

Bexhill News

AUGUST 2022 | ISSUE 02

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

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



CARNIVAL SPECIAL PAGE 17



PAGE 09

HISTORY MADE AT POLEGROVE



BANDSTAND PAGE 10
RENOVATION LATEST

MAYBUGS

**NEW WRENDALE
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**DEVONSHIRE ROAD
NEXT TO ICELAND**

'STRANGERS SAVED MY LIFE!'



**A BEXHILL WOMAN OWES HER LIFE TO
A LOCAL SCHOOL TEACHER WHO SAVED
HER FROM SINKING IN QUICKSAND**
FULL STORY – PAGE 3

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EDITOR'S WELCOME



I must start my column with a massive thank you to all the people who have emailed, phoned and stopped me in the street to talk about our first edition of *Bexhill News*.

The whole team have been extremely humbled by the number of messages of support from our readers.

Copies of the first edition didn't take long to disappear - in fact, just 12 days after the launch, all the 10,000 copies had left our lock up and were in the hands of eager Bexhillians!

I'm so pleased that the newspaper is filling the need for truly local news, events and features.

I've been spending more and more time locally since the start of last month, not only enjoying our wonderful beach but also dining in many of the incredible local cafes, coffee shops and restaurants.

It's amazing to see so many independent places in Bexhill - we're very lucky to have a town which isn't full of national chains.

In fact, See Viktoria Cowley's feature on Page 22 which talks about that exact subject.

We've received so many letters from readers on local issues that need looking into - condition of the roads, planning issues and anti-social behaviour are amongst the long list of subjects raised.

It's about time residents had a voice and our aim as a community newspaper is to bring these issues to the limelight and get answers.

Finally, has anyone else driven into that MASSIVE dip at the top of Sackville Road? Isn't it time these things were sorted?

Paul Gibson, Editor

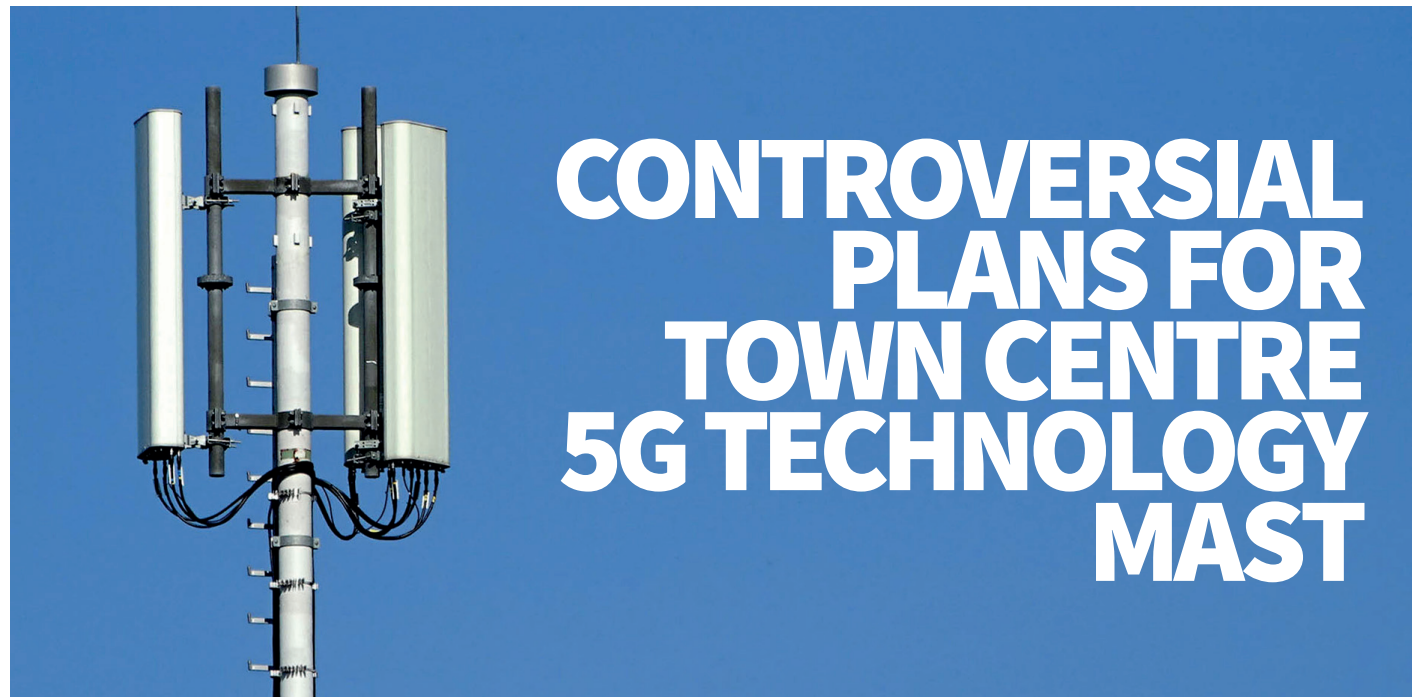


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CONTROVERSIAL PLANS FOR TOWN CENTRE 5G TECHNOLOGY MAST

Plans are being discussed to introduce 5G technology to Bexhill Town Centre by building a 20-metre mast on Devonshire Road.

The details show the plans for the mast which could be built outside Santander - it'll comprise of the mast (which would tower 5-metres above surrounding buildings) along with three large cabinets on the street.

Worries over health risks of 5G masts is a controversial subject with many plans to erect masts around the UK being opposed by people who live near them. In 2021, plans were withdrawn to introduce 5G technology equipment on the roof of Cumberland Court, a block of residential flats on Upper Sea Road.

5G is the next generation of wireless communications technology. It is expected to provide faster connections with much higher capacity and very fast response times, allowing many more users and devices to access fast internet connections and large amounts of data simultaneously.

There are mixed views on the details on the Rother District Council planning portal online. One objection by Bexhill Heritage reads: "For several years various initiatives have been undertaken to improve the appearance of this premier shopping street in the Town Centre Conservation Area. These have included the removal of extraneous public street and directional signage, careful control of newly proposed public street and directional street

signage, new and successful street tree planting as included in the original street construction. Council grant aided upgrading of shopfronts under the HERS scheme 2002-2005. This successfully retained and returned shopfronts to designs featuring original architectural elements. The pole and equipment boxes run completely

contrary to these considerable and thoughtful efforts by reason of their prominence and obtrusiveness."

MP for Rother, Huw Merriman commented: "Constituents regularly contact me regarding a wide variety of issues relating to 5G technology. I believe it is vital that the UK has the digital

infrastructure to compete and grow in a modern economy. The Government is committed to making the UK a world leader in 5G. I am aware that some people are concerned about the potential health risks of a 5G network."

He added: "The Government is guided by Public Health England's (PHE) independent advice on radio waves, which is clear that exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) is not new and there is no credible evidence of an impact of 5G on public health. I understand that existing technical standards, which take into account international guidelines and research on non-ionizing radiation, are expected to be followed throughout the development of 5G products and networks. I am assured that as 5G continues to develop, the Government will work with PHE to monitor available evidence and take any

necessary action."

A campaign leaflet against the plans in Devonshire Road was recently distributed to local residents which resulted in a flurry of objections to Rother District Council.

One objection from a nearby resident stated: "To place it in such an idyllic town towering high above the rooftops would be nothing short of visual vandalism."

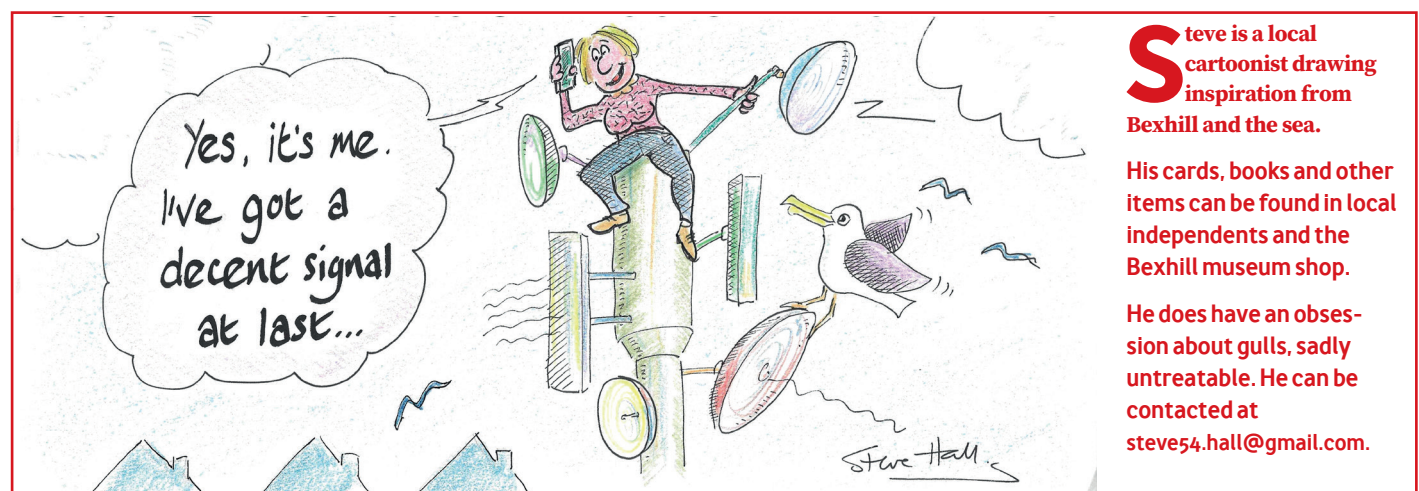
Howard Martin from Bexhill Chamber of Commerce told Bexhill News: "We fully support the introduction of 5G into the town - it is essential for future-proofing economical investment and growth for the town."

He added: "However, where the infrastructure is located is a matter for the technical experts. Whilst we would prefer the originally suggested locations (the roof of Hastings Direct or Upper Sea Road), if the current site on Devonshire Road is proven to be technically efficient, then we would support its positioning."

Bexhill Town Centre is classed as a 'Conservation Area' which means special controls (called 'Article 4 Directions') restrict work property owners can normally carry out without planning permission, such as replacing a door or window or altering gutters and downpipes. There is an ongoing campaign in Devonshire Road by businesses who are trying to replace windows with more economical and environmentally friendly units. However, the Conservation Area rules are preventing them from doing so.

Residents had up until 26th July to comment on the plans.

"To place it in such an idyllic town towering high above the rooftops would be nothing short of visual vandalism."



Steve is a local cartoonist drawing inspiration from Bexhill and the sea.

His cards, books and other items can be found in local independents and the Bexhill museum shop.

He does have an obsession about gulls, sadly untreatable. He can be contacted at steve54.hall@gmail.com.

TWO MEN HAILED AS HEROES AFTER SAVING LIFE OF BEACH WALKER



I couldn't move, I raised my arms and called for help - it was very scary, it had all happened so quickly. The young men probably in their 20's saw me and called, 'Dad I need help!' I yelled back 'Yes! The immediately got into the water. It was also difficult for them, as there was hidden rocks, and very sticky trapping mud.

When they got to me, they had to pull me hard, to get my feet released from the mud, and gradually they got me to the beach. I am not usually over dramatic, but these two men saved my life. Whoever you are, I do not know your names, thank you so much. If you read this and can contact me, I will gladly make you an 'Afternoon Tea', as a thank you. I would post this on Bexhill Facebook if I could, but of course my phone is now ruined, as it was in my handbag, and is now ruined. I will have to get another one.

Also, a big thank you to the lady who saw what happened and took me back to where she was sitting with her children. I was given a cup of tea from their flask, as I was very shaken up - so very nice. Thank you. I think her name was Maxine and her friend Kate.

So once again, to the two men who rescued me. You saved my life, and a very big thank you.

Sandy Walker

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY EDITOR PAUL GIBSON

A woman from Bexhill has spoken about the moment she unexpectedly got into trouble in sinking sand and thought she was going to die.

Sandy Walker, who lives in Sea Road, was walking along the beach on her own at low tide when she suddenly became trapped in rising waters and fell down a hole in the sand.

Within seconds, Sandy found herself up to her chest in water and her feet were stuck in quicksand.

The terrifying ordeal happened on the morning of Sunday 17th July when Sandy decided to take a walk from Bexhill to Cooden Beach and back again. The tide was very low so she decided to walk along the waterline for a Sunday stroll.

She told Bexhill News: "I was so happy, I was looking out to sea and looking at the sky as it was so lovely, I didn't actually look at the seashore."

"I had walked all the way from Cooden Beach, and when I got to West Parade area, I turned and looked back at the shoreline, and realised the tide had actually come in, in front of me and cut me off. I'm still only walking in about two or three inches of water, but, immediately as I turned, I went 'plop' straight down into the water above my chest. I suddenly realised there are some rocks here because of course by then, they were covered with water."

"My sandals instantly got stuck in the mud and I couldn't get them off. So I started yelling for help and waving my arms, and fortunately, two men were walking down the beach and saw me."

"So, they managed to get to me which was difficult because the sand was so sticky. They got my shoulders and pulled me, and out I plopped and they helped me to the shore."

One of the lifesavers was tracked down after Sandy posted a handwritten plea to find her heroes, to the railings on the seafront near where the incident happened. The letter read: "These two men saved my life. Whoever you are, I do not know your names, thank you!"

