to keep the support of your local independent shops and market traders as this is what keeps your money local, helps the local economy and these businesses are more likely to have a smaller carbon footprint.

Added to all these benefits you're much more likely to experience better customer service and you'll know that you're talking to real people rather than a large company.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Whatever shopping method you find makes your life more manageable, it's worth remembering that local high street produce from our greengrocers, butchers, fishmongers and delis ensures you the freshest produce available. The prices aren't as low as the supermarkets but in exchange for the slightly higher price you get the best customer service, sometimes a pleasant chat and none of the plastic wrapping associated with global warming and carbon footprint worries.

You can also be assured that farming and fishing are done responsibly, which is a majorly important issue by today's standards.



## MAYBUGS OPENS NEW STORE

# AWARD-WINNING GIFT RETAILER CONTINUES EXPANSION INTO BEXHILL



Maybugs owners, John Dale and Greg Rose

A rapidly-expanding Sussex-based business has opened its doors in Bexhill following on from a number of National awards. Maybugs, a gift and homeware retailer, has completely renovated the old British Bookshops and Stationers store in Devonshire Road and has employed a team of six full-time local staff, as well as several seasonal positions.

The company opened its first store in Hailsham in 2018 then expanded into Eastbourne and took up tenancy in the old Laura Ashley store in Terminus Road in 2021.

Maybugs Ltd is owned by couple Greg Rose and John Dale, who say are on a mission to bring life back to empty shops on the local high streets. The company recently won 'Independent Gift Retailer of The Year' in The Greats (The Gift Industry Oscars), as well as being recognised in the High Street Hero award at 'The Smalls' (a UK wide small business award.)

Greg commented: "We are thrilled to be bringing Maybugs to Bexhill. Last year we conducted a poll on our social media pages asking where people would like us to open, and Bexhill was the winner by miles."

He added: "Over the next few months, we embarked on a fact-



Award-winning displays at the Maybugs store

finding mission, to assess the viability of a Bexhill Store and trying to find the perfect location. Early this year we secured a site on Devonshire Road on a ten-year lease and since then we have been quietly working away in the background preparing for the launch."

John said: "We are very much looking forward to bringing our unique take on gift retailing to Bexhill. Of course, customers should expect to find all the fabulous things we have become known for stocking at the other two stores, including brands such

as Wrendale, Inis and JellyCat. However, there will be lots of new things exclusively stocked at the Bexhill branch too."

He added: "Bexhill already has an array of fabulous independent retailers and big brands, and we hope to compliment the overall offering in the town, helping to draw in new shoppers and building relationships with the local community organisations too."

The company also recently announced a brand new website boasting more than 2,000 products.

## MONKSEY'S MUTTERINGS

# PROGRESSIVE TECHNOLOGY



When I started working as a sales rep for an automotive company in 1986, I would have to submit a weekly journey plan so my boss knew where I was and could contact me if needed.

A few years later I was issued with a bag of 10p coins and a pager with a flashing red light which would buzz whenever someone wanted to speak with me, this would then entail finding a telephone box that hadn't doubled as a public lavatory in the last 48 hours and feeding 10p coins into a slot to be asked "Appleton's Garage said you quoted them £12 on a Vauxhall Chevette clutch, is that right?"

Technology progressed at a fair rate and I then owned a Nokia 101 where people could call me and I could call them at an equivalent cost per minute to the national debt of Uzbekistan, it was the size and weight of a house brick with a signal that would drop out more times than a flashers genitals on a warm summers evening.

Along came mobile phones from which we could send a text, I bet Alexander Graham Bell spun like a tombola in his grave as we all pressed keypads frantically to send written messages from our phones... especially the letter 's' that required four presses of the '7' key.

Then the iPhone, closely followed by Android, emerged into our daily lives and we were doomed with location services, no more sneaking into Gateways to do our shopping instead of working or skiving in The Homely Maid for a cup of tea whilst pretending to be visiting clients.

In turn, anyone under the age of 25 has no idea how life was in the pre-smartphone era, how did we know what strangers were having for dinner and how did we take pictures of ourselves with rabbit ears and noses?

Nowadays we're all available to contact 24/7, text messages are sent whilst we are at home in the evenings and emails arrive whilst we sleep. The ease of contact is as wonderful as it is dangerous, we no longer talk but instead we text a person in the same room and as we do so we lose our social skills and abilities.

Well, its almost midnight so I'm off to bed so I can order 6x4 photo paper from my phone for delivery tomorrow.

Until next time people.

Brad Monks, [www.verymagic.co.uk](http://www.verymagic.co.uk)

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# BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

BY MAYOR PAUL PLIM



Mayor Paul Plim

**W**elcome to the first Bexhill Town Council update in Bexhill News. Our updates will be produced regularly across the year keeping you all informed as to the workings and achievements of your new council.

