

Bexhill News

SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 03

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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to yet another packed edition of *Bexhill News* — it's been an incredibly lively month in town, not all for the good unfortunately.

Bexhill has hit national news recently as the town suffered a huge sewage discharge which has polluted our beautiful waters. This has put the towns businesses trying to recover from not only COVID but also rising operating costs.

It was so sad to walk along the promenade recently and see our beaches empty — it's certainly not what any of us expect to see at this time of year, when they should be packed with residents and holidaymakers.

I seriously hope some we get some huge answers in the coming weeks and months from the big wigs who have simply let this happen. Read our full story about how Bexhill coped with the sewage discharge on page 4.

On the good side, we are welcoming a new member of the team. Bexhill resident, Kim Mayo is now our Features Editor and will be working on all future editions of the newspaper to ensure we bring you the news that matters to you.

Kim brings a wealth of experience from local and national journalism and was previously a News Editor at Brighton based *The Argus*.

Always remember, this is a community newspaper and we're here for you! The last few editions would be nothing if it wasn't for you, the reader, contacting us about issues that matter to your and your fellow Bexhillians.

Keep those stories coming as we love giving them the coverage they deserve in the media.

Paul Gibson, Editor

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UKRAINIANS SAY, 'THANK YOU BEXHILL'



Bexhill Town Mayor Paul Plim, Father Robert from St Augustine's Church, Rev Jonathan Fraiss from St Marks Church, Rev David Lockwood from Beulah Baptist Church, and Susan Gedge from Rother Voluntary Action, joined in the celebrations.

Fifty Ukrainian nationals along with their children and English hosts joined together recently to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day and to thank the people of Bexhill.

A public meeting in Devonshire Square took place with songs and speeches with the help of an interpreter and was followed by a walk along the prom and a picnic in the sun outside the De La Warr Pavilion featuring Ukrainian food.

Natalia Serbezova said: "We want to thank the people of the town for opening their hearts and their homes to us. We are so emotional about our own country and there

are terrible things happening there, but at the same time we are so grateful to the English people for their kindness".

Town Councillor Viv Taylor-Gee, coordinator of the Bexhill Hub to Support Ukraine said: "We all found this very moving, especially on this bittersweet day that marks 31 years of independence for Ukraine."

The Ukrainian hub runs two drop-ins for refugees on Wednesdays at Beulah Baptist Church and Friday's at the De La Warr Pavilion. The drop-ins offer friendship and a place to relax and find friends, table tennis and toys for the children, English classes,

English conversation sessions, a trauma therapy group and other activities.

Viv Taylor-Gee added: "The Ukrainian guests are learning English as fast as they can and many now have jobs. But, not all the hosts can continue to offer their hospitality beyond six months, so we are looking for some more, urgently! We need to find more people to come forward. Some to take in guests who are already here and working, some to help with short-term placements and some for new arrivals. This is a big commitment, we know that. But there is a lot of goodwill, support and joy to be had."



Steve Hall 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 can be contacted at steve54.hall@gmail.com.

YOUR 60-SECOND COFFEE BREAK WITH CHRIS DABBS TO LISTEN FOR THIS ISSUE'S FUN FACTS, SCAN THE QR CODE

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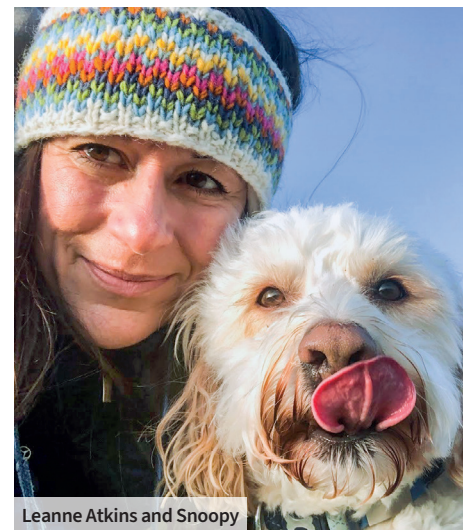
FURY OVER SEWAGE LEAK



Galley Hill Water Treatment Plant



One of a few signs put up for beach users



Leanne Atkins and Snoopy

**REPORT BY FEATURES EDITOR
KIM MAYO**

A LEADING Conservative MP has called for immediate action after stark warnings from Rother District Council about the risks of beachgoers venturing into the water after a spate of sewage leaks into the sea off Bexhill, but his "lack of action" has been blasted by the irate president of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce & Tourism.