The letter was soon spotted by another walker who posted the letter on social media in the hope the two men could be found and reunited with Sandy.

Sandy added: "A few days after posting the letter, I had a phone call from this gentleman. He said I was one of the men who rescued you - I was so pleased to talk to him. It turned out the two men didn't know each other, I thought they were friends together. We had a little chat and said thank you so much. I'd love you to come over some time - I'll give you an afternoon tea anything to say thank you."

PE each at St. Leonards Academy in Hastings, 39-year-old Russell Eldridge, along with another unknown man, noticed Sandy in trouble whilst he was out walking with his family.

Russell told us: "I noticed a woman who looked like she was in distress waving her arms, so me, another the other man ran over to help. It was really tricky because she was by the rocks and the sand was really sticky."

He added: "The water was up to her chest, so we put our arms around each other and slowly freed her from the sand. I can imagine it was quite distressing for her."

"It's lovely for Sandy to say I saved her life - which I suppose I did, but you don't really think of that at the time, you just try and help people who need it, and thankfully it was a good result."

We asked Russell if he is likely to share his story with his students when he returns after the Summer, he responded: "I'm quite a modest person and just did it because that's what you do. Maybe that's something I will do when we go back - I'll share the story with the head teacher and then he can make a decision."

Ray Walker, Sandy's husband said: "It's absolutely incredible what those men did. They should be awarded for their bravery as they could have easily become stuck too. Russell's students must be told about what he did and hopefully, he

will get the recognition he deserves."

Sandy concluded by saying: "People don't realise how quickly the tide can come round in front of them and trap them off. It's so easy to get trapped in these mud holes around the rocks. My advice to walkers is they must be

"As I turned, I went 'plop' straight down into the water above my chest."



Sandy meets her rescuer Russell Eldridge recently when he visited her home.

very careful."

She also publicly thanked a woman, Maxine, who saw her in distress after the incident and offered her a towel and a cup of tea from her Flask. She is still trying to locate the second man who saved her life.

Sandy added: "Maxine was so lovely and was happy to calm me down with a hot drink and make sure I was okay. I never have sugar in my tea, and Maxine's tea was full of it - it was the best cup of tea I've ever had! I needed it ever so much."

Were you the second man who helped save Sandy's life?

Email us at editor@bexhill-news.co.uk

Adverse weather conditions can increase the risks of quicksand, particularly on flat areas of sand where gullies are created by a flow of water. In some circumstances, water can flow underneath the surface.

Pockets of quicksand are always on the move and will be in different positions with every tide. Some indicators to keep an eye out for are water bubbling up from below the surface or sand with a rippled appearance.

Advice to walkers who might find themselves in quicksand are to make yourself as light as possible such as taking off rucksack etc. You need to spread your weight across a wide surface area to prevent more sinking. Always call 999 if possible if you find yourself in this situation.

LITTER PICK GROUP KEEPING TOWN TIDY



A small group of people in Bexhill thought it was time to stop complaining about dropped litter around town and start litter picking themselves.

Jesus Loves Bexhill began with a handful of local Christians meeting to pick up rubbish on Bexhill seafront on a weekend and has grown to well over twenty in the past year.

The litter pickers collect bags full of rubbish, but this is only part of what the group does. During their clean ups, they meet people who are lonely, bereaved or homeless, and the group is dedicated to ensure they spend time with anyone they meet to chat.

Geoff Thompkins from the group said: "The seafront draws many different people and it is a privilege for us to spend time with them as we pick litter. Bexhill is a friendly town, Jesus Loves Bexhill aims to make it a caring place where people are valued. When you see the Jesus Loves Bexhill tabards please feel free to stop and talk with us, we can always find time to chat between picking up litter."



HOPES FOR BEACHSIDE GARDEN PROJECT

Rother District Council is to discuss plans to build an eco-friendly, accessible garden on Bexhill seafront.

The 'Bexhill Beach Garden

Project' is the brainchild of Community Supporters, a local educational charity. The garden will feature several walkways with a ramp for disabled visitors and decked areas for seating.

All materials, such as old railway sleepers and wooden groynes are to be donated by the Environment Agency with the aim of keeping the garden a recycle-friendly place.

Lindsay White from Community Supporters told Bexhill News: "The plan is to install an access ramp from the prom to the beach on West Parade, by the toilet block and the Wave of Hope display on the harbour wall. The ramp will fan out into several walkways and decked areas for seating, activities and enable group or individual use."

The project is currently with the planning department at Rother District Council and a fund-raising page on Crowdfunder has been set up to help towards the cost of planting and ongoing maintenance.

At a later date (subject to permissions), the group also hopes to upgrade the disabled toilet facility to a Changing Places facility.

The fundraiser can be found at: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/bexhill-beach-garden>



SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH FOR NEWSPAPER

The town welcomed the first edition of Bexhill News with open arms when it was officially launched in the town last month.

For the first time in thirty years, residents were able to pick up a free copy of Bexhill News from all the local supermarkets and selected shops in the town centre - all 10,000 copies of Issue One were distributed to readers in just twelve days.

For this issue (August), the circulation has increased to 12,000 copies to allow more

residents access to a copy.

The company has received an overwhelming number of messages of support from readers who have enjoyed the truly local content, events, sports and entertainment news.

Liz Irvine was just one reader who messaged the Editor, she said: "Just to say how nice it was to find Bexhill News today, and it's free! I would have been quite happy to pay if necessary. It's great to learn the local news and it's important

that people don't think nothing ever goes on in Bexhill! A great method to keep people informed and enable them to voice their opinions. I hope this paper goes well and I wish you well."

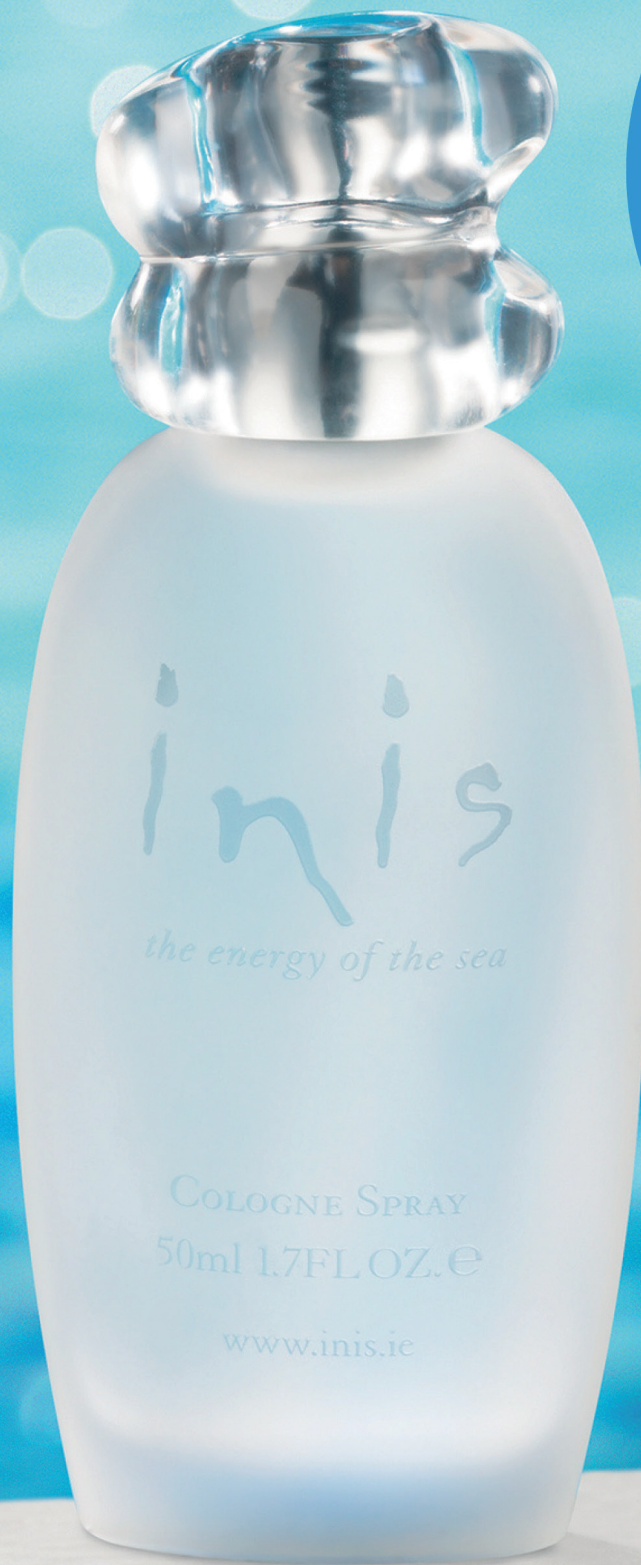
Bexhill News is the second publication published by the Regional Media Group Ltd which also produces a newspaper for nearby Hailsham, which is now in its 12th issue. Paul Gibson, editor and director of the company commented: "I'm so happy the people of Bexhill have welcome our

newspaper. It feels so good to see people picking up the newspaper and seeing them enjoying it around town."

This photo was taken by Jeff Penfold from JTP53 Photography, who wanted to recreate the famous Abbey Road photograph in Bexhill on the day of the launch of the newspaper. In the photo, left to right is: Howard Martin, Chairman of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce, Editor Paul Gibson, John Dale from Maybugs and Bexhill Mayor Paul Plim.

MAYBUGS

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Of Summer



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WORK STARTS TO REPAIR LOCAL POTHOLES

Roads across Bexhill are getting a summer makeover as this year's surface dressing programme gets underway.

East Sussex Highways will treat 28 miles of rural and urban roads across the county, roughly the distance from County Hall in Lewes to Hastings Pier.

The £2.1 million programme, which started in July, is due to be completed by the end of August and has been preceded by patching works to prepare the road for surface dressing.

Cllr Claire Dowling, East Sussex County Council's lead member for transport and environment, said: "Our summer surface dressing work is an important part of the council's £20m annual road maintenance programme.

"The work enables us to seal and waterproof the roads, helping to protect them from frost and water damage and improve the skid resistance.

"While there may be some disruption, we'd ask residents to bear with us while we carry out this programme, which allows us to create a smoother, safer road surface and extends the life of the road by to 10 years."

Surface dressing involves coating the road in bitumen and chippings and relies on the action of the traffic using the road to embed the chippings. The roads are swept 24 hours, three days and one week after the new surface has been laid. Road markings and cats eyes will be replaced after the final sweep.



TOWN SET TO MARK BEXHILL DAY

Bexhill will come alive with celebrations later this month as it celebrates 'Bexhill Day' 2022.

In 1917 seven Bexhill Borough Councillors founded The Bexhill Trust for the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and for any other charitable objects of general public in the Borough of Bexhill. It named 22nd August as 'Bexhill Day' to promote donations to The Trust.

Over the years, while Bexhill Day has largely been forgotten, The Trust has continued to make donations to groups and individuals in line with those original aims. Seven Trustees manage The Trust and make grants from the income it receives."

The Town Council marked Bexhill Day last year by among other things, The Mayor travelling by Trishaw from Glynde Gap in the East to Norman's Bay but the link to The Bexhill Trust was not promoted.

North to South on Sunday 21st August 2022 and hopes to be on the seafront in time for a flypast by a Spitfire at 1.15 pm.

Chairman of Bexhill Trust, Brian Drayson said: "It has been many years since any donations have been made to The Trust and as we very much want to increase the grants we make; we need to attract donors and donations. Recently we have made small grants towards buying basic household items as well as funding educational trips and art projects. We have now set aside some funds for smaller grants in anticipation of the need for small quick fixes this Winter with the cost-of-living increases facing everyone."

As a gentle start to increasing the visibility of The Trust to both applicants and donors, supporters will be out on Sunday 21st August, the day before Bexhill Day, with leaflets and collecting tins. Other information and application forms can be found at www.bexhilltrust.org

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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FAMILY RUN BUSINESS EXPANDS WITH NEW TEAM



Motest Bexhill would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their continued support since opening in 2017.

Due to this, our team has been able to grow and we are able to offer and accommodate even more than ever. We would also like to spread awareness to anyone looking for a reliable and friendly garage to look after their car or van.

Motest Bexhill has over 100 years of motor trade experience shared between its four staff members, Alistair the branch manager was trained in a main dealer and has been employed in various repair and MOT centres in his career. Since becoming branch manager of Motest Bexhill, the garage has gone from strength to strength. In his spare time, Alistair plays lead guitar in a local band, gigging at festivals and local venues.

Jamie has been with Motest a little over a year and is a lifetime technician, working in various garages during his career, building a vast amount of experience on all makes and models of vehicle, meaning he is capable of turning his hand to anything and if he cannot fix it then it cannot be fixed! In Jamie's spare time he likes nothing more than to sit by the lake waiting for the next big fish to come his way.

Tim who has recently joined us from a main dealer, started his

technician career in various local garages and even worked for several motorsport outfits travelling Europe racing Ford's and Honda's. Tim now finds himself competing in timed events for a local motorsport club in his spare time.

Lastly, you will find Adam on the front desk, Adam started his career in the motor trade at a young age, working his way up through the ranks to become a workshop controller for a main dealer. His customer service, organisation and business head have made him a valuable asset to the team. When Adam is not working he likes to play a round of golf.