Those of you that are new to Bexhill may not realise the great amount of hard work and campaigning that went into persuading the then powers at the District Council to allow Bexhill people to have their own Town Council.

Unfortunately, it took a change of leadership within the district council to bring about our formation.

In May 2021, seventeen Independent and one Liberal Democrat were elected to the Town Council. However we were elected to a name only and we have had to start from scratch building our very own authority, committee by committee.

We have been so lucky in being able to attract to Bexhill a very competent professional town clerk in Julie Miller, who



these past nine months, has guided us through the mysteries of local government.

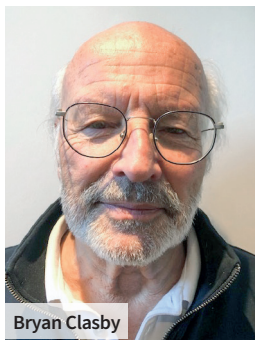
We have met as a full council every month and developed a structure that includes several committees: Finance and General Purposes; Climate Nature and Environment; Community; Planning and Asset Transfer.

It is this last committee that will assess the services and assets that the district provides for Bexhill and it will recommend to full council which of these assets and services should be transferred over to the Town Council.

We hope to support all of you in your plans to enjoy our town. If we can help in any way, please contact us.

## TOWN COUNCIL FINANCES

UPDATE FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, BRYAN CLASBY



Bryan Clasby

**With advent of the new Town Council comes the opportunity to do things differently.** Nevertheless, I want to assure you that at the root of the Council's desire to improve things for the residents of

Bexhill on Sea is the need to ensure that every penny of ratepayers' money will be used wisely.

Like residents, councillors have ambitions for our lovely town. We all want to make improvements, and, as promised, in these early days the results of The Big Survey will guide our priorities. Many changes for the better have costs.

Our challenge is to do as much as we can without significantly raising the Council Tax. We realise that these are tough times for family budgets. That is why for the forthcoming financial year, April 2022 - March 2023, we have increased the Town Council Tax by just 64 pence per year for a Band D property.

So there are no extravagant projects, instead, a concentration on the preferences expressed and sought by residents. Progress on these measures will, of course, be reported once the new financial year gets underway.

Where and whenever possible we will tap into the talent, expertise, and commitment of



residents. There are already many examples of voluntary groups serving our community in excellent ways. There is scope for this to be extended and developed through access to a fund of £30,000 which is being made available to residents who, as an example, perhaps need some initial financial support to get an idea off the ground or to further develop an initiative that will benefit the town and its residents.

Your ward Town Councillors will do all that they can to help you make an application to help turn your idea into a reality.

The responsibility is on us to show that we can deliver improvements for the good of us all. Together we have enough about us to build a town of which we are all proud.

## COUNCIL TAX 2022-23

The total amount raised through the precept for 2022-23 will be £390,920, compared to £371,765 last year. The percentage increase is calculated against a Band D annual charge. This is shown on your council tax bill and for this year will be 2.84%.

### WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Community Events .....      | £64,500  |
| Environmental Projects..... | £40,000  |
| Election Costs .....        | £32,500  |
| Administration Costs .....  | £163,550 |
| Allotments .....            | £3,000   |
| Reserves .....              | £55,000  |
| Premises Costs .....        | £34,000  |

### Projects for the year ahead include:

- Health and well-being event
- Climate Action Plan engagement
- 'Happy To Chat' café tables
- Dementia Friendly initiatives
- New 'Welcome To Bexhill' signs
- Improving accessibility around Bexhill
- Awards for local heroes

### Average Band D home contributes

£23.23 per year/45p per week  
 How does Bexhill compare? Last year's charges for our neighbouring councils  
 Battle £138.79, Camber £101.86, Rye £125.58 and Ticehurst £89.86



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# POSITIVE START TO THE SUMMER IN BEXHILL



**BY COUNCILLOR DOUG OLIVER, LEADER OF ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

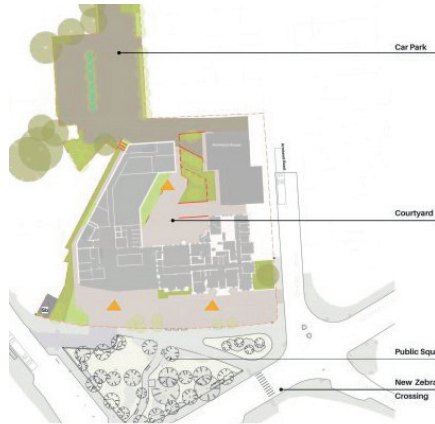
**would like to start by extending a warm welcome to Bexhill News and look forward to reading about all the things happening in our town that deserve highlighting and celebrating.**

We've had a very positive start to the summer here in Bexhill. I was delighted to have been able to witness the official opening of the new state-of-the-art BMX racetrack, jump park and skatepark at the Sidley Rec recently — the culmination of years of tireless work and perseverance.