Howard Martin said: "At the end of the day this fiasco lies at the door of Huw Merriman. Southern Water is responsible for this and he has direct access to them. It is nothing short of a disgrace.

"The shutting of our beaches has hit our businesses extremely hard and we are demanding swift action.

"Mr Merriman should already be negotiating a significant compensation package for our businesses and our residents who have been so badly affected by this scandal, because that is what it is.

"There has to be a compensation package and it needs to be a sum of at least a million pounds. He was elected to represent us and he needs to be directly involved in this process rather than just writing letters and issuing statements.

"Why should our businesses suffer because of the incompetence of Southern Water which makes astronomical profits every year?"

Fortunately, it seems the warnings about the sewage leak were largely heeded with beaches deserted despite the warm weather which would normally see the pebbles crammed with sun-seekers at this time of the year with the summer season in full flow.

Southern Water issued a statement which said: We are very sorry to say that significant issues with electrical power at one of our

wastewater pumping stations caused a release into the sea at Bexhill.

"As a result, Rother District Council made the difficult decision to advise the closure of Bexhill and Normans Bay beaches."

Mr Merriman is among a group of Sussex MPs who have called for immediate action to be taken.

In a letter to Southern Water and the Environment Agency the group, including Mr Merriman, said: "Once again, the rivers and coastline across Sussex are being blighted by the discharge of sewage.

"In addition to the obvious environmental and community impact, the closure of popular beaches and restrictions on inland waterways causes financial loss to the numerous business which rely on our beaches and rivers."

The MPs are now seeking a meeting in Parliament with both Southern Water and the Environment Agency to come up with an effective action plan which can be implemented as soon as possible.

They are also calling for details to be revealed of every discharge across their respective constituencies.

In a separate letter, addressed to Sir James Bevan, chief executive of the Environment Agency and to Lawrence Gosden, chief executive of Southern Water, Mr Merriman added: "Southern Water's own mapping showed that over a period of 72 hours, some 15 discharges occurred following recent downpours.

"I believe these discharges are caused by operational failures at the treatment works or via the outfalls process, regulated by the Environment Agency and used by Southern Water to permit sewage discharge where sewers were built to carry both wastewater and rainwater away from communities.

"While the outfall process may help to protect homes and communities from

flooding and pollution by stopping sewers overflowing or backing up during periods of large rainfall, it leaves our rivers and coastline to take the hit. This is unacceptable.

"There needs to be urgent investment in pumping and treatment assets to ensure they do not fail and cause major sewage discharge incidents."

Mr Gosden took over as chief executive of Southern Water at the beginning of July this year, having previously been the chief operating officer of the company.

He replaced Ian McAuley who in 20/21 was paid a basic salary of £435,000 while also receiving a bonus of more than half a million pounds.

Angry Bexhill resident and business owner Rachel Streeter was among many to voice her concerns.

She said: "It was very disappointing recently when we couldn't access the beach, especially as Southern Water keep coming up with the same old excuses.

"What is the point of living near the sea when you can't enjoy it?"

"My mum recently picked up a nasty bacterial infection after we had swum in the sea and had to go to hospital and she is not sure whether she wants to do it again.

"Sewage leaks should be treated as a criminal offence, especially as fly tipping is, for example.

"I also worry about the effect it has on our local wildlife, not just the fish but potentially on the seals which are regularly in the sea off our coastline."

Meanwhile, a dog owner and walker, whose beloved pet became seriously ill after cavorting in the sea off Bexhill beach last year, has also hit out over sewage discharges into the sea.

Leanne Atkins said: "My dog Snoopy became very ill in September last year. He went swimming in the sea in Bexhill early one evening on his walk with my husband and I.

"Later that night Snoopy became very distressed. I took him into the garden straightaway and he started vomiting and was suffering with diarrhoea.