We only employ highly qualified technicians with a wealth of knowledge and experience, but we also fully support and train our younger newer recruits.

Motest is a family-owned and operated company whose success has led to the opening of twenty-one branches across the south of England catering for all manner of services - if it's a service and an MOT or a cam belt and tyres, Motest has got you covered.

The business owner John Ball and his son Joe have a real passion for motorsport, John is a collector of classic cars, mainly Fords and Joe an enthusiast for Japanese high-performance cars who enjoys spending his time on the race track. You can often find both father and son in one of branches getting stuck into the day-to-day

operations of the business.

Here at Motest we are always moving with times and advancing in our skills and services which is why all of our staff are now undergoing training at the highest level for battery-powered and hybrid vehicles. Up until now these types of vehicles would require the manufacturer to undertake any repairs for the high voltage systems, due to investment in equipment and training this is no longer the case.

We look forward to welcoming new and existing customers into our branch, whatever you might need pop in and we will be happy to help.



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DIGNITARIES ATTEND 1250TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AT ST PETER'S CHURCH



Sussex dignitaries including the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Sussex Sara Stonor, the Vice Chair of Rother District Council Andrew Mier, the Bexhill-on-Sea Mayor Paul Plim and the Deputy Mayor Claire Baldry, were among those attending a special eucharist service at St Peter's church on Sunday (3 July).

The service was also attended by some of Bexhill's district and town councillors, as well as community leaders and representatives of other faiths and denominations. Bishop Laurie Green led the service with St Peter's rector Reverend Dr Stephen Need.

The eucharist marked the culmination of a week of special activities to celebrate St Peter's 1250th anniversary this summer.

The church in Bexhill old town was founded by Anglo-Saxon King Offa of Mercia in 772AD when he granted the land to Bexhill by Royal Charter. It is considered one of the oldest churches in Sussex and England.

The 1250th celebrations started on Saturday 25 June and have included open gardens, a festal evensong and parish party, and a craft fair and exhibition including Anglo-Saxon themed artwork by local primary schools. The choirs of local schools – St Peter's and St Paul's, All Saints' and Chantry Schools – also gave lunchtime concerts.

St Peter's rector, the Reverend Dr Stephen Need, said: "Thank you to everyone who came to our special anniversary eucharist. Together we celebrated the continuous presence of our church over the last 1250 years with joy and gratitude. And we look forward to the future with excited anticipation."

St Peter's chorister and event organiser Roger Elias said: "This is a very special year for St Peter's church. Lots of the congregation have worked hard behind the scenes organising a range of events and activities to celebrate our big birthday – a big thanks to them for helping us commemorate this landmark occasion in such a spectacular way."

£184,000 OF LEAGUE AID FOR LOCAL PATIENTS



The League of Friends of Bexhill Hospital is funding the purchase of equipment totalling nearly £184,000 for the benefit of local patients.

The charity, which is celebrating its

70th anniversary this year, is buying a Compact Wheelchair Recliner costing £28,650.

The device will enable disabled patients attending the hospital's Dowling Unit, which deals with wet macular degeneration, to be treated without leaving their wheelchairs. The unit was fully equipped at the League's expense when it was established and is currently dealing with 10,000 appointments a year.

The League has already supplied a total of four Optical Coherence Tomography Cameras for the hospital's Ophthalmic Department. Now the charity is funding two more at a total cost of £119,836 in order to reduce the waiting time for appointments in the department's busy Diabetic Screening Unit.

Members of the League's Executive Committee recently attended a site meeting at the Sara Lee Trust's Sidley Centre, where Sara Lee Chief Executive Officer, Dan Redsull explained how demand for the charity's cancer therapy and support services has increased dramatically.

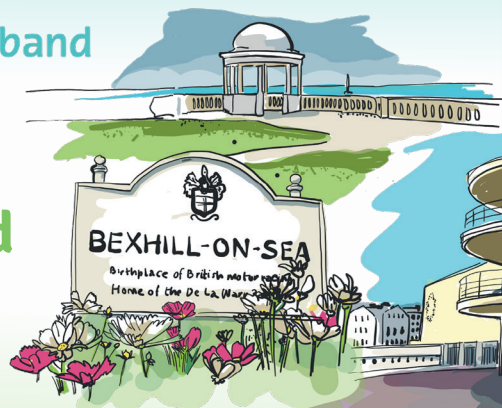
Mr Redsull explained how the Sara Lee Trust has obtained funding for building work which is just beginning. The League of Friends has immediately approved his request to meet the £35,000 cost of equipment and fixtures for the extension.

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BIKE THEIVES HUNTED BY POLICE

Police are appealing for information after a woman had her electric bike stolen while riding on the cycle path by Galley Hill.

The victim was riding her electric bike from Bexhill towards St Leonards just after 4pm on Monday, July 11, when she was approached by two men near the beach huts by Ravenside Retail Park.

The stolen bike was a Scott electric bike, which is dark matte camo-green and the tyres have a cream trim. One of the men abandoned his bike, stole the victims and both rode off with it.

The first man is described as white, slim and thought to be in his late teens or early twenties with short dark hair and was wearing a white top with a man bag over his shoulder.

The second suspect is also described as white, around 5'10" of slim build and thought to be in his late teens or early twenties but was wearing all black and had potentially had acne around his chin. Anyone with information should call Police on 101.

"MAGIC MOMENTS" YET ANOTHER VICTIM

Little Common & Bexhill Players were forced to cancel its new show recently after several members tested positive for COVID.

The group is hoping to perform Magic Moments during May next year and to concentrate on their new pantomime Goldilocks and the three Bears which will be held in the New Year.

LC&B Players are a small group of enthusiastic amateurs with a long history of providing family entertainment in the form of plays, pantomimes, music hall, murder mysteries and variety shows.

HISTORICAL RELIGIOUS EVENT AT THE POLGROVE



Report and Photos by Derek Canty.

A moment of religious history was made in Bexhill on Saturday July 9 when the annual Eid-ul-Adha Prayer, an important annual event for the Muslim community, took place outdoors for the first time.

It took place at The Polgrove Sports Ground where the congregation was treated to a glorious sunny day for the event.

Councillor Abul Azad, who organised the event said "For the Muslim faith, the act of worshipping

outside is deemed as an extra reward to express happiness and meet each other on the day. It is also a good day for Bexhill, as it illustrates how our society welcomes all faiths and shows an interest in other beliefs and lifestyles. It is a great step towards integration and understanding of all multiple faiths in our area."

He also thanked all the guests, which included Bexhill Mayor Paul Plim and Councillor Kathy Harmer.



TALKING NEWSPAPER TO INCLUDE BEXHILL NEWS

The Bexhill and Hastings Talking Newspaper (BHTN) has announced it is to include articles from Bexhill News in future recordings for local visually impaired residents.

The charity, which is part of a national network of talking newspapers and is based in London Road, relies completely on donations and is a free service.

Around 120 'pouches' are sent to listeners each week and contain a memory stick which has around 90 - 120 minutes of news and magazine-style articles.

Anyone interested in using the service can contact the Listener's Co-ordinator, Barry Edwards on 01424 211007.

LOOKING FOR STYLISH & AFFORDABLE FASHION?

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BANDSTAND RENOVATION PROJECT SET TO COMPLETE IN SPRING

A project is underway to restore Bexhill's iconic bandstand back to its original glory with the help of local volunteers and numerous companies.

The aim is to make the bandstand a focus for community activity and engagement while creating a resilient heritage landmark for the town.

The restoration strategy, headed up by Bexhill Heritage, is to conserve and restore original timbers or construct replica items where necessary. The original design has been modified to create a more robust building to withstand the ravages of its exposed seafront position.

Bexhill Heritage volunteers have already donated over 2000 hours of labour, but specialist local contractors have been engaged for some of the more complex work. Where possible, timber and ironmongery have been sourced locally, as the plan is to avoid using tropical hardwoods in the renovation.



The charity has been working in partnership with Rother District Council which gave £60,000 towards the fund to complete the project, the rest of the money needed is coming from donations to Bexhill Heritage.

When complete in 2023, the bandstand will be used as a venue for groups, clubs and displays and will be bookable free of charge online. When not in use, it's hoped it'll be a fantastic place for residents to gather, socialise and relax.

Chairman of Bexhill Heritage, Steve Johnson commented: "We are confident that the new facility will be popular with local residents across the age range. It is likely to attract more people to the promenade. It has been designed to entertain, educate and inform as well as facilitate conversation and debate. Through its activities, we intend that the restored Bandstand will broaden horizons, enable people to make new friends and engender greater pride in our community. We are confident it would help to attract more visitors to Bexhill and encourage them to return."

The former bandstand is a Grade 2 Listed Building and is owned by Rother District Council. It was last restored in 2011 at a cost of £10,000. The scope of the 2021 restoration was limited and by 2021 the building was in a state of considerable disrepair. In June 2018, Rother District Council commissioned a feasibility study and obtained costings for a major restoration and conversion of the building to a Heritage Hub.

Supporters of the project include: Bexhill Town Council, Blackbrooks Garden Centre, Consultant Architect Iain Exley, Aldershaw Handmade Tiles, Hailsham Roadways, Bexhill 100 and Best Iron Works.

The bandstand was originally built by Earl De La Warr in 1895 to provide classical music to people using the promenade.



Flags flying and band playing at the newly-built bandstand in 1895.



The bandstand, pictured during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897



The unloved and underused shelter 2021



BEXHILL'S BEST KEPT SECRET TEA ROOM



Walking along Western Road in Bexhill recently, feeling in need of a break, I spotted something a little different, writes Caroline Knight.

Bowties describes itself as providing British artisan food and drink. It also claims to be the only 'vintage' tearooms, using vintage china, in Bexhill. So, I stepped under the welcoming bunting and discovered a most delightful café.

"I entered an oasis of calm that seemed to exist in a time warp."

The interior of Bowties is cool, welcoming and inviting, whilst on the pavement side there are tables and chairs for those who like to watch the world go by. But I ventured through the café into the hidden garden beyond and discovered a different world. The Secret Vintage Tea Garden enabled me to leave my worries at the door as I entered an oasis of calm that seemed to exist in a time warp. I felt completely hidden from the hustle and bustle of the road.

I was also fascinated to find the Victorian

Parlour, an indoor seating area complete with chandeliers and even a marble-style fireplace. A gentle afternoon tea party seemed to be in full swing, with the anniversary couple and their guests enjoying rather beautiful home-made cakes served on a four-tier cake stand – just like granny used to have.

A member of the friendly staff (all wearing bow ties, naturally!), provided a menu and I chose the Welsh Rarebit together with a pot of tea. Not only was the Welsh Rarebit the best I had ever tasted, but the tea itself seemed to rise to the occasion. There's something about a china teapot that oozes charm.

The surroundings at Bowties have been cleverly staged to represent a period in time when the pace of life was unhurried. The effect on customers such as me, was to slow the mind and allow me to relax. I understand that the cosy Victorian Parlour is available for private parties and also for general use for those who prefer a little privacy.

There is waitress service at all tables and I notice the café is dog-friendly too. [Note to self: must bring the dog for walkies in Egerton Park, just up the road, then to Bowties for refreshments]. Don't tell the dog, but I did see one of the four-legged visitors eating a sausage that I'm pretty sure he didn't pay for.

You can visit Bowties, Vintage Tearooms, at 39 Western Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1TD. Phone 07713430526. Email hello@bowtiesbritish.co.uk.

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Photos: Paul Gibson

UEFA FINAL SPECTACULAR ENJOYED BY HUNDREDS

An "incredible atmosphere" was enjoyed by hundreds of people who flocked to Bexhill seafront last weekend to watch England beat Germany in the UEFA Women's European Final.

The sun shone down on the lawns at Bexhill Seafront whilst the women's final was shown to the crowds on a large LED screen.

The Lionesses didn't fail to entertain visitors after a few

technical issues tainted the start of the match, but these were resolved by half time allowing residents to celebrate England's victory in the final. The Bexhill event was sponsored by Box Broadband.

Event organiser Howard Martin told Bexhill News: "We've got to sincerely apologise for the technical difficulties we experienced during the final. It was such a fantastic evening, so many from Bexhill continued to support the event despite

the false start."

"The irony of this is, if we had actually been using Box Broadband high-speed fibre, we wouldn't have had these issues, but it's not available to us just yet."

He added: "We were using old-school satellite technology and it let us down. But, I'd like to thank residents for their fantastic support and sticking with it."

PARTY TIME AT THE POPPY CLUB!



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UNIQUE MURAL WELCOMES VISITORS AT STATION SHOP

A new piece of community artwork has been unveiled which has been designed to honour the Bexhill community.

The frontage of 1-3 Sea Road, opposite Bexhill train station, was transformed by local community creative group W.Ave Arts, with a striking new mural set to brighten up the previously unloved façade.

W.Ave's founder and local resident Carol Cook has been working with the property's owner The Arch Company, a small business landlord, to improve the building, with a piece of public artwork which features a number of famous local names from the past and present.

The Arch Company invested £3,000 into works, whilst W.Ave created and published the artwork with funds from Bexhill Town Council.