This wonderful facility, built by Rother District Council with financial support from Sport England, British Cycling, the Heart of Sidley, Safer Rother Partnership, Hastings Round Table, The Source and the BMX club, is already proving popular and it is great to see young people and families having access to such an amazing facility.

Making sure Rother remains an inviting place to visit is really important to us at Rother District Council and we work with landowners, businesses, authorities and organisations to encourage investment in our district.

Our opportunities to take direct action are limited, so when the chance arose to draw up plans to revamp our Town Hall building, we had to take it.



**Rother District Council Town Hall Renaissance**

We are still in the very early design stages of the project but are looking at options to redevelop the Bexhill building; modernising while protecting its history and creating a focal point for the town. It is hoped that a redevelopment will be a catalyst for regeneration of the town centre and provide public space to support and enhance community life.

Officers are currently reviewing initial feedback from the public on our options and there will be plenty more opportunities for people to give their views as the project progresses.

In recent months, we have been looking at ways to encourage people to help keep our district clean and tidy. While we know that the majority of people act responsibly, there are sadly a minority who continue to drop litter, dump



rubbish, or refuse to pick up after their dog. To tackle this issue, we will soon welcome a new team of enforcement officers who will be ready to take action against those whose actions create a blight on our communities.

It was heartening to see the respect from residents and visitors over the weekend.

Despite thousands of people attending the successful Jo Whiley event at De La Warr Pavilion and countless groups picnicking on Bexhill beach, there was a minimal amount of rubbish left behind.

As we head further into the summer season, I hope the positivity continues.



## Bexhill News

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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We want to hear from you...

**From next month, we are launching a 'Letters to the Editor' section, so that residents can air their concerns and stories about Bexhill and surrounding areas. Have your say on the stories we publish in this newspaper or tell us about something you know about locally that our readers need to know.**

All you need to do is email your letter to: [letters@bexhill-news.co.uk](mailto:letters@bexhill-news.co.uk) by 22nd of every month.

Please kindly note that we cannot guarantee the inclusion of all letters — these are published at the editor's discretion.

In memory

THOMAS JOSEPH JORDAN

18/8/1927 - 12/6/2022

It is with great sadness we announce the death of Tom who passed away peacefully at home. Loving husband to Joan (deceased), father, grandfather and great grandfather. Tom had many friends at The Sackville, Hastings Direct, The Sackville Road Methodist Church and United Reformed Church. He won first prize, Bexhill in bloom for many years for the church and the Sackville. Donations can be made to St Michaels Hospice.

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# RENTERS REFORM BILL — WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR LANDLORDS?



The Renters Reform Bill has now been unveiled and is being described as “the biggest shake-up to the private rented sector in 30 years!” Maltbys Branch Manager, **Gemma Duffield** reports on the proposed changes and how they could affect Landlords...

**What is the Renters Reform Bill?** The long-awaited Fairer Private Rented Sector White Paper was finally announced on 16th June 2022 after being delayed due to the pandemic. Within this the government has now set out its plans to fundamentally reform the private rented sector to improve the quality of living for private tenants by protecting them from unfair rent increases and supporting them with the cost of living pressures.

**Section 21s to be abolished.** These changes aim to make it easier for Landlords to regain possession of their property in genuine circumstances. Landlords will no longer have to regularly suffer missed rent payments and the notice period to evict anti-social Tenants will be shortened. They propose to reform the Section 8 Notice, expanding and strengthening the grounds on which a Landlord can evict a Tenant. Many of the grounds will become mandatory meaning that Landlords can be assured that a judge will grant possession during court proceedings.

**Periodic tenancies to become standard.** Assured Tenancies or Assured Shorthold Tenancies will be replaced with periodic tenancies whereby Tenants will be required to provide two months’ notice to end the tenancy. This should provide Landlords with more time to find a new Tenant and avoid their property sitting vacant between tenancies.

**Notice periods for rent increases to be doubled.** The minimum notice which Landlords will be required to provide will increase to two months once the law comes into effect. Tenants will also be given the support to challenge unfair rent increases that do not reflect the market price. Rents can still be reviewed every 12 months, but Landlords should ensure that they, or their Managing Agent, are actively engaged in the local rental market. This will ensure correct rents are being charged and any rent reviews are carried out in line with the new rules. Many Landlords are unaware that market rents have increased as much as 10% in Bexhill and surrounding areas in the last 12 months.