"This continued throughout the night and he was also very lethargic. I knew he hadn't eaten anything he shouldn't have because I had been with him the whole day.

"He was still sick the next day so I made an appointment with the vet and they said they

suspected gastroenteritis. There had been a sewage leak the previous day and the vet suspected he had picked up an infection from the sea.

"My message to dog owners is to be very careful and mindful of the conditions when going on the beaches.

"Even if your dog is not going in the sea, which can look clean and clear, tidal changes happen and sewage deposits can get washed up on the shore, which dogs can then pick up.

"I have started using the Surfers' Against Sewage app which provides sewage pollution alerts.

"Being a professional dog walker, I am responsible for dogs in my care being safe. If you are at all worried about your dog contact your vet because it is better to be safe than sorry."

East Sussex Sussex County Councillor for Bexhill South, Ian Hollidge has written a letter to Christopher Janes, Stakeholder at Southern Water. It states: "I ask as a matter of urgency that a public meeting be held in Bexhill to address all the know factors and to reassure businesses and residents that all possible measures are put in place to ensure such spills are not repeated. I will be pleased to help arrange such a meeting the costs of which should be met by Southern Water."

A recent statement from Southern Water said: "The pumping station at Galley Hill remains in full operation. However, we continue our complex investigations, while maintaining our mobile generators on standby to prevent this happening again, and continuing staff monitoring 24 hours a day. We are continuing beach walks throughout the weekend. Again, We are deeply sorry for this incident and we understand the seriousness and distress this has caused."

Rother District Council has announced: "Investigations are underway and we will issue further updates as soon as possible."

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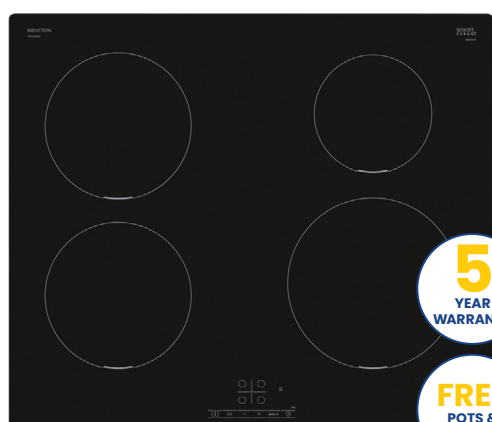
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REDDIE, EDDIE, GO...



Eddie Izzard at a Labour Party rally in Crouch End in 2015



REPORT BY FEATURES EDITOR
KIM MAYO

Eddie Izzard is reputedly planning to embark on a campaign to become an MP and has received backing from a leading Bexhill Labour Councillor.



Christine Bayliss, the Labour councillor for Bexhill Central

Christine Bayliss, the Labour councillor for Bexhill Central, said: "Eddie would be the perfect candidate to become an MP. He celebrates diversity, is empathetic and would be a major addition to the parliamentary party.

"Eddie supported me in my two previous attempts to become Labour MP for Bexhill and his support was invaluable.

"It would be absolutely great if Eddie ran to become an MP. He would be a huge asset if elected. I totally support him as he supported me when I stood for election in 2017 and 2019.

"He is a huge asset to Bexhill and the wider community."

When asked about her own political aspirations and whether she would run as a parliamentary candidate for Bexhill again, she responded: "I haven't ruled it out, but I haven't ruled it in either.



"There is still so much work to do in Bexhill as a councillor. "A good quality of life for residents in Bexhill and encouraging high-quality jobs to be offered by employers in the town needs to be prioritised and that is my key objective at this time."

Sixty-year-old Eddie has long been a supporter of the Labour Party and has campaigned tirelessly in the past, but now it is believed he will be actively seeking election to Parliament although he remains relatively tight-lipped on the subject.

The renowned comedian, writer, actor and charity fundraiser from Bexhill has previously hinted that when the time is right he intends to seek political office although the exact timescale remains unclear.

There is considerable speculation that he will choose to stand as a candidate in Sheffield, a Labour stronghold where Eddie previously lived and studied at the University of Sheffield.