It features, John Logie Baird, inventor of the television who died in Bexhill, Leon Legge - professional footballer and epilepsy campaigner, born in Bexhill, Nripenda Narayan, the Maharaja of the princely state of Cooch Bihar, India, who died in Bexhill in 1911, Frank Nichols, founder of British racing car Elva, Rosalind Franklin, a chemist who first understood the structure of DNA, and was educated in Bexhill, Eddie Izzard and Dorothy Levitt, a pioneering female racing driver who competed at Bexhill in 1903.

Carol Cook said: "We have worked hard with The Arch Company to produce a quality project, that will improve and spark interest in the town."

Deputy Mayor Claire Baldry said, "We are delighted to be awarding a grant to such a worthwhile cause and wish the project every success."

Given the typically urban setting of the railway arches, The Arch Company is dedicated to championing creative murals throughout the arches portfolio, commissioning street art in Brixton, Vauxhall and Purley.

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WEDNESDAY Total Body Conditioning 10-11am	
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September 12th
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11am-4pm
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De La Warr Pavillion

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Use your own device with free Wi-Fi
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BexhillEvents

Are you holding a charity or non-profit event? For a **FREE LISTING**, email details to: events@bexhill-news.co.uk
We cannot guarantee entry to every event.

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

13th August 2022. Metropole Lawns, Bexhill Seafont.

To celebrate the 1250th anniversary of the signing of the Bexhill Charter by King Offa in 772 AD. 9am: Stalls open. 9.30-4pm: Penda Anglo-Saxon demonstrations. 11.15: Kevin Terrell sings. 12.15: Time to set up your chairs or picnic blankets for the re-enactment. 1pm: Battle scene demo. 1.30pm: Charter signing re-enactment. 2pm: Entertainment from The Other Band. 3.30pm: Fancy dress judging and presentation of Iconic Bexhill Award.

GARDEN PARTY IN AID OF ST MICHAELS HOSPICE.

Sunday August 14th, from 4pm, The Bull Inn, Bexhill Road.

Music by: The Other Band and Mike Barber. MC for the day is Chris Gentry. Plus Raffle, BBQ, and raising funds for a great cause.

ACTIVE FRIENDS, MEET AND MOVE EXERCISE CLASSES

Every Tuesday 10:30 until 11:30 am. All Saints Church, All Saints Lane, Sidley, TN39 4BJ.

Improve your flexibility, balance, coordination and stamina in a welcoming and friendly environment, no experience is necessary, chair and standing exercises including Pilates and Yoga. Dancing and exercises using physiotherapy balls and stretch resistance bands. Mindfulness and meditation. Only £2.50 per class. For more information please phone or text Sally on 077 39 08 25 38 or email sal_r_tay@yahoo.co.uk, or just pop in and give it a try. Classes are funded by Active Rother. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear.

ORGAN & KEYBOARD SOCIETY MONTHLY CONCERT

The Egerton Park Indoors Bowls Club.

The group stages concert on the last Tuesday of every month bringing a different artist from all over the UK to play. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30 concert start. Concerts finish at 10.00 pm. Plenty of free on-site or on-street parking. Pay on the door entrance is £6, tickets not required. For further information contact Derek Knight 01424 848793.

ROPE ACROBATS

A stunning acrobatic rope and rings performance coupled with story-telling was performed to a large outdoor audience at The De La Warr by The 'Dot Collective troupe'.

The event was organised and in aid of The Bexhill Dementia Action Alliance, whose motto is "Striving to make Bexhill a Dementia friendly place."



Photo: Derek Canty

PANTOMIME AUDITIONS

Little Common Community Centre.

If you have an unrealised yearning to act, sing or work behind the scenes in live theatre, we would like you to come along to the Shepherd's Theatre in the Little Common Community main hall and give it a try. We are about to start auditioning for the pantomime at our Tuesday evening meetings starting at 7:30pm and would welcome you to drop in and give it a try. We will be reading through the script on 2nd August and 16th August and auditioning on 30th August. Enquiries to 01424 222801.

WATERMILL WOLVES EVENTS

Watermill Lane, Bexhill

Sat 6th August: Legends of the Wolf woodland BBQ and camping with the wolfie pack (optional), overnight. Sun 7th August: Canine Body Language Workshop with the wolfie pack, 10 am-3pm. email info@watermillwolves.co.uk for details

BEXHILL ARTISTS' WORKSPACE (BAW)

De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill.

An exhibition of art and craft at the studio of the De La Warr Pavilion on the 27th - 29th August, 10am -5pm. To be opened by the Bexhill Mayor.

MINORU NOMATA: WINDSCAPE EXHIBITION

21 May - 4 September 2022. First floor gallery De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea. Wednesdays - Sundays, 10am - 5pm. FREE



Tokyo based artist, Minoru Nomata (b. 1955) will have his first solo exhibition outside of Asia at the De La Warr Pavilion this summer, bringing together works made over the last thirty years of his career. Nomata's visionary paintings depict imaginary landscapes that transcend time and place. Featuring architectural superstructures and topographical forms devoid of human presence, his uncanny depictions are portals into mysterious and uncertain worlds.

SCRAPHEAP CHALLENGE

Egerton Park, Sunday 21st August, 2pm.

A free event open to all organised by the Rotary Club of Bexhill. A competition to build and launch a sailing vessel measuring a maximum of 50cms long, wide and high using materials normally discarded - open to all ages. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest and most imaginative wind powered sailing constructions. Entry forms available at www.bexhill.rotaryweb.org.

BEXHILL LIONS CLUB DOG SHOW

Monday 29th August, 10.30am, Polegrove.

Bexhill Lions will be working in conjunction with the Bexhill 100 Motoring Club to host its very popular Dog Show. They will be Judging: Best Puppy, Handsomest Dog, Prettiest Bitch, Best Movement (Owner and Dog), Best Rescue, Fancy Dress, Best Veteran, Best Trick, Happiest Dog, Junior Handling, Dog the Judge would like to take home and Best in Show. Entry is £2 per class, you can enter into as many as you like! Registration 10.30 Onwards, show Starts at 12.30.

Discover Southlands Place

Southlands Place Care Home offers residential, nursing and dementia care on a permanent and short stay basis.



Located in Bexhill-on-Sea with views of the coast and beautiful countryside.

Often, a person living with dementia will need more care and support as their condition progresses, and there may come a time when moving into a care home is the best option.

We know from over two decades of experience, that dementia is different for everyone, so the care our residents receive is too.

So many things define us as individuals, but dementia doesn't have to. We see the person behind it, and help them live the life they want, to the full.

We get to know our residents and provide care that's as individual as they are. From their living environments to their care and from everyday activity to their food, we tailor every detail no matter how big or small.

Promoting Independence

Everyone wants to have meaning to their day, and people living with dementia are no different. Residents with dementia are supported to make choices and decisions about their lives.

There is always plenty to do, and the team take guidance from residents and their families to plan varied and fulfilling activities to suit them personally. Even simple daily tasks that may be important to someone such as DIY, tending to garden pots or serving tea, we recognise that everyone is unique and so are their daily activities.

Southlands Place is a homely setting with specialist design features that can help people to live well with dementia. Our catering and hospitality team have an in-depth knowledge of nutrition and hydration. Our Chefs meet with our residents in order to get to know them and understand their dietary needs and personal preferences.

Award Winning Training

We train every member of our team with our unique award winning 'My World' dementia training accredited by City and Guilds.

Our training highlights the importance of meaningful activities and a stimulating

environment for people living with dementia, as well as addressing clinical aspects of care, nutrition and the meal time experience.

Reasons to choose us

As the only care home group with its own accredited City and Guilds dementia training, as well as dementia friendly design, and latest technology, you can trust that we go further.

Ask for our full guide to dementia care. Call freephone 0808 223 5401 or visit caringhomes.org.



Gardens promote leisure and therapeutic opportunities and stimulates sociable activity for all residents.



Various dementia friendly areas featuring items from days gone by or places that residents can relate to that help to stimulate conversation and provoke memories.

Book a short stay this summer at Southlands Place Care Home

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Online
caringhomes.org



Southlands Place

CARING HOMES



Residents in Little Common have been congratulating the owners of Meads Court in Little Common which is aiding the expansion of businesses in the area.

The Co-op store in Cooden Beach Road closed around six years ago when it then stood empty whilst a number of developers and other supermarket chains considered purchasing the building.

In 2018, local businessman and property developer, Mark Rawlings along with his business partner Wayne Pemberton, purchased the whole building with planning permissions and set upon making it a hub for new local companies along with developing nine, brand new flats above the property, which have all been sold.

It also made space for three shop fronts all of which are also occupied with rapidly expanding businesses, including Bexhill Estates, an estate agent which outgrew its previous premises just doors away.

Mel Cooper from Bexhill Estates said: "We started out in business in October 2019, we got through Jan, Feb and then was shut down due to the Pandemic. All our staff was then put on Furlough until October when we managed to reopen."

Becki Mote from Bexhill Estate commented: "From the day we reopened, the market just flew and we did really well. We

soon achieved a 5-star Google Review, but people just love the way we help them through the moving process. We've got a unique way, just different, which is what our customers love."

Mel jumped at the chance to purchase one of the shops in the newly developed building and their new offices which were officially opened just last month.

Two other local businesses also call Meads Court their home. Kelp Studio, is a company set up to offer planning services, advice, land buying, civil and structural engineering services and architectural design.

Next door to Kelp is Complete Solar and Renewables, a company set-up to help local residents utilise the benefits of solar energy in their homes.

Mr Rawlings commented: "We've created a great little community here as there's a business which can design homes and buildings, a company which can help homeowners to embrace reuseable energy and then a business that residents can buy and sell their omes through."

Councillor Kathy Harmer officially opened the businesses last month and told Bexhill News: "It's great to see this corner of our Village, which was an eye sore, redeveloped and housing three young vibrant businesses."



CARNIVAL 4-PAGE SPECIAL



BEXHILL CARNIVAL WEEK 2022

REPORT AND PHOTOS BY PAUL GIBSON

CELEBRATIONS RETURN AFTER THREE YEAR BREAK



1543



Thousands of people turned out in force to enjoy the festivities recently which were all part of the popular Bexhill Carnival Week.

For the first time in three years, the event was finally able to go ahead after being rained off in 2019, then cancelled due to COVID in 2020 and 2021.

It was certainly worth waiting for as a number of busy and exciting events took place at the Polegrove including a dog show, football tournaments, the Party in the Park and all concluded with the fantastic carnival procession on Saturday 30th July. The week was sponsored by Box Broadband, which was a new headline sponsor for 2022, with other co-sponsors Hastings Direct and Oakfield Estate Agents.

The week began with a special church service to celebrate and bless Carnival week, held by Bexhill Churches Together which was followed by various football tournaments on Monday and Tuesday at the Polegrove.

The ground was then host to an array of dog breeds Crufts would be proud of on Wednesday with a fun dog show and competition. Hundreds turned up to show off their pooches and prizes were handed out in a number of categories such as Best Puppy, Best Rescue Dog and Best Veteran.

It was then Party in the Park's time to shine as thousands of residents flocked to the Polegrove to enjoy The

Coverups and the Bhangra Smash Up live on stage. A firework finale concluded the night but hailed the start of the Carnival day ahead.

The streets from Sidley down to central Bexhill were lined with visitors who wanted to see the first carnival procession for three years on the Saturday. Although the parade was shorter than normal, the energy and quality of the displays were incredible.

There was plenty of noise, fun, music, cars and fancy dress which made it a great return for the carnival in the town. All money that was collected during the Carnival is being donated to Warming up the Homeless.

Chairman of Bexhill Carnival, Jay Wootten, told Bexhill News: "We have had a great week supporting Bexhill. Every event went superbly well and the months of planning from the team of volunteers should be commended. We have a month off now and then start in September to see if it is viable to run Carnival 2023. Any interested sponsors please get in touch! For 2022 thank you Bexhill for your support it's been a great week."

All of the photographs featured in this 4 page special are available to purchase for only £5 - all of which will go to Warming up the Homeless. Simply visit www.bexhill-news.co.uk, select the 'Bexhill Carnival' from the menu and order your photograph which will be sent to you via email.



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1649

BEXHILL CARNIVAL



MUSIC, LAUGHTER AND DANCE AT THE POLEGROVE



COMMERCIAL EDGE DANCE & DYAMOND DANCE PERFORM



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Before World War 2 Bexhill Rotary Club organised the carnivals – the last was held in 1937. After the war in July 1950 the carnival was revived by Bexhill Round Table whose chairman, the late Peter Evenden, had been one of the founder members of the Service Club for Young Businessmen.

Peter envisaged the carnival as being a way of fulfilling the club's commitment to community service.

There were some highlight moments and events during the Round Tables stewardship of the carnival. 1952 saw a torchlight procession followed by community singing led by Arthur (Abide with Me) Caiger fame. During the 1953 Coronation Year, the carnival celebrations were extended to a week, culminating in a firework display. Before the torchlight procession. 1954 was notable for the first landing of a helicopter in Bexhill, bringing the town's mayor to the Polegrove!