**Landlords and Agents unable to discriminate against Tenants.** The Government plans to outlaw blanket bans on Tenants with children, pets, and those claiming benefits. However, Landlords can rest assured that with thorough vetting, regular property inspections and clearly defined clauses relating to pets, their property will be well looked after. It is also common for Tenants with children and pets to stay longer in tenancies. In addition, the Tenant Fees Act 2019 will be amended to allow Landlords to request that their Tenants have pet insurance in place.

**Stronger enforcement against rogue Landlords and unlawful property agents.** It will become mandatory



for all private Landlords to join a single, Government approved, ombudsman. This will not only regulate the industry but also provide support to both Landlords and Tenants if a dispute were to arise. A new digital property portal will be introduced. The portal will “support good Landlords to demonstrate regulatory compliance” and “support efforts to raise standards in the sector and reduce the number of non-decent rented homes by 50% by 2030”.

**When does the Renters Reform Bill become law?** Before it can become law, the bill must pass through multiple stages in Parliament where MPs will have a chance to analyse the legislation. There is no set time limit for when the bill will come into force, but we advise Landlords to be prepared.

**If you are a Landlord and require further advice, contact Maltbys on 01424 730678.**

## M FEATURED PROPERTY



**£450,000**

**Gensing Road  
St. Leonards-On-Sea**

**Key features:**

- 3 x One bedroom flats
- Highly sought after location
- Great investment opportunity
- Potential to be a fabulous family home
- Central to local shops, cafes and bars
- Potential 6.4% Yield
- Close to seafront and train station

## M FEATURED PROPERTY



**£275,000**

**Amherst Road  
Bexhill-On-Sea**

**Key features:**

- Freehold plot
- Set on 500sqm of land (approx.)
- Current rental income of £8,400pa
- Investment opportunity
- 2 commercial garages
- 4 standard garages
- 3 larger garages
- All tenanted
- Popular residential area
- Private drive



# BexhillProperty

## PRICES FOR BEACH HUTS JUMP £10,000 IN A YEAR

**N**ew data from the UK's biggest property website Rightmove reveals that the average asking price for a beach hut has jumped by more than £10,000 in a year, from £39,382 to £50,336, an increase of 28%.

Rightmove's Property Expert Tim Bannister said: "Beach huts have become increasingly sought after over the past couple of years as more people headed to the British seaside for their holidays. This has driven prices up, with the frenzied demand leading to some being sold for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

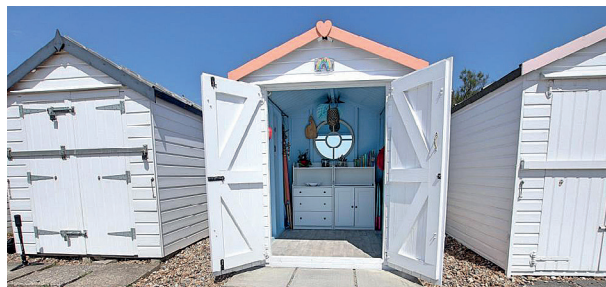
We found a handful available online in Bexhill, one for sale with a price tag of £40,000 and another asking £200-£300 per week rent.

James Eniffer, Director at Sheen's Estate Agents in Clacton-on-Sea, said: "We have seen a huge demand for people wanting a place near the seaside, which has driven prices upwards. We often find that once people have a beach hut in the area, they hold onto them for many years for each generation of the family to enjoy."

For those thinking of taking their summer break on the beach to the next level, we've picked out five brilliant beach huts available right now to consider from across the UK.

**The Leas, Frinton-on-Sea – £60,000.** This stunning beach hut in Frinton-on-Sea comes with plenty of space to really feel at home on the beach. It includes a large window opening up to the sea and beach view and kitchen equipment. The hut

also comes with ample storage room, meaning you can keep returning through the summer with all your home comforts inside.



**Goring Seafont, Goring-by-Sea – £35,000.** This recently redecorated beach hut includes a stylish interior which wouldn't look out of place in a traditional living room. At

£35,000, it's available for less than the average price of a beach hut. It's situated in a perfect location, near facilities and local amenities, and not far from the main town centre of Worthing.

**King's Parade, Clacton-on-Sea – £49,995.** This beach hut is located directly on East Clacton's impressive seafront, close to nearby amenities. It includes a modern and chic finish on the inside with space to relax and unwind during the day. As you'd expect, the views over Clacton-on-Sea are stunning, ideal for a warm summer's day.



**Undercliff Road East, Felixstowe – £65,000.** This traditional beach hut is set in a desirable location of Felixstowe, just a stroll away from the promenade and nearby amenities. It comes with plenty of storage room, and even its own electricity supply. It has a prime location in the front row of beach huts, making it even more desirable.

**Holland-on-Sea – £55,000.** This delightful beach hut is located in the seaside town of Holland-on-Sea, near to Clacton-on-Sea. It's just a short stroll from amenities and, as you'd expect, comes with stunning sea views. It comes with plenty of space inside to create a home away from home on the beach.