Although Eddie was brought up in Bexhill and has a close association with the town, it remains a Conservative stronghold, therefore it makes perfect sense to seek election elsewhere where chances of succeeding would be considerably enhanced.

Speaking to the Clive Anderson podcast, Eddie said: "I was pushing to be an MP in the last General Election and I am hoping to be an MP in the next General Election.

"I will try very hard to get there and hope the people of the constituency I'm going for will elect me. So, I'm very serious about it. I have said it since 2010, quite categorically."

Rumours continue to swirl in Labour circles that Eddie will seek to stand in the Sheffield Central constituency when the current incumbent Paul Blomfield steps down come the next General Election.

Eddie, who was born in Yemen, has long campaigned on human rights issues, while also raising millions for charity,

most notably running 43 marathons in the space of 51 days in 2009 for Sport Relief and then embarking on a further epic challenge in 2016 by running 27 marathons in 27 days in South Africa to raise millions for charitable causes. Those endeavours made headlines around the world.

Prior to the 2009 challenge, Eddie admitted he had never attempted long distance running before and had just five weeks of training.

But politics has continued to play a key role, having appeared on BBC's Question Time and repeatedly voicing support for close links with the rest of Europe.

However, if he chooses to run for Parliament, Eddie will not be the first candidate from the entertainment industry to become an MP.

Glenda Jackson, who won two best actress awards at the Oscars for the films *A Touch of Class* and *Women in Love*, was an active politician from 1992 to 2015 and was elected Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate.

Due to constituency changes, she subsequently became MP for Hampstead and Kilburn. However, she stood down as an MP in 2015.

Television personality Gyles Brandreth also made a successful transition to the House of Commons, although from the opposite side of the political spectrum.

Brandreth was elected as a Conservative MP for the City of Chester from 1992 to 1997. Now it remains to be seen whether Eddie will follow suit.

When asked about political ambitions, Eddie previously stated: "I would love to be elected and I would love to fight for Keir Starmer to be the next Prime Minister."

However, asked to comment about the prospect of Eddie seeking to become an MP, Karon Maskill, who works for the public relations firm representing Eddie, said: "I am afraid no comment but thanks for the interest."

Eddie Izzard photo credit: Giuseppe Sollazzi

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION CELEBRATES AFTER RECEIVING NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

Rother Voluntary Action based in Bexhill is celebrating after being awarded £304,634 in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK.

Rother Voluntary Action will use its funding to build a thriving volunteer culture in Rother.

This new National Lottery funding will enable RVA to provide a volunteer and trustee brokerage service to establish personal connections between groups and individuals. This will include training for individuals in basic hygiene, First Aid and

Safeguarding as well as skills to enable them to feel confident to take up a volunteering or trustee role. There will also be an opportunity for organisations to access training to better communicate with and equip, diversify and value their volunteers.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million a week for good causes across the UK. The National Lottery Community Fund distributes a share of this to projects to support people and communities to prosper and thrive.

Annette Holmes, Volunteer Co-ordinator for RVA, said "Thanks to National Lottery players, this grant means that we can now

reach individuals who are not taking on volunteer or trustee roles due to lack of confidence and skills, or the knowledge of local opportunities. We will also be able to assist those organisations who are struggling to recruit volunteers and trustees and build on community resilience and citizenship in supporting local people. This will make a big difference to people's lives."

During the pandemic, in 2020 alone, The National Lottery Community Fund distributed almost £1 billion to charities and community organisations across the UK.

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ROUNDAABOUT FUNDING GOES ROUND IN CIRCLES

Fears that a major scheme to revamp Bexhill's flagship roundabout might be mothballed have been allayed by Rother District Council's leader.

The council has been frustrated in its attempts to revamp the busy Ravenside roundabout, often referred to as the "gateway" in and out of town.

Any motorist who has negotiated the roundabout as it currently stands knows they have to have their wits about them with the sheer volume of vehicles using it due to the popularity of the adjacent retail park, which includes the Tesco superstore, Marks and Spencer, Homebase and a McDonald's restaurant and drive through.

In addition, there is also the popular swimming pool on the site. However, it has now been revealed the council is spending the £150,000 allocated in its budget for improvements to the roundabout on other projects because it has been frustrated in its ongoing negotiations with the roundabout's owners, National Highways.