Arena events in 1955 included Derrico – Britain's Wonder Boy Aerial Acrobat and the Cromwells, who rode motorcycles upside down 70 feet in the air! Who could forget Sabrina who arrived to grace the 1958

Carnival? In 1958, Bexhill Carnival was taking over Bexhill Round Table, so a group of individuals got together to form Bexhill Carnival Committee with secretary Dennis Houghton, who, with his wife Enid formed the backbone of the committee, and was instrumental in forming the Carnival Guild of Great Britain. Together with colleagues from



carnival committees all over Southern England, Dennis and Enid were responsible for chaperoning countless young girls of the Carnival Court as they attended carnivals all over the South East.

A glance at the 1963 carnival programme reports The Royal Artillery Mounted Band in the arena; the Carnival Queen was Diane Shrubsole chosen by judges which included Bexhill legends Peggy Page and Richard Burnett, together with Humphrey Lyttleton.

Advertisers included Longley Bros. Elsworths, Tucknotts, Personal Service Travel, Orchards, the Criterion, Downlands Dairies, Beals, Meyrick and Davies, Rouse, the Playhouse, Belmont Dairy, Austins, Maidstone and District Motor Services which would be driving Tufty and his friend Pierre and encouraging youngsters to join the Tufty Club! Andrews were the people to bring their fair to Bexhill. The Carnival Queen and her court were chosen at the Carnival Ball held at the De La Warr Pavilion.

1966 introduced the first Fairy Princess competition which was won by Beryl Ann Hart. There was a committee of some 30 members with the mayor as president and a council representative always present at committee meetings.

A new attraction in 1970 was the Carnival Sea Angling competition for which the Carnival Challenge Shield was competed for. Six-a-side football was a feature then as now, and also an annual swimming gala.

By 1986, whilst the sea angling contest and the swimming gala faded away, a new equestrian gymkhana at Little Common Recreation Ground was introduced and an inter-Services darts match had become an established annual event.

By 1993, the Carnival Queen Selection Dance had been relocated from the De La Warr to the Leisure Centre. In 1994, the committee was advised that the procession could no longer follow its traditional route down London Road to the town, but instead must go up Holliers Hill, Chantry Lane, through the Old Town, down Sea Road and Buckhurst Road. This was not a popular change amongst the public, but just like the introduction of income tax, remains with us today!

In 1996, it looked as if Bexhill Carnival would fold, but a meeting between committee members Nim Whitmarsh, John Cox and Phil Bentley with Nick and Chris Shaw saved the day with the backing of Shaws Funfair.

In 1998, the evening boot fair in the Polegrove was established.

2002 introduced the first Party in the Park Friday evenings and the withdrawal of any council representation on the committee.

In 2012 the committee changed its focus to work with local businesses, who sponsor carnival week to enable all carnival week events free for the public to attend whilst raising monies for local charitable causes.



AYLESHAM PRINCESSES SHINE



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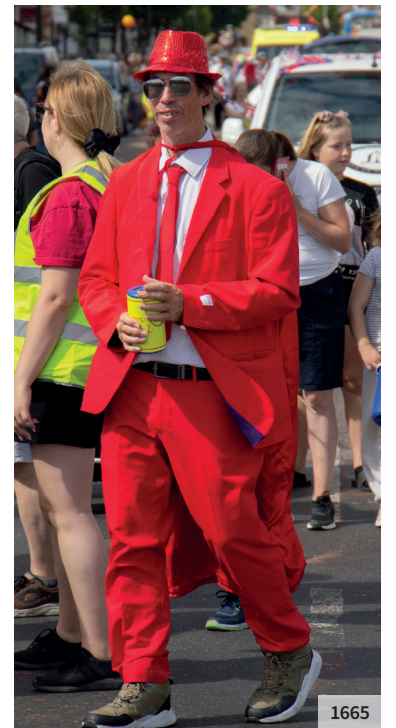
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LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY



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TOTS PLAY



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ROTARY MEMBER ENCOURAGES NEW SKILLS



Working to help the community is one of many ways that Rotarians try to improve people's lives, and Vernon Findlay is one of many Bexhill Rotarians doing just that.

Vernon has been volunteering at King Offa Primary Academy in Downs Road as a Reading Partner improving the children's reading skills since 2013.

In 2015 a member of staff discovered that Vernon had other skills and asked him to help build a kit car, and since then 32 pupils have eagerly taken part producing and building no less than eleven cars!

Vernon said: "It is so rewarding to see children developing their talents and a reminder to me that what appears simple to me is only because of years of practice. It is an opportunity for young people not only to learn new practical skills but also how to work together as a team, to find out that everything doesn't always go right first time, and there is always more than one way to complete a task. I hope that some of them will continue with a career in engineering."



LICK OF PAINT FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

Volunteers came together last month to give the Pebsham Community Centre a fresh new look.

The Pebsham Community Association, the charity which oversees the running of the centre, has expressed its gratitude to numerous members of the public for their hard work to give the building a new lease of life.

A spokesperson commented on social media: "A special thank you to the residents who came past the centre with their positive words of encouragement. Little things like this go a very long way when it comes to a big project!"

They added: "Again thank you so much to everyone involved and well done for all your efforts today. We can't wait for the rest of the bits to be completed and have the artwork installed."

The exterior of the building was repainted using paint donated by Brewers Decorator Centres. The winning entries of a recent art competition held by the centre will be displayed on the front of the building in the near future.



BEXHILL STUDENTS COMPLETE CARBON LITERACY TRAINING

Students at Bexhill Sixth Form College have been earning their eco credentials by taking part in a Department for Education Skills Accelerator Project.

As part of this project, students completed Carbon Literacy training, providing them with the knowledge and information required for making sustainable personal and professional changes.

The 95 students who completed this qualification are some of the very first in the country, which is a great achievement for the

students themselves, as well as the wider skills requirements. The Carbon Literacy qualification is being widely recognised by employers and higher education providers as the benchmark for climate education.

The qualification itself is a 10-hour modular blend of directed and self-study. Once completed, students are marked against the Carbon Literacy Trust framework and are certified as being 'carbon literate'.

Year 12 student, Alexander Long (pictured), commented "I think it is vital more people are educated on the environmental impacts of our actions, on both a personal and community level, as it enables us to make informed decisions as to how best tackle climate change."

He added: "It is through awareness and understanding that we can achieve action – the Carbon Literacy Project provides this awareness and understanding."

Bexhill Sixth Form College is continuing its commitment to this cause by upskilling staff to embed climate education across all subject areas, as well as continuing to offer Carbon Literacy training to all students.

Joshua Speer, Carbon Literacy coordinator for the college, added: "We know that climate change is on the agenda, particularly for young people, and that we need to act if we are to stop the 1.5 degree warming."

He added: "A recent poll of 40,000 young people showed that 95% have eco-anxiety, and as educators, we have a role to play in this. This project empowers young people to make change and gives the knowledge and skills required for the green economy."

THE **ROAR-SOME** CREW ARE **BACK** FOR A **BRAND NEW** ADVENTURE!

FRECKLE PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROSE THEATRE PRESENT

ZOG AND THE FLYING DOCTORS

BASED ON THE BOOK BY

JULIA DONALDSON * AXEL SCHEFFLER

MUSIC & LYRICS BY JOE STILGOE · ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY EMMA KILBEY

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BexhillShopping

BY VIKTORIA COWLEY

I love the fact that most shops and businesses in Bexhill are independently owned.

There are the stock norms of nationals which are welcomed and very much required but the ratio of independents is higher than that of neighbouring towns. Of course, having these home-grown businesses helps to improve the local economy ensuring local money stays local, and are often better for the environment since they use other local businesses themselves.

It's massively important to continue to promote local businesses. These are the businesses that are owned and

operated by our neighbours, our friends, our townspeople.

Local businesses are more accountable to their local communities, they support and donate more money to not-for-profit organisations, local schools, charities and local causes. Supporting local businesses is vital for the environment because they'll undoubtedly have a smaller carbon footprint than larger companies.

Have you ever heard the term: "People buy from people"? It's true! When was the last time you went into a local shop and, from a casual conversation with the owner or shop assistant, ended up buying that item you were eyeing up five minutes ago? Being in local business sells!

Products offered by independent businesses are often of better quality, and the shopping experience will be richer and more personable. Customer Service will be superior to the bigger stores as the relationship with customers is closer and they have the ability to order in products specifically for the individual.

Social media has really come into its own in the last 10 years in that, word of mouth has never been so valuable, and complaints and discord never been so vocal.

And if, in the unlikely event you have a problem or feedback about a particular item, you can speak to an actual human! In this fast-paced world of being virtual and automated, we still feel the need to communicate with real people.

WHAT TYPE OF SHOPPER ARE YOU?

I recently ran a poll across our social media channels and asking readers to rank themselves where they think they sit as a Shopper Type.

A total of 78 members answered the poll, with 31 of those selecting multiple answers.

Although this is only a small percentage of the total members of the group, it shows a great insight as to what kind of shopper you think you are and what it means to you and what it means for businesses.

Firstly, a 57:21 ratio of females to males answered, which surprised me as I didn't think many males would get involved, so thank you for stepping up and providing your valuable input!

Of those who answered, 10 think they are 2 types of shoppers, whilst 6 think they 3 and only 3 think they are 4 types of shopper.

Why is this important? Whilst we think we are a certain type, there are many factors that will make us more complex, for instance, a time restraint — do we make purchases in our lunch break for a pending birthday or other occasion? Time of year has a great impact on our spending — have we just received vouchers from a birthday or Christmas which helps us make unplanned purchases? Here's what the multiple responders said:

Bargain/Loyal: 4

Bargain/Loyal/Browser: 1

Bargain/Loyal/Impulse: 3

Bargain/Loyal /Browser/Mission: 1

Bargain/Loyal /Impulse/Mission: 1

Bargain/Impulse: 3

Bargain/Browser/Impulse: 2

Bargain/Browser/Showroom/Impulse: 1

Loyal/Educated: 2

Mission/Loyal: 1

This is so interesting because whilst those who chose multiple options, you can see there's a Bargain and Loyal streak running through the majority of the responses.

Why is this important? Whilst we will always go into the big giants to do our weekly or monthly shops, most shoppers love the high street and independent shops.

Looking at the bigger picture, here are the results of everyone who answered both just once and multiple times:

Bargain Hunter — 35%: From these results it's clear to see that as consumers, we love a discount! Walking past a window where the Sale tickets are on show just isn't an option — it's like a magnet!

Loyal Customer — 38%: Loyalty is also a brand! I'm not sure about the bigger towns, but here in Bexhill where we have a real community feel about town, the loyalty impact is strong, and we love to support our local independent stores. We know and love our shop owners and above all, we trust them to stock items that they know we will love!

Impulse Buyer — 20%: Impulse buying can be a run-off into other shopper types as you can argue that discount shopping is impulse buying, especially if that item is on sale in a shop we love to buy from. However, we can also buy high-end purchases on an whim for various different reasons as well.



Browser — 6%: Oh, how we love to window shop! Although, these results surprised me as I thought more people would confess to this. This indicates to me that window-shopping, as a past-time is on the decrease and we only actually go out and make those purchases we actually want. Another factor to this is that more people shop online, so I think this should be much higher as you can still browse a local independent shop online!

Interestingly, only one person who voted on the poll classed themselves as both a browser and a mission-driven shopper.

This indicates that they love to 'window-shop' but will only purchase something when they actually need to buy something.

Mission-Driven Shopper — 6%: This answer is more directed towards those who go out and do their weekly or monthly shopping in a supermarket. Of course, when I wrote the poll, I didn't give any direction as to what type of shopping you're doing. Still, even the big supermarkets change their end displays to try to entice you into making a last-minute purchase.

Educated Consumer — 4%: Not surprisingly, of those who think of themselves as being an educated consumer, over half of them are males. This means we will sometimes sit at home and do our research on, say, buying a car before going out looking for what we've found to be the most reliable and best value for money.

Showrooming Customer — 1%: Only two people voted that they think they're a showrooming customer. This is quite a new-age recognised category. Unlike the educated consumer who'll do their research before going out to purchase, a showrooming customer will go out and test drive that car, or

try on that dress, and then go home and try and find it cheaper online.

Indecisive Patron — 0%: Surprisingly, no one 'fessed up to being indecisive. Everyone seems to know which category or categories they fall into. Maybe that's because we have the power of the internet, so we can do our homework before going out to make that purchase, or we are able to test things out in a bricks-and-mortar shop before we make that online purchase. Whichever way round it is, I think we have so much more information to hand that being indecisive isn't possible anymore — the only indecision is whether you're going to make it a purchase or not!

So why is all this important? I think it's important to know what type of shopper you are and whether you think the shops and businesses in your town meet your needs as consumers. One thing I've become more aware of over the last few months when I've been in town is that the small independents are more willing to satisfy the needs of the consumer. By this, I mean that business owners will listen to customers' needs and if there isn't what they want in stock they'll happily go and find it for you. This builds up the trust aspect of shopping, which leads to loyalty purchases. This will give way to a rise in Browser and Educated Consumers, because if you've been into a shop where they have, say, that handbag you love but in a colour you don't, then by ordering it in a colour you love, you've shifted your shopper type from browser/educated and converted into a loyal and educated purchaser.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

DEREK CANTY ROUNDS-UP SOME OF THE LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT YOU CAN ENJOY AROUND BEXHILL AND SURROUNDING AREAS

UNSTABLE, BUT VERY ABLE!