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# KIA SPORTAGE BOLD AND PRACTICAL

Just short of a decade ago, Kia wasn't a massively popular choice for motorists. The Korean manufacturer boasted in 2010 of just over 350,000 sales globally — whilst in 2021, it told the world it sold 2.7m units, so you could say it's come a long way since then! **Paul Gibson** spends a week with the newly launched Kia Sportage...

**T**he reason I referenced the year 2010 in my intro is that it was the year my mother was, for the first time ever, treating herself to a brand-new car after retirement. So, the hunt began by visiting all the local car dealerships to get a feel of the kind 'ride' that suited her needs. I still remember the look of horror on her face when I suggested we should visit Birchwood Kia in Eastbourne to take a look at the range.

The reason I'd suggested this is because I had recently returned from a Hyundai/Kia vehicle press launch in Europe (they're the same company for those who don't know), so I was well up-to-speed with how Kia had massively invested in the quality of its cars and built a dedicated European plant for its huge expansion in the coming years.

Cutting a reasonably long story short, dear old Mum was

soon taking delivery of a brand-new Kia Picanto which she is still gracefully parking outside of village halls to this day — it hasn't missed a beat for 12 years.

I digress, our recent test Kia Sportage arrived on the drive in a stunning gun-metal grey with a contrasting black roof and black and grey alloy wheels. Instantly, you can see this is a complete re-design of its predecessor, not just a facelift. The dramatic wide grille and swooping LED running lights, simply make the Sportage stand out from most other SUVs on the road.

It seems as if the designer went wild with the pen in the initial drawings of the Sportage as at every angle you look, there are beautiful lines and incredible attention to detail really putting the word sport into the car's name.

That doesn't change as you jump inside. You instantly notice the incredibly wide LED touchscreen that stretches right across to the driver's dials, which of course are also digital. This makes the dashboard look completely fuss-free, eliminating many buttons, but still keeping items such as air conditioning controls as physical buttons.

This test vehicle was a top of the range GT-Line S specification, the flagship model of the range. This option







brings a more dynamic appearance, including an upgrade to 19-inch alloy wheels, LED front fog lamps and rear combination lamps, rear privacy glass, a gloss black radiator grille, side sills and wheel arch body mouldings, body-coloured door and radiator upper garnishes and much, much more.

Kia boasts there are actually 18 different variants of the Sportage to choose from, so customers can really personalise their cars.

Powering our test car was a 1.6 four-cylinder petrol engine, housing a reasonable 148bhp and a 0-60mph time of 9.4 seconds. This equates to an impressive MPG return considering the size of the car. On a weekend sprint to the northeast Kent coast, a 160-mile round trip, I managed a healthy 45mpg average from the trip.

One of the reasons behind the excellent economy figures was the fact this model is fitted with 48v mild-hybrid technology. This is a system which primarily serves to improve efficiency – braking energy is recovered, stored in a small 48V battery and used for additional torque and to supply the onboard electrical system.



Boot space is pretty impressive too, with a total of 562 litres of space with the rear seats up and 1,751 with them down. This is larger than most of its closest competitors such as the BMW X3, Audi Q5 and Mercedes-Benz GLC.

Joining the line-up later this year will be the Sportage Plug-in Hybrid, the same 1.6-litre T-GDi engine paired with a powerful 66.9kW electric motor and a larger 13.8kWh lithium-ion polymer battery pack. The PHEV powertrain, therefore, delivers up to 261bhp, making it the most powerful model and the lowest-emitting in the line-up.

A safety feature which is well worth a mention were the blind spot cameras that appear in the dial cluster as soon as you select an indicator. This gives you an excellent view down the side of the vehicle, in whatever direction you intend to go. Usually, in modern cars, these safety features can just get in the way, but this is a system which quickly reminds you to check those blind spots for cyclists and pedestrians.

All the other safety features are very effective. One I experienced first-hand was when a gentleman with a trolley decided to walk straight towards the car whilst I reversed out

of a space at Tesco. Before I could even look over my other shoulder, the car recognised the danger and stamped on the brakes! Although it was a bit of a dramatic conclusion to a trolley incident, the pedestrian was quite impressed at my emergency braking abilities at 2mph!

Kia really seems to have the upper hand when giving peace of mind to buyers. All Kias are sold with a 7-year / 100,000 mile warranty which is even transferable between owners and includes cover for all the mild hybrid, hybrid and plug-in hybrid variants of the new Sportage.

In conclusion, the new Kia Sportage should be very high on your list of cars to check out if you want a reliable, practical, economical SUV that certainly sits pretty in most environments.