Nevertheless, the council has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the revamp takes place once negotiations are complete and everything is agreed although there is no exact timescale as to when work on the project will commence.

In the interim, the council confirmed the £150,000 Bexhill Local Community Infrastructure Levy that had been set aside for the project is being used for other schemes in the town.

Councillor Doug Oliver, leader of the council, said: "We find ourselves in an extremely frustrating situation.

"Council officers have worked tirelessly to get this project off the ground, but their efforts have been frustrated, not least by



the presence of an invasive plant."

National Highways says the invasive plant, horsetail, can only be removed by its own contractors, but Mr Oliver remains undeterred and confirmed council officers will continue to liaise with them in continuing efforts to get the project underway as soon as possible.

Mr Oliver added: "With so many other projects in the town requiring funding and the timescale of the Riverside

roundabout scheme relying on National Highways, we took the difficult decision to use the (allocated) money for projects which are progressing. We are absolutely committed to this project which is why it remains in our capital programme.

"The roundabout's unkempt appearance gives a very poor first impression to visitors and action needs to be taken."

He concluded: "As soon as the roundabout is clear and we are in a position to move forward, we will look for funding."



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MORE THAN 5KG OF DRUGS SEIZED IN BEXHILL AND ST. LEONARDS



Two people were arrested and a significant quantity of drugs and cash were seized during warrants executed by police in East Sussex.

Officers from the East Sussex Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU) and Neighbourhood Enforcement Unit (NET) attended addresses in Bexhill Road, St Leonards and Preston Road, Bexhill on Monday, August 8 following

information received from the community around suspected drug-related activity.

More than 5kg of cannabis and cannabis resin was found at the two properties, alongside nearly £5,000 in cash and large quantities of cannabis edibles.

Cannabis edibles are foodstuffs such as sweets, chocolate and cakes which have been infused with extracts containing the

psychoactive agents found in cannabis.

Two men aged 33 and 34 were arrested on being concerned in the supply of cannabis and released under investigation while enquiries continue.

Inspector Aidan Cornwall said: "This was a significant operation with more than 150 separate items seized during lengthy searches at both addresses. It was an operation that

also highlights our commitment to listening to the community's concerns and following up on the information we receive.

"Cannabis edibles can be incredibly dangerous. For one, they are often packaged in brightly-coloured and professional-looking packaging which can not only look like legitimate food, but can also be particularly appealing to children and young people.

"However, these items are produced in often unsanitary conditions and with no quality-control, meaning those consuming these products have no idea what the strength of them will be, nor what contaminants they may also contain.

"The consumption of cannabis edibles has been linked with a number of hospitalisations and even deaths, and so we are particularly pleased to have removed such a large quantity from circulation."

Anyone can report suspicious activity or information around the suspected supply and distribution of drugs. No matter how small the information is, it can be used to build a bigger picture of what is happening in the area.

Reports can be made to police online or by calling 101. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously via the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

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SCRAPHEAP CHALLENGES HAILED A SUCCESS



Crowds lined the banks of the river in Egerton Park recently to witness a small flotilla of handmade crafts as part of the Bexhill Rotary's Scrapheap Challenge.

The Rotary Club laid down the challenge to people to design and build their very own watercraft made from whatever materials they could lay their hands on. The challenge was to take them to Egerton Park and see how they fared on the strip of water between the two ornamental lakes and more than 30 individuals took part.

Before the collection of crafts of all shapes and sizes could be launched, they had to be judged on the most imaginative specimen as well as the best-looking invention. Bexhill's President-Elect James Slinn and Past President Stephen White had the difficult task of judging before they pronounced the winners in each of the three age categories.

Organiser Peter Mitchell-Davis said: "It's a good feeling to put something like this event on for the community to take part in and enjoy, and thank you to all those who helped during the afternoon to make it such a success."

He added: "We've had yet another successful time here at Egerton Park at this free event and all those participating and spectating seem to have enjoyed the occasion, competition and construction process."