BY DEREK CANTY

Whatever your taste in local live music, 'The Unstable Cliffs' duo of Ray and Jim has got it covered. This versatile duo play anything, covering numbers from the '50s to today! Be it Rock, Pop, Blues or Country, it's on their list.



They put their claim into practice last month at The Albatross Club on the Bexhill seafront. The weather was glorious and perfect for a session on the crowded large patio.

The Eagles, Queen, Tom Petty, The Kinks and many more all got an airing, from just the two of them, a bass guitar, a lead guitar and a drum machine. Well worth watching out for more gigs.

Since its recent total refurbishment, The Albatross is now a firm favourite for local live music, and apart from the live gigs, the Club has a regular programme of music events including folk nights and ukulele sessions upstairs, and live performances downstairs when the winter weather sets in.

BOWIE WOWS THE COLONNADES



The Colonnades was the venue for a sun-drenched Sunday Space Oddity last month when David Bowie tribute act Steve Dunnett wowed the packed crowd for over an hour.

The one-man show was under no pressure as he glided through all Bowie's big hits and had the packed crowd onside right from the start.

Steve powered through Changes, Heroes, Life On Mars, Ashes To Ashes, and Rebel Rebel, to name but a few, with consummate ease.

Watch out for more summertime events at this stunning beachside venue.

A HOT ONE AT THE HARP



The Harp pub in Devonshire Road had the mercury rising on Sunday July 10 - and it wasn't just the weather!

The packed house was playing host to the eclectic bunch of lads known as The Fieldstone Boys. They treated the drinkers to a diverse range of musical tastes, from Chas & Dave, The Beatles, a touch of Country, plus their take on some good old Skiffle.

It was great to see the old 'tea-chest/broom stick and string' banging out the bass notes. It was their debut at The Harp, so watch out for them again as they've already been asked back.

CUSTOM BUILT FOR GREAT MUSIC



Photo: Sy Martin, Uniquephotography

"An awesome jamming event" is how photographer Sy Martin described a recent regular Thursday night at The Custom Cafe, on the Barnhorn Road.

He described it as "a top session, with friendly people at an amazing venue."

Organiser Ashley Davies said: "Just turn up with your voice or instrument, and play, either solo or part of a made-up band on the night!"

The Jam sessions are every Thursday from 6pm.

ROCKSALT HOSTS THE OTHER BAND



The Other Band, well known for its mix of R&B, Americana, and Blues, braved an indoor set at Bexhill's bustling brasserie, Rocksalt, during the hot spell last month.

A lively crowd spread out at tables outside while those not too bothered by the heat stayed inside. Always a warm welcome from the staff, even in winter! As well as Rocksalt, The Other Band are regulars around town, with gigs at The Bathing Station on the East promenade in Summer months, The Harp in Devonshire Road, and Traffors Bar on Egerton Road. Catch them if you can.

ELVIS WOWS THE CROWDS



Elvis tribute act Gary J Foley wowed the 80-strong audience at the Poppy Club in Little Common on July 9 with a great performance, which covered The King's early hits right through to the Vegas era.

When he wasn't up on stage, he was down with the crowd, working the room. For over two hours he had the whole place in his hands. Until the final message over the PA: "Elvis has left the building..."

HOT STUFF FROM STEVIE BART



In soaring sunshine, Stevie Bart kept his cool and delivered a blistering set at The Colonnade last month.

The packed venue saw Stevie run through his repertoire of favourite rock'n'roll numbers including hits from Bill Haley, Buddy Holly, Elvis, Chuck Berry and many more. As hot as it was, it didn't stop the more energetic couples from some serious jiving.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

CLIMATE CHANGE FOR BEXHILL



The town council formally recognised the climate and nature emergency in June 2020.

We have been busy developing a Climate Action Plan in collaboration with local people based on emissions data and by looking at best practice in other local towns.

We held an engagement workshop, where local people had the opportunity to work directly with people who had local expertise in 5 key areas. Local solutions for transportation, reducing food waste, improving

green energy usage, improving biodiversity and wildlife and creating a circular economy have been put forward by local people.

We are now putting together a list of suggestions for the council to adopt as our plan for the town. We will be working in collaboration with local organisations, business, and residents to have as much impact as we can on the effects of climate change.

Cllr Ben Izzard, Vice Chair of Climate, Nature and Environment committee said: "In a first of its kind council to community engagement workshop, it was amazing to see over 60 local people join councillors and experts to create real and workable local solutions to our local climate challenges.

These solutions not only pave the way for a way our community to reduce our town damaging emissions, but also provide an opportunity for us to invest in our town economy to create a healthier, more productive and a more beautiful town that will continue to provide an amazing home for generations. I look forward to supporting the council to collate the solutions out forward and to have the opportunity to present an achievable climate action plan for our town and our communities to work towards"

THE 'BIG SURVEY 2021' NEXT STEPS

The town council has been busy reviewing all of the comments and suggestions made in the 'Big Survey' that we carried out last year.

There were strong views about the town council improving the toilet facilities and a clear mandate to tidy up the town, including targeting graffiti and litter. Accessibility around the town was a concern, and we are already looking into this with our accessibility working group.

This working group is open to members of the public too, so if you would like to join us in investigating ways we can make our town easier to get around do get in touch. We are now putting together a strategic plan from all these ideas, with a view to approving our 5 year budget this year to enable us to start delivering these important projects for Bexhill. Our autumn meetings will see the draft plan coming together for debate and discussion. Keep an eye on our website for more information, and email us your views.

POLICE UPDATES



With local concerns that there may be an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour, Inspector Olivia Carroll with PCSO Sarah Hunt walked with Town Councillor Tony Carroll around Sidley, the officers engaged with the public and listened to their concerns, offering advice and support, and seeing first hand the great things going on in our community.

We encourage you to report all incidents, no matter how small, to 101 so that intelligence can be gathered and used to address and reduce local crime.

AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

THE FIRST DISCRETIONARY SERVICE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING FOR LOCAL DEVOLVEMENT IS THE PUBLIC TOILET PROVISION ACROSS BEXHILL.



Town Councillors from the Asset Transfer Committee visited all the WC sites and

were shocked at the poor state of the conveniences, and it was agreed for the town council to begin negotiating the transfer of this service from Rother District Council (RDC).

RDC has agreed in principle to devolve the WC's to the town council, with up to £200,000 funding to help with the refurbishment plans.

Mayor Paul Plim said: "Our toilets have been neglected for far too long and with many closing, up and down the country, I hope that the town council is able to work out a deal that ensures the protection and improvement of our public toilets for the foreseeable future, that keeps the costs to our taxpayers at a minimum. We are best placed to negotiate good value local contracts and manage services for our

residents."

Leader of RDC, Cllr Doug Oliver said: "The transfer of public conveniences to Bexhill-on-Sea-Town Council provides an opportunity to protect valued local facilities and to improve their quality for our residents. Rother District Council must make significant savings and efficiencies over the coming years to ensure it balances its budget without relying on Reserves. We are pleased to be working so positively with the Town Council to ensure the provision of these valued community facilities continues long into the future".

The next step is for RDC to report back with an independent condition survey of all 14 WCs for the town council to begin its negotiations.



THE INVASION OF HASTINGS!

A group of swashbucklers and scallywags, led by the Mayor of Bexhill, left our town one hazy morning in July, set to invade the landlubbers in Hastings!

It was all hands-on-deck, as Cllr Paul Plim, Cllr Stuart Wray, a Town Crier and the old salts from Bexhill United FC stormed Hastings Town Hall in a bid to capture the old sea dog, Mayor of Hastings Cllr James Bacon!

Thanks to Hastings Borough Council for being such good sports, a great day was had by all. If you would like the Mayor to visit your event or group please get in touch with the clerk town. clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

You don't have to be a member of a political party to stand for election to the town council in May 2023.

You can, of course, be a member of whichever and however many parties you like...subject to the party conditions...as parish and town council governance allows you to put party politics aside and act independently as a town councillor. So, whether you have strong political beliefs or are an interested resident that wants to make a difference to Bexhill, keep an eye out for news on how to apply to be a councillor in early 2023... We need you!

DID YOU KNOW?

Town and Parish councils operate within strict legislative governance, which is very different to that of District and County Councils.

Town and Parish Councillors have no powers to act alone and can only make decisions when in attendance at a properly convened meeting. So, if you have an issue or matter to be addressed by the town council, please contact your ward councillor and they can bring it to a meeting of the council for discussion.

Our meetings are held at various venues around Bexhill, our next full council meeting is at

All Saints School, in Sidley, on 7th September at 7pm. You can check the latest meeting dates and venues on our website www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk. All are welcome to come along and watch the decision making in action.

A list of councillors contact details and the wards they work in is on our website, if you need help you can contact the clerk directly: town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk



NEW MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY GETS THUMBS-UP

Planning permission has been granted to build a new 54-bed mental health hospital on a site in Mount View Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, to replace out-dated services at the Department of Psychiatry in Eastbourne.

Funding for the new hospital is being made available under the national eradicating mental health dormitories programme.

Construction on site is set to begin early in 2023 and will be completed by the end of 2024, beginning of 2025.

At the same time, the Council granted outline planning permission 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.

Programme Director, Paula Kirkland, said: "This decision is a major milestone 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.

"We are delighted that Rother District Council's planning committee 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.

"As the project progresses, we will continue to involve the local community as much as we can to ensure that not only will the new facilities provide high quality care for people but also become a real asset to the Bexhill area."

Dr Andrew Hodson, local Medical Director for East Sussex and Mental Health Lead for NHS Sussex, added: "We welcome the planning committee's approval and the 'green light' it gives us to move on to the next stage of our project.

"The new hospital will not only remove out-dated dormitory accommodation, replacing the current shared wards with individual rooms, each with ensuite bathrooms, it will also provide a modern and improved therapeutic environment for patients and create enough capacity to meet future inpatient needs. It is great news for the people of East Sussex and our local health and care system."

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. 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 to 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.

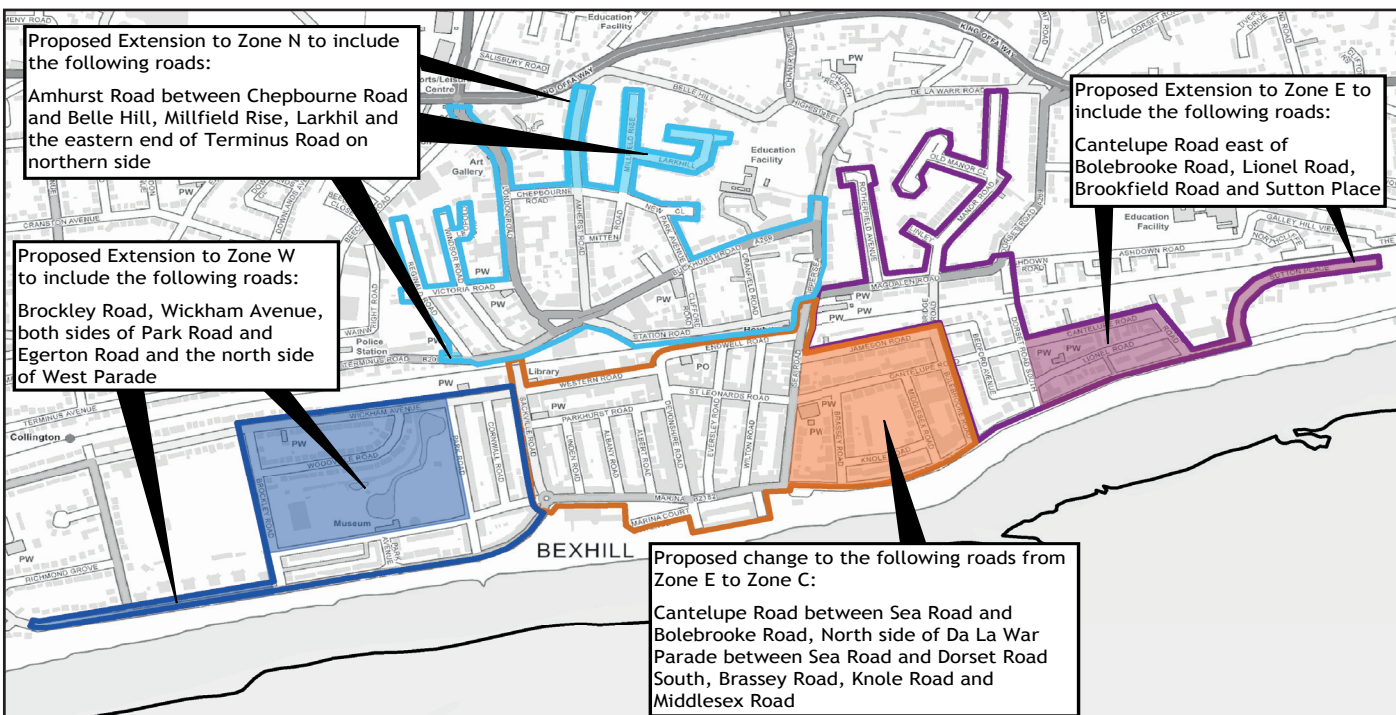
Also, most people either strongly agreed or tended to agree with plans to potentially extend the site in the future to create a campus to provide all hospital-based mental health services in East Sussex.