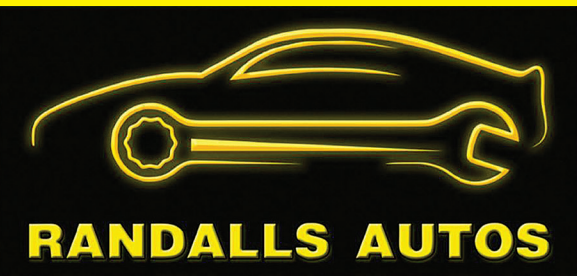
**KEY FACTS: KIA SPORTAGE**

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Model tested      | 1.6 T-GDi 'GT-Line S' 48V DCT AWD    |
| Price (as tested) | £38,475.                             |
| Engine            | 1.6 4-cylinder, 16v, 148bhp, Petrol. |
| Fuel Consumption  | Combined 40.4mpg                     |
| Tow capacity      | 1,650kg                              |
| Warranty          | 7 year / 100,000 miles               |

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# SUSSEX ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE BUILDER COMPLETES EV CHALLENGE



JLC's Ocracross crosses the finish line

**A**n electric vehicle maker based in East Sussex crossed the finish line recently to prove the reliability and range of its compact electric vehicle offerings. The JLC Group which operates from workshops in Lower Dicker, Hailsham was working alongside the University of Brighton to complete The Big Lemon London to Brighton Electric Car Rally, sponsored by EDF.



Other examples of electric vehicles of the future take part in the rally



The JLC City Bug finishes in the rally in style

The rally started from Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, London at 7am and covered 59 miles, before finishing on Brighton Beach. All entries stopped at Ifield College near Crawley for breakfast and adjudication before continuing to Brighton.

Students from the University drove the company's fully-electric City Bug across the finish line and JLC drove its 'Ocracross' electric van, which has a load capacity of 1000kg and can be adapted for city couriers, airports, seaports,

local authorities, distribution centres or warehouses. Both vehicles are assembled on-site, providing jobs and experience to young apprentices from local colleges.

The London to Brighton Electric Vehicle Rally is the first of its type in England and showcases the latest in electric vehicles and clean energy from the automotive, leisure and manufacturing sectors.

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# HALF MILLION NEW CHARGE POINTS REQUIRED BY 2030

**T**he creation of a robust, reliable, and fit-for-purpose public charging infrastructure that enjoys the full confidence of EV drivers is central to mainstream adoption of electric cars, according to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

It forecasts that up to 480,000 public charging points will be needed across the UK by 2030.

In addition, according to estimates published by the European Commission, every ten electric vehicles on the road require one public charger solution.

Therefore, with 460,000 Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) currently on the road in the UK, the present availability of 31,000 public chargers, as of April 2022, might appear insufficient.

However, these statistics seem to ignore one vitally important factor: there are also approximately 300,000 home charge points installed across the UK, which leaves just 160,000 BEV drivers without a home charger. This vastly reduces the dependency on the public network.

If it's only the remaining 160,000 BEV drivers that need regular access to public chargers, the 31,000 currently available means the UK has almost double the suggested requirement outlined by the European Commission.

It's not the number of public chargers that is the concern — it is the accessibility, reliability and geography of charge points that require attention and investment from both the automotive industry and the Government.

Figures from the Department for Transport up to July 2021 demonstrate that London and the South East benefit from a disproportionately higher number of public charging points per capita when compared with other areas around the UK.

Based on public charging points per 100,000 people, drivers in London and the South East enjoy access to 128 charge points. This is more than Wales (29), Scotland (47) and Northern Ireland (17) combined.

With discussions underway concerning the Government's levelling up agenda, the North also falls short when compared with the capital and the South East. This fact is demonstrated by figures showing the North West has 22 public charging points per 100,000 people, the North East has 33 and Yorkshire & The Humber just 21.



The current postcode lottery when it comes to accessing a convenient public charging point may also be contributing to a new driver phenomenon — 'charging anxiety'.

The Volkswagen Financial Services UK data insights team believes 'range anxiety' among consumers — when drivers fear electric vehicles wouldn't travel far enough on a single charge to get them where they needed to go — has now been replaced by 'charging anxiety'.

This translates into worries that the current public charging infrastructure is not widespread, accessible or reliable enough to alleviate driver uncertainties when they are contemplating longer journeys across the nation.

It's hoped that the Government's £450 million Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which will fund projects such as EV hubs and on-street charging solutions, will go some way to alleviating the regional disparities, but concerns over a lack of overall public charge points are perhaps misplaced.

Moreover, with figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders (SMMT) showing that 2021 saw the biggest annual increase in EV registrations with 191,000 BEVs registered, taking the total on UK roads to more than 395,000 — an annual growth of 92% from 2020 — the nationwide roll-out of public chargepoints must keep pace with demand for electric cars.