BEXHILL TEENAGER CHOOSES FUNERAL PROFESSION AT 17

Most people in their late teens have a small idea of what career they'd like to pursue in the future – but normally need to complete the challenges of University and then stand out from the crowd.

Not for Bexhill student Molly Dowling, who from just 17 years old, knew exactly what she wanted to achieve and went for it. She attended Claverham Community College after leaving school and soon discovered Equestrian studies wasn't for her.

Now, at 19 years old, Molly soon forged a career as a Funeral Director and works at the popular local firm EW Funeral Services based in Little Common.

Molly told *Bexhill News* her story about her she set out to achieve her dream job...

"During the year I was at college, I realised that becoming a funeral director was what I really wanted to do, after having several teachers at secondary school tell me that I would never make it for various reasons. This negativity made me want to pursue this career even more.

I approached a local independent funeral home and was offered part-time work experience, alongside college.

A few weeks into the work experience, I was called in and offered a full-time job within the company. I think by now you know the answer was most definitely a big yes! I'm coming up to two years in the industry and I look forward every day to supporting families and caring for their loved ones.

Initially, I was nervous about people's perceptions surrounding my age, after the comments from school teachers. I was asked time and time again why this was my chosen career, and I am always more than happy to share my story.

I believe that being open and transparent with families and my local community has changed the perceptions of the general public.



Molly Dowling, EW Funerals

I'm also of the understanding that more women are entering the industry, which I personally think is a breath of fresh air.

I'm now 19 years old, aiming to progress onto the NAFD Funeral Directing Diploma within the next 18 months or so. My main goal is to support bereaved families when they need us most, offering guidance and compassion at any hour."

Bow Ties VINTAGE TEAROOMS



The café and dining culture in Bexhill is part of its charm. This seaside town has something for everyone, but one of its greatest attributes is the number of individual businesses which create a unique atmosphere and environment.

We all know what to expect from familiar High Street names, and it's always a great idea to look for something different. This is exactly what you will find at Bowties artisan food and drink outlet, situated in Western Road. Bowties is certainly more than a café. In fact, the quality of home-cooked food is something to savour at leisure. This is a hidden gem – a great venue, not only for lunch or afternoon refreshments, but also for parties and family celebrations.

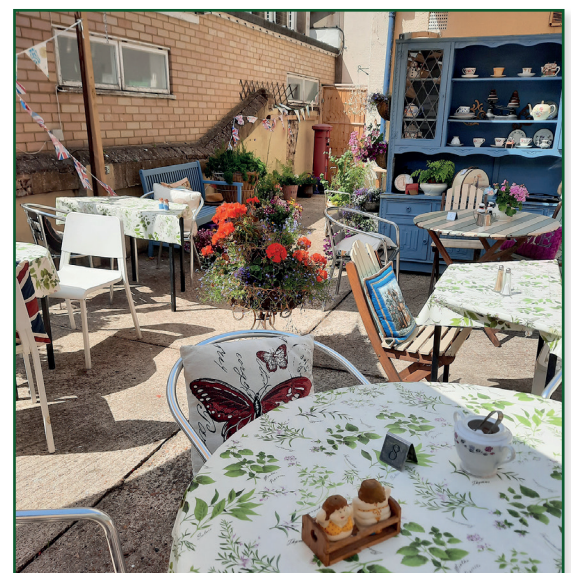
A speciality at Bowties is local produce, all cooked by proprietor Alison Frost, who has a long history in the catering industry. She



sources fish from Hastings, including mussels, crab, white fish, lobster and locally smoked salmon. Meat is also sourced from local suppliers, where possible, and there are always plenty of vegetarian options. Cakes are home-made and tea is served using china teapots, adding a touch of charm which feels magic. Afternoon tea is attractively presented on four-tier cake stands, and everything is served with a smile by friendly staff who all wear the trademark bow ties.

Customers have several options for seating. Those who like to watch the world walk by can do so out on the pavement, but there's also a secluded garden at the rear. The Secret Vintage Tea Garden is a real find, being tucked away from the world in a delightful, Victorian-themed setting. There is both indoor and outdoor seating, making this entirely suitable for any type of weather. Don't miss the chance to peep inside the Victorian Parlour in order to experience the décor, which includes chandeliers and even a marble-style fireplace.