Details of the planning application can be found on the Rother District Council website: 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

Anyone wanting to share their thoughts with SPFT can do so through its dedicated email address: esxccg.eastsussex.mh@nhs.net

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARKING RULES



The County Council has published its informal consultation into proposals to extend and amend the current Civil Parking Enforcement Zones.

Good news for residents in Woodville Road and the far end of Wickham Ave who have been campaigning to be included in the proposed extension of the West Zone to include residents parking permits and for pay and display in

Brockley Road. The proposed extended scheme also includes double yellow lines on the junctions which will help improve road safety.

Also, restrictions in Amherst Road, Millfield Rise and Larkhill where the North Zone may be extended to stop all day parking by non residents by introducing residents permits and pay and display.

The proposal also includes making New Park Ave Pay and Display as well as permit parking. There will also be relief at the far end of Cantelupe Road, Brookfield and Lionell Road and The Suttons where the County Council are proposing to extend the East Zone to cover the residential roads blighted by displacement parking.

There are also proposals to introduce a small extension to the current scheme in Terminus Road as well as introduce extra permit only bays in some of the Town Centre streets and around Egerton Park where there is a big take up of residents permits.

Residents living on the boundary of Central and East Zone will be pleased to see that the Central Zone is extended to Dorset Road South. This means that if you have a Central Zone permit there will be more opportunities to find a space.

The other big proposal is to extend parking restrictions from 8am to 6pm to 8am to 8pm which is the current arrangement for parking adjacent to the seafront.

Cllr Christine Bayliss who has supported the residents campaign group Bexhill Better Parking said "I can't stress this enough, if you are in favour of the proposed changes to the Zones then you need to register your support. If the County Council receive more objections than support they will drop the proposed change. My message is don't leave it to someone else - they may be leaving it to you".

Cllr Ian Hollidge is the County Councillor for Bexhill South and has offered to answer any questions and explain how the parking review processes will proceed. He's happy to explain reasons why residents have requested new restrictions.

Residents have until 12th August to have their say on the proposals.

PROMISING DEVELOPMENTS FOR LOCAL HEALTHCARE



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

Keeping services as local to our residents as possible is a priority for all district councillors who recognise the additional pressure having to travel to get help and support puts on people.

It is not always in our control, but we work closely with providers and offer as much support as possible when there is an opportunity to bring services closer to our residents.

And these efforts have resulted in a real boost for services in Bexhill, which will benefit the district as a whole.

I was delighted to hear confirmation that that a £2 million NHS Diagnostic Centre will be opening in Bexhill in September, making it easier for people to get blood tests, X-rays and scans.

The new centre will be based in the converted former car showroom in Beeching Road, following a lease agreement between Rother District Council as the building owner and the NHS. It will provide state-of-the-art equipment to allow patients referred by East Sussex Healthcare to have potentially life-saving checks carried out closer to home.

The news came following the official opening of the new community paediatrics child development service in the district. The centre has opened at the former Egerton Park Children's Centre.



We were very concerned at the loss of services for families with young children when the children's centre closed, so were extremely pleased to see East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust open this dedicated centre to provide a wide range of services for those children that need additional support locally.

And the boost in local NHS services doesn't stop there.

Pending planning approval, we could soon see a new 54-bed mental health hospital being built in the town, replacing the outdated services at the Department of Psychiatry in

Eastbourne.

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust plans to develop a site in Mount View Street, Bexhill and have recently applied to Rother District Council for planning permission.

Mental and physical wellbeing of our residents is extremely important to Rother District Council and we are keen to support local groups and organisations across the district.

At the recent Cabinet meeting, my colleagues and I were pleased to approve two separate requests to use parts of a recreation ground to run their clubs.

A shortage of facilities has meant that Sidley Cricket Club has had to play in Hastings, but the club, which organises cricket for all ages, will be returning to the area after we agreed to give them exclusive rights to use a section of St Mary's Recreation Ground.

The move will allow them to reconnect with the local community and provide opportunities for more people to get involved in the sport - an extremely positive thing for Rother.

At the same meeting, we were happy to give permission for a remote-control car club to use another section of the same recreation ground.

The 1066 RC Racing Club were kind enough to give councillors a demonstration of their hobby and we were all very impressed by the work and skills involved.

The health and wellbeing of our residents is a top priority. I am so pleased we have been able to support all of these initiative and developments, and hope that we can continue to do so.

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THE NEW MALTBY'S

Many people will recognise the name Maltbys as a well-established Commercial Property Agency run by the Maltby family since 1894. At its peak, there were 16 branches across the South of England. Their ethos being, to offer a complete package by providing commercial and residential surveying services, sales, lettings, and property management.



Maltbys office in 2009

After changing hands in 2019, the newly named company, now known as 'Maltbys Property Management' was established by Patrick Hanlon; a local resident, multi-business owner, and landlord of one of the largest property portfolios in Sussex. Patrick saw this as an opportunity to form a property management company who put clients and customer service at its forefront. His aim – to change the industry for landlords in Bexhill and Hastings, providing them with a multi-service offering without the hassle and unnecessary fees that some landlord's experience.

In 2020 Patrick appointed Gemma Duffield as Branch Manager. With her extensive experience and qualifications in sales and lettings, Gemma came in with a strong vision of what Maltbys should be. Gemma's main priority was to change the perception of the 'typical estate agent' by building a team who are both experienced in what they do, and passionate about people and property. Since then, the company has undergone a complete transformation including a fresh modern rebrand and a whole new team who share the company's core values.

During 2021 their property management portfolio quadrupled, leading to the addition of experienced Property Manager Sian Earwaker to head up the department. Sian then set up their block management service in January 2022 and now manages over 30 blocks across Bexhill and Hastings. Their goal is to provide an honest and transparent service to their clients whilst ensuring all of their properties are compliant with the latest legislation. With the lettings industry being one of the most highly regulated sectors in the UK Maltbys have strict systems in place to monitor and maintain the management of each property.

At Maltbys, staff training and development plays a vital role in the growth of the company. They offer in-house apprenticeships and are keen to invest in talented individuals looking to get into the profession. Whether it be learning the ropes in sales and lettings as a trainee negotiator, or supporting roles within the property management team, Maltbys are always on the lookout for new talent.

A key component to Maltbys' success is their ability to build strong relationships with their clients, who come back time and time again. They believe being a Commercial Agent is much more than just selling or letting a property. Finding a new premises for a company or individual doesn't just end when they hand over the keys, they continue to provide support to their tenants to help them succeed.

As active members of the local community, Maltbys are keen to promote local businesses and events. This month

they are proud to support Bexhill 100 Motoring Club in their upcoming August Bank Holiday classic car show celebrating the 120th anniversary of the first motor races.

Maltbys are looking forward to making more connections within the local area and are keen to speak to anybody who may benefit from the broad range of services that they offer.

Due to the continued expansion of the company, Maltbys are excited to share that they will be relocating to a larger office in Bexhill later this year with a second branch set to open in Hastings early 2023. The new Bexhill office will provide space for local organisations to come together for meetings and networking events. The team look forward to welcoming everyone through their new doors soon!



From left to right - Saffron Way; Celine Lear; Cheryl Renner; Gemma Duffield; Sian Earwaker; Lynda Humphrey-Stack; Centre - Marley the Office Dog.

M **COMING SOON**

£675 PCM
Albert Road
Bexhill-On-Sea

Key features:

- One bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Newly refurbished
- Town Centre location
- Close to seafront
- Convenient public transport links
- Long term tenant preferred
- Viewing essential

M **FEATURED PROPERTY**

£550,000
Ninfield Road
Bexhill-On-Sea

Key features:

- Freehold investment opportunity
- 2,243 Sq Ft
- 2 x 2 Bedroom flats
- 2 x 1 Bedroom flats
- Juliette balconies on top floor flats
- Recently refurbished
- High street location
- All Tenant's on AST's
- Annual rental income of £30,180

BexhillProperty

CITY MARKETS HEAT UP AS COMPETITION COOLS BY THE COAST

New insight from the UK's biggest property website Rightmove reveals that after two years of frenzied activity since the pandemic began, competition between buyers and renters in many coastal areas is beginning to cool.

Competition is measured by the number of buyers or renters contacting estate agents in an area, compared with the number of properties available in that area. As demand eases and the number of available properties increases in an area, competition between buyers or renters becomes less fierce.

Cities heat up while the coast cools

In Bexhill, one of the key hotspots for people looking to move from an urban to a coastal area over the last two years, competition between buyers is an average of 31% lower than it was this time last year. The average asking price for a property locally is £366,396.

For renters in Cornwall, competition between tenants has eased by an average of 31%, with a jump of 29% in new properties coming to the market to rent compared to this time last year, while demand is still 19% up on last year's levels.

At a local level, Ilfracombe in Devon has seen the biggest easing in competition for buyers, dropping 64% compared to a year ago. For renters it is Barton-on-Sea in Hampshire (-77%).



Across all seaside areas, competition has eased by an average of 10% for buyers and 1% for renters compared to last year.

However, this easing comes after exceptional competition in coastal areas since the pandemic began. Competition to buy a home in Cornwall is still more than twice (+132%) what it was this time in 2019, and more than three times for renters (+249%).

In all seaside areas, competition is up an average of 135% between buyers compared to 2019, and 216% for tenants.

While coastal areas begin to cool, competition between buyers and renters has risen across Great Britain's 50 largest

cities — by an average of 13% for buyers, and 29% for renters over the last year.

Bath (+49%), Carlisle (+42%) & Newcastle-upon-Tyne (+36%) top the list for buyers, while Edinburgh (+165%), Salford (142%) and London (140%) top the list for renters compared to a year ago. Buyer competition has increased by 35% in London.

THE MARKET REMAINS BUSY

While there are signs of the market easing off in some of the past two years' most frenetic hotspots, it remains very busy compared to the more normal market of 2019, and the imbalance between supply and demand will take many months to calibrate.

On a national scale, buyer demand, measured by the total number of people contacting estate agents about available properties, is up by a quarter (26%) compared to this time in 2019, while the number of new listings is down by 11%.

The market is moving at record speed, with the current 32 days to find a buyer being the near-shortest ever, and the number of sales being agreed is up by 7% compared to 2019.

The strength of the market means that 16% less properties are seeing reductions in price after listing compared to 2019.

Tim Bannister, Rightmove's Director of Property Science comments: "Since the market reopened at the beginning of the pandemic, there has been exceptional demand to move to coastal areas, and as the months progressed supply was increasingly unable to match demand. Now, we're seeing that though demand is still very high in many coastal areas, it has slowed from the heady levels seen in parts of 2020 and 2021. We're also seeing this on a national scale, where demand is very slowly easing compared to last year, but remains very high compared to 2019. As more choice becomes available in these seaside areas, we're seeing some of the competition between buyers and renters begin to cool off, however, no two local markets are the same, and it will take many months for supply to reach a better balance with demand in many coastal areas."

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BexhillMotoring



MINI REVEALS NEXT GENERATION CONCEPT

A sneak preview into the future of the MINI brand has been unveiled in the form of a striking, fully-electric, medium-sized SUV called the 'Concept Aceman'.

In the next model generation, the MINI Cooper in the iconic three-door body shape, which has been reinterpreted time and again over its entire 60-plus-year history, will be joined by a crossover model for the first time.

The MINI Concept Aceman provides an initial glimpse of a completely new vehicle, bridging the space between the MINI Cooper and the MINI Countryman in the model family's future. This concept car reflects how MINI is reinventing itself for its all-electric future and what the brand stands for: an electrified go-kart feel, an immersive digital experience and a strong focus on a minimal environmental footprint.

The early images released by the manufacturer show a clear and reduced exterior and interior design with surfaces constructed from knitted recycled textile with fresh colour contrasts combine with seamless digital controls, with a new OLED display as the central interface.

The concept car's cockpit is consistently reduced to the bare essentials, just as the designer of the classic MINI had in mind in 1959. Alec Issigonis designed an interior which, in addition to the seats, steering wheel and gear lever, needed nothing more than a central round instrument and toggle switch bar to experience an unrivalled driving pleasure.

A functional two-box design with short overhangs creates the maximum amount of space for occupants and luggage, with minimal surface area. The MINI Concept Aceman has four doors and a large boot lid with interior seating for five.

It also has generous proportions with an exterior length of 4.05 metres, a width of 1.99 metres and a height of 1.59 metres. The upright front of the MINI Concept Aceman has a striking presence. The brand's iconic design features have been reinterpreted to reflect its crossover characteristics and all-electric drive. The radiator grille element at the centre of the vehicle front is surrounded by clear surfaces and the traditionally hexagonal outline has been further refined into an octagonal contour. The new design is accentuated by an illuminated surround. The LED contour lighting, in a shade of light green, provides a striking light signature in both, daytime running lights and in night design.

Innovative Experience Modes will generate new possibilities to individualise and personalise the driving experience in the interior of the MINI Concept Aceman. They combine specific displays and colour worlds, which are depicted on the

central interface panel and through interior projection, and a coordinated sound stage.

Drivers will be welcomed by a display area that extends beyond the central interface. Moving image projections can transfer the control system content to the entire dashboard, creating a digital experience extending right into the door panels. The projection opens up an infinite variety of representations – from a sharply outlined map to scattered images of clouds. The projection's colour scheme and lighting mood are accompanied by appropriate sound sequences.