## USED CAR PRICE GROWTH REMAINS RESILIENT DESPITE RISING INFLATION PRESSURES

**The like-for-like price of a used car has risen 28.4% in the past 12 months, marking its 26th consecutive month of year-on-year and like-for-like price growth, according to the latest data from the Auto Trader Retail Price Index (RPI).**

The RPI is based on Auto Trader's daily pricing analysis of around 900,000 vehicles — the most comprehensive market data in the United Kingdom, which will be used by the Office for National Statistics from next year to compile its official inflation estimates.

The like-for-like price of a used car in May was 28.4% higher than a year earlier. However, May's growth is below April's record 32.2% annual increase and reflects a continued slowing of the pace of price growth with the lowest annual comparison since last October. But comparisons with 2021 are distorted as Auto Trader's price data is now overlapping exceptional "once in a lifetime" levels of pent-up demand last May following the end of the third lockdown, when prices were already rising at an annual rate of 8%.

Auto Trader's analysis indicates a very gradual return to a "normal" market rather than a dramatic fall-off in car prices as the industry works through the supply chain pressures which have held back production, despite the rising pressure on consumers

from inflation being at a 40-year high. Auto Trader expects these pressures to last into 2023, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine disrupting the supply of some parts.

Alongside the strong growth in advert views compared to pre-Covid levels, eight out of every 10 visitors to Auto Trader's platform are at least as confident as last year, while three in four are looking to buy in the next six months — unchanged compared to 12 months ago. Car usage remains at 97% of pre-Covid levels, despite record fuel prices. Against the backdrop of higher used car prices, retailers are also cutting prices of used vehicles by lower amounts than before the pandemic, according to marketplace data — which suggests the bubble won't burst anytime soon.

Commenting on May's performance, Richard Walker, Auto Trader's Director of Data and Insights, said: "It is important not to jump to rash conclusions about the health of the market, despite the softening in used car price growth during May. If we compare it with a boom in car-buying after the end of the third lockdown, it is unsurprising that the market might seem weaker. But judged by site visits to Auto Trader which are currently averaging 63 million a month, demand is still solid and looks likely to support pricing for some time to come."



Auto Trader's Richard Walker



## ACTIVE ROTHER FUNDED COMMUNITY FOOTBALL SESSIONS TO KICK-OFF



**T**he UEFA Women's EURO 2022 championship will take place across the country this summer. England will host the 16-team finals tournament which takes place from 6 to 31 July 2022.

Brighton & Hove is a host city alongside London, Manchester, Milton Keynes, Rotherham, Sheffield, Southampton, Trafford, Wigan & Leigh. The England team are in Group A with Austria, Norway & Northern Ireland.

Rother District Council, working with the Active Rother Partnership, is endeavouring to get new girls playing football by developing new opportunities and pathways for participation.

It has provided grant funding to support the setting up and running of the following sessions locally.

Sessions will be run by UEFA and FA qualified and licenced coaches and will be fun and engaging for girls of all abilities in age groups 5 to 11yrs and 12 to 16yrs.

**Marley Lane Open Space**, Coronation Gardens, Battle, July 8th, July 15th, 5.45 to 6.45pm; **Masons Field**, Tilling Green Recreation Ground, Rye, July 4th, July 11th and July 18th, 5.30 to 6.30pm; **Sidley Recreation Ground**, Buxton Drive, Sidley, July 8th, and July 15th, 4.30 to 5.30pm; and **Westfield FC**, The Parish Field, Westfield, July 4th, July 11th and July 18th, 5.30 to 6.30pm. For further details, email [info@skilteksport.co.uk](mailto:info@skilteksport.co.uk)

## CRICKET CLUB LAUNCHES LIVE MATCH BROADCASTS



Cricket fans in Rother can now watch live matches from **Crowhurst Park Cricket Club** thanks to some new technology. The club is now live streaming all its matches via YouTube to its subscribers using a new system called Frogbox Live.

All home league and cup games will be live-streamed every Saturday — it completed its first session recently during its Inter Club 3rd XI v 4th XI friendly match.

Fans can watch the recorded games and see the live streams by searching for 'Crowhurst Park Cricket' on YouTube.

## WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAMME CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL FIRST HALF OF SEASON



A team receive certificates for collaborative weight loss

**A group in Bexhill set up to combat unwanted weight whilst enjoying football is hailing the first half of its latest season a success.**

Man Vs Fat is in week five of its twelve-week season and has already awarded many of its members for achieving excellent targets in weight loss.



The sessions are designed not just to help with shedding extra pounds, but also promotes team motivation, mental health and well-being.



Hailsham Councillor Ross Newark gets awarded for his achievements

Players win certificates for body weight percentage loss and their teams are awarded goals to offset against the pm pitch football scores for regular weight loss (hatricks), food tracking and weight loss percentages, so anyone can contribute to their team regardless of ability.