This is certainly a food outlet with a difference and Bowties is entirely suitable for a business lunch, a chat with a friend or a snack break for the family. Everyone is made to feel very welcome, even (and especially) the dog!



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VISITORS WITNESS BEXHILL CHARTER SIGNING RE-ENACTMENT



To mark an incredible anniversary for Bexhill, an event was held recently to show residents the story behind the signing of the Bexhill Charter in 772AD.

Although the exact location of where it was signed and what actually happened, a re-enactment was held to give visitors an idea of how it might have looked. Local actors took part in the display and a poem was read to explain the significance of the signing 1,250 years ago to the day.

The first known reference to Bexhill, or Bexelei as it was originally known, was in the charter which was granted by King Offa of Mercia.

Bexhill Mayor, Councillor Paul Plim was presented the replica Charter after it was signed and crowds cheered at the creation of Bexhill, as we know it today.

During the event at the Metropole Laws, Anglo-Saxon and Viking Re-enactors, Age of Penda, based in the West Midlands performed to the crowds with Saxon weapons and showed how wars were fought during those times.

Local charities and causes also attended and live music came from 'The Other Band'. Afternoon tea was served by the Bexhill Lions.

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DE LA WARR HOSTS ONE OF COUNTY'S LARGEST RECORD FAIRS

Vinyl junkies flocked to the De La Warr Pavilion in their hundreds for the annual record fair last month – Kim Mayo was one of them. He writes...

With dealers filling the main auditorium, there was certainly plenty to choose from, whether you wanted to snap up one of the £1 bargains or spend hundreds of pounds.

The resurgence in sales of vinyl records, both new and second hand, really took off about a decade ago and it is no longer just grizzled old veterans who are searching for that elusive gem.

Young and old, male and female, jockeyed for position at the event organised by Revolver Record Fairs as they flicked through the racks crammed with “black gold”. Sales were being completed at a brisk pace.

Former happy hunting grounds such as charity shops and boot sales are no longer the great options they once were for one simple reason... sellers have cottoned onto the fact that a low numbered copy of The Beatles White album, for example, is worth an absolute fortune.

So, what is selling in vast quantities? Well, classic albums continue to dominate, such as Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon, The Beatles' Sgt Pepper, Fleetwood Mac's Rumours and so forth.

But for those on a limited budget, you can



still fill your boots (and car boot) for the journey home.

Collecting vinyl is an obsession which requires dedication. No record collector is ever entirely happy with what they have already because they are always looking for more. I should know because I am one of them.

One young collector I spoke to called Susan (she didn't want to give her surname) has just started buying vinyl. She was beaming from ear to ear and was clutching a copy of the Luther Vandross album Give Me the Reason, recorded back in the Eighties before she was born.

“I thought you would be seeking out a copy of the last Billie Eilish album,” I enquired. “Absolutely not,” she responded. “I don't like that sort of stuff. Luther Vandross was my mum's favourite singer and I have grown up listening to his stuff. What makes it even better is that I found it in one of the £1 bargain bins and it is in great condition.”

It will no doubt be the start of an epic collecting journey for her and many others of a similar ilk.

Another collector, Aidan Barlow, 32, had driven all the way from Hove for the second consecutive year and had clearly emptied his wallet by splashing the cash to add to his rapidly growing collection.

Staggering under the weight of the 30 albums he had bought, he said: “This is one of the biggest and best record fairs in Sussex.

“The beauty of it is that you never know what you are going to find and the choice is so vast. Among my purchases are a mint and still sealed copy of Kylie Minogue's Greatest Hits, but I also got copies of two Teardrop Explodes albums which I have been seeking out for ages.”

Ken Barry, who runs the successful Records and Retro in Sackville Road, admits that there has been a surge of interest in CDs and vinyl in recent years with buyers preferring



the physical formats as opposed to digital downloading and streaming services.

He sells second hand CDs and vinyl as well as turntables and amplifiers and says business tends to be brisk.

Ken said: “There has been a lot of interest, particularly in recent years.

“It is longer mainly middle-aged men