Pop-Up Mode in the MINI Concept Aceman will provide drivers with eventful navigation and some surprising moments. The system suggests appropriate navigation destinations based on a category selected by the user, shows the route on the OLED display and via projection onto the dashboard. For example, you can choose an attractive leisure activity in the "Adventures" category, a popular restaurant under "Tasty" or a currently active event location as a "Trending" destination. Specific sounds are played for each category to bring even more of a sense of anticipation to the experience ahead.

The public will get its first sight of the MINI Concept Aceman at the gamescom 2022 computer and video games

fair in Cologne. The international gathering of developers, publishers, experts and aficionados of the gaming and E-Sports scene will begin on 23 August 2022 with a livestream and then continue until 28 August 2022 at the Cologne Exhibition Centre.



SUPPLY SHORTAGES SHACKLE NEW CAR MARKET PERFORMANCE

UK new car registrations fell -24.3% in June, according to the latest figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). The month saw 140,958 new vehicles registered, the weakest June performance since 1996.

Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) continued their growth streak, however, with a 14.6% increase in volume, as market share continued to grow, reaching 16.1%, up from 10.7% a year before. Conversely, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) uptake fell by 4,425 units to take a 5.5% market share. In total, plug-in vehicles comprised more than a fifth (21.6%) of new cars joining the road in the month. All other powertrains saw declines in registration volumes and market share apart from hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs), which, despite a 1,172 unit fall, increased their market share to 10.6%.

Declines were most significant in large fleets, which recorded a -27.6% fall in registrations, while private consumer volumes dropped by a more modest -21.7%. As a result, the fleet and business share of the market reduced to 50.7% as manufacturers prioritised private consumers in the supply-constrained environment.

Given the ongoing shortages of essential components, exacerbated by pandemic restrictions in China, global vehicle



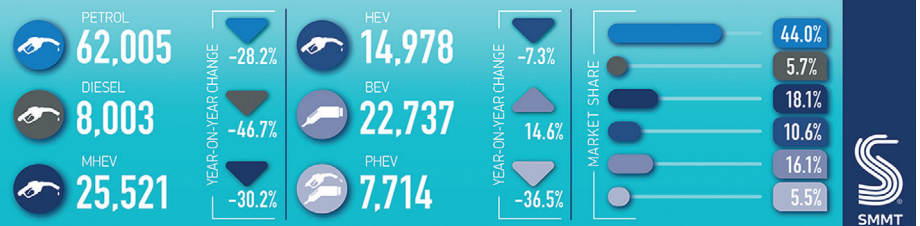
JUNE 2022

NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS

TOTAL: 140,958

-24.3%

YEAR-ON-YEAR CHANGE



production has struggled to keep up with demand throughout 2022. New car registrations for the year to date have fallen by -11.9% to 802,079 units – the weakest first half-year performance since 1992, bar 2020.1 Some 107,894 fewer new cars have been registered during the first half of 2022 compared with the same period last year – despite 2021 demand being restricted by dealership lockdowns until April, with consumers only able to buy vehicles through click and collect.

More positively, the electric vehicle market share continues to grow. Plug-ins account for a record one in five new car registrations year to date, demonstrating manufacturers' commitments to deliver the latest zero-

emission capable vehicles. The pace of this growth, however, is decelerating, with registrations up by 26.0% in the first half of 2022, compared with growth of 161.3% during the first half of 2021.2

While growth rates were expected to moderate as the market begins to establish itself, the slowdown is more than had been anticipated, leaving the market behind the industry's outlook.3 Part of this fall is attributable to the continuing supply chain shortages that are hampering production of all models, but the scrapping of the plug-in car grant means the UK is now the only major European market without purchase incentives for private EV buyers.

Mike Hawes, SMMT Chief Executive, said, "The semiconductor shortage is stifling the new car market even more than last year's lockdown. Electric vehicle demand continues to be the one bright spot, as more electric cars than ever take to the road, but while this growth is welcome it is not yet enough to offset weak overall volumes, which has huge implications for fleet renewal and our ability to meet overall carbon reduction targets. With motorists facing rising fuel costs, however, the switch to an electric car makes ever more sense and the industry is working hard to improve supply and prioritise deliveries of these new technologies given the savings they can afford drivers."

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Regional Media Group Ltd is one of the fastest growing newspaper publishing companies in the South-East, and we're looking for a talented Advertisement Sales Representative to join our expanding team.

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FULL-TIME FACILITIES COORDINATOR

Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council is seeking to appoint a full time Facilities Coordinator.

Duties will include carrying out the health and safety requirements for the council, managing allotment sites, liaising with allotment societies, administration of planned maintenance and coordinating reactive maintenance. Project management, contract compliance and risk checks will be an important part of the role.

The role will 37 hours per week and will entail some evening and weekend working.

The successful applicant will be based at the town council offices in Bexhill, working to a flexible shift rota that meets the needs of the facilities management plans. Additional evening and weekend hours shall be claimed as time off in lieu.

The ideal applicant will have facility management/health and safety experience, knowledge of procurement and contract complaints, and be able to demonstrate enthusiasm for working with residents and local organisations.

An application form is available on our website or by emailing town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk

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22nd October 10.45-12.15	-	5th November 10.45-12.15

Every Thursday from 10.30am - 12.00 Geoff & Clive will be at Bexhill Railway Station to answer your questions.
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FUN, FITNESS AND FRIENDSHIP - WALKING FOOTBALL GAINING IN POPULARITY

Walking football was introduced to the masses following a national TV ad campaign by Barclays in 2014, and since then, a local club has seen its membership grow from strength to strength.

The Old Bexhillians Walking Football Club was born the same year as the popular ad campaign when The Health & Community Development Manager of Age UK South East, Charles Sheldon started the group which is aimed at giving residents a place to keep fit in a non-competitive environment.

During the past few years, the club has organised numerous events that give players of age 50 plus the opportunity to partake in a sport they had thought they would never take part in again. It's made up of plus 50, 60 and 70-year-olds. Dave Willis, ex-Wimbledon F.A. Amateur Cup Final Winner also a club manager until he passed away at the start of 2022, aged 80.

The club runs a regular Tuesday morning event at the Bexhill Leisure Centre in the winter, and in the summer at the Little Common Recreation Ground where the members return to their roots by playing on grass.

Thursday nights the club hold sessions on the 3G surface at Bexhill College and during the winter at the indoor Bexhill Leisure centre facility.

Age UK South East sponsors the club, as well as barbecue event providers Harolds Hog Roast and stationery suppliers SBS Consumables. Rother Active was also involved in the early set-up stage and is responsible for making local people aware of the opportunities to be involved in walking cricket, netball and all sports.

Although the group is mainly non-competitive, there are members who naturally want to take part in the league, which came to a halt in 2020 due to the worldwide COVID-19 situation. Before that, however, the club was able to take part in their first ever European adventure by winning the plate prize at Aulnay,

France in 2019 and this year returned to again feature in a final that just saw them lose out on penalties.

Last year, the club were the instigator of the Aukes League, a homage to its sponsor Age UK South East - it involved two squads from the club viz: The OBWFC in the Premier League with the likes of Hastings, Eastbourne, Crisp Walkers (Eastbourne) and Battle, and the ATHA in the Championship with squads from Ringmer, Burwash, Eastbourne and Hastings.

It also has a thriving Over 70s squad for senior events, a squad that was captained by its late Captain Dave Willis who was still marshalling the troops not long before his passing. A regular in its 'Over 70s' outfit is 78-year-old Bob Nisbet, who only two years ago underwent a hip replacement.

Members also enjoy an active social side with regular gatherings and events which involve award evenings, quiz nights and other sporting activities. To contact the club call Mike Davies on 07961 008743 or email mickdavies48@gmail.com.



UNITED PREPARES FOR SEASON



It's been a busy month for Bexhill United FC, with pre-season training and friendly fixtures getting squads up to speed and ready for the season ahead.

There's been some positive results and a chance for the Bexhill faithful to see new signings for the first time.

Ryan has retained the majority of the first team squad and has been able to attract the signatures of some eye-catching players to bolster the squad for the 2022/23 SCFL premier division season.

With the cricket holding the Polegrove until mid-September, the club starts its season with all away games, some of these being declared 'home' games which for this season will take place at the Eastbourne Borough ground.

The scheduled fixtures at Priory Lane are: 6th August FA Cup Vs North Greenford United FC, 29th August Vs Eastbourne United FC and 10th September vs AFC Uckfield FC.

The club hopes its regular supporters will travel to Eastbourne to cheer on the Pirates in these games.

First fixture scheduled at the Polegrove promises to be a cracker against Eastbourne Town FC on 21st September KO 19:30 where a large crowd is expected.

The club is thanking Bexhill Carnival for allowing it to organise the Carnival Football tournament this year, the first night hosted U7, U8 and U9's from around the local clubs. It went down well with over 150 young players getting the chance to show their skills in front of huge crowds of cheering families.



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SPORT



WALKING
FOOTBALL
PAGE 34



UNITED PREPARES PAGE 34



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL FEVER TAKES HOLD IN BEXHILL

With the UEFA Women's Euro now at an end with an incredible result, Katie Wilde, Team Manager of Bexhill United Ladies Football Club talks to Active Rother about the club's new free women's sessions, their involvement in the community, and the importance of promoting football at a grassroots level.

"Bexhill United Ladies Football Club is an established (1989) standalone women's club. We currently have two adult teams, one competitive and one recreational, and we provide football opportunities for girls aged 5+.

Bexhill United Ladies' First Team currently play in the London South East Regional Women's Football League (step 6), with the recreational team enjoying friendlies and football festivities. All abilities are welcome and we actively invite prospective players to come along to a session and be a part of the club.

How long have you personally been involved in the club?

I joined the club when I was 14, and aside from a five year stint when I was away at university, I have been involved in it since then.

Was the whole club excited for the UEFA Women's EURO 2022?

Yes, absolutely! Being the host nation meant we got the opportunity to immerse ourselves in what promised to be an exciting record-breaking international tournament. The sell-out England games, and final at Wembley, demonstrates that we are not alone in our excitement for what was a great EURO competition. A number of club members were lucky enough to secure tickets to experience games live, and it was great that there was extensive media coverage to allow fans to live and breathe as

much of the tournament as possible.

Tell us a little more about these new sessions you're running – what can people expect?

We welcome players of all abilities, and acknowledge that not everyone will have had an opportunity to play football before, so therefore may feel nervous about reaching out to an established team. For others, who may have played at school, the opportunity to continue playing may not have been possible, so it will be good to get these players involved back in the game. The sessions are introductory, covering core techniques and game understanding but, most importantly, will provide the chance to try something new in a fun and relaxed environment.

Why is it important to get ladies playing football at a grassroots level?

Since England reached the world cup semifinal three years ago, the domestic game has come a long way. Greater investment and visibility, together with the launch of the professional league, has seen women's football become one of the county's fastest growing sports.

Getting women and girls of all ages involved further fuels the development and ensures players can reap the many benefits the sport provides.

Of course, there are physical benefits of playing sport but there are many social and psychological benefits too.

Players of today will inspire the players of tomorrow. In light of the 50 year ban imposed by the FA on women's football, it's important to ensure everyone now has access to the game.

THE 83RD BEXHILL OPEN BOWLS TOURNAMENT

The committee of The Bexhill Open Bowls Tournament are working hard to make its latest tournament a great week for all the players and spectators.

It will commence at the Polegrove Bowling Greens from Sunday 31st July till Saturday 6th August 2022.

The format will be singles, pairs and triples for men and singles and pairs for ladies with an open two bowl singles and a new 'Jubilee mixed pairs' competition taking place mid-week.

There is a new addition to the tournament this year who goes by the name of "BOB" The Bexhill Open Bar, a mobile bar that will travel up and down the side of the greens supplying drinks to the bowlers and spectators.

WESTFIELD I VS BEXHILL III – SUSSEX LEAGUE DIV 9 EAST MATCH REPORT



Selection boosted by the absence of a Second XI fixture Bexhill entered the game (30 July) unusually confident and on winning the toss elected to bat.

However, a score of 169 (Richard Matthews 36, Felix Holland 26, Dom Carey 22 & Louis Haffenden 29*) looked below par on a high-scoring ground.

Westfield's dual strike force of Tod Tucker (3-41) and league-leading wicket taker Darren Corke (5-30) stemmed the runs with a regular flow of dismissals.

In reply Westfield's innings was stifled early by Jamie Wicks (4-16) and only Sam Jarvis (34) really got going.

Jake Beale took 3-28 and Haffenden 3-21 to see the hosts dismissed for 118 in 35 overs.

Next week Bexhill entertain second-placed Selmeston.

SUMMER SPORT CAMP PLACES

Fun & engaging coaching and games sessions in Bexhill are being opened up to local children this Summer holiday.

The Skiltek Sport camps are running throughout August from as little as £10 per day. They take place at St. Richard's Catholic College in Ashdown Road, and are open to children from 5 to 12 years old and run from 9am till 3pm.

Coaches are UEFA and FA Qualified, DBS cleared, emergency aid trained and child safeguarding certified.

For more information, visit www.skiltekssport.co.uk or call 0800 1930703.

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