Their youngest player is 20 years old, whilst the oldest is early in his 70s. Season one saw 40 men lose 280kg (half a stone each on average).

The team meets every Sunday at 9:30am-11am in Bexhill. For more info <https://www.manvfatfootball.org/bexhill>, call 0345 163 0042 or email [football@manvfat.com](mailto:football@manvfat.com).

## BOWLS CLUB CELEBRATE JUBILEE IN STYLE



Polegrove Bowls Club hosted a jam-packed afternoon for their event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last month. They had fun games on the green before relishing a busy street party tea and raising their glasses to Her Majesty.

### DO YOU RUN A LOCAL SPORTS CLUB?

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# SPORT



## 2022/23 EAST SUSSEX LEAGUE LINEUPS REVEALED

REPORT: STUART FAIRWAY

**T**he East Sussex Football League constitution for the forthcoming 2022/23 season has been released with the league dropping from six divisions to five. Last season's champions Battle Town will no doubt be amongst the favourites to regain their title in the Premier Division, with Sidley United moving across from the Mid-Sussex League, whilst Rye Town, Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club and The Junior Club Tackleway move up from Division One. Last season's bottom two, Wadhurst United and Rock'N'Ore, have been relegated to Division One, which also sees a new club in the shape of Eastbourne Jesters. Bexhill Rovers, Sandhurst and Little Common Seconds have also been promoted, with AFC Hollington, last season's Division Three champions, also promoted.

Division Two is up from 9 teams last season to 12 this time around, with promoted Ninfield, Icklesham Casuals and Mountfield United joined by a new reserve side for SC Pass & Move Arrows, whilst bottom side Herstmonceux were the only team to drop down. 'Ceux instead line up in Division Three as one of only five 'first teams' in an 11 team division, along with Hastings Comets, Orington, Parkfield and Ticehurst.

Welcroft Park Rangers, who placed third in Division Three last season have moved across to the Mid Sussex League, but their Reserves remain in Division Four, with Robertsbridge United's new second eleven joining a division of 11 teams, alongsides the likes of Burwash, Hastings Athletic, Herstmonceux II and D&S Hastings, who finished bottom of Division Five last season without collecting a point.

## REFLECTION ON A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Following a recent awards evening to highlight efforts from all members, **Graham Cox** from Bexhill United Football Club takes a look back over the last season

**With almost 200 in our youth section we are proud to offer sport to all in a safe environment and a huge thank you goes from myself and the committee to all of the youth team volunteers, selflessly giving up their time to enable this part of the club to flourish.**

We have a golden era in our U18 squad who won both the divisional title and the champions of champions final over at Hassocks FC on Sunday 1st May beating Alfold 1-0.

The team were also unbeaten again this year in league football and had a great run in the Fa Youth Cup beating strong opposition before eventually losing out at Cray Valley PM FC to an 86th minute winner after twice taking the lead.

Our U23 development squad started slowly but grew into the season finishing a very credible 2nd in the east division.

The senior team, in the Premier division for the first time since being relegated in the 1993/94 season exceeded expectations finishing a very credible 4th behind Newhaven, Saltdean and Littlehampton FC, breaking records along the way.

Unbeaten at the Polegrove since 9th November 2019 the club are delighted to be able to retain the services of Ryan Light and his backroom staff and equally the U18 / U23 management team.

It is with great personal sadness that Dale Sweetman has decided to hang up his boots, Dale was instrumental in bringing a great group of lads to the club and helped in their development to where they are now, Dale has also been pivotal to some major changes at the club that have helped push us forward on many fronts, he will be missed but always an open door for him.

At the recent awards evening, the club recognised the efforts of the committee, players, supporters, sponsors and our volunteers in what was a fantastic evening of celebration attended by a full house."

## LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM MANAGER SOUGHT



**Battle Town Football Club has put a call out on social media to recruit a Team Manager/Lead Coach to lead its Reserve team squad in Division 1 of the East Sussex Football League for the 2022/23 season.** The team is a highly successful club and boasts Charter Standard status and a 'supporting management team'. Interested applicants can contact [gary.walsh@battletownfc.com](mailto:gary.walsh@battletownfc.com) for more information on the role.



### FREE SUMMER CRICKET SESSIONS

Sidley Cricket Club is hosting a number of free weekly summer sessions for children interested in learning cricket.

They were launched in May and will run for children between 7 years old and 16 years old alongside a senior level for 17+, until the end of August.

The 7-11 years, 12-16 and senior sessions are free to attend and will take place at the St. Mary's Recreation Ground in Sidley. For more information contact Jamie on 07774 074538, or visit [www.facebook.com/SidleyCC](http://www.facebook.com/SidleyCC).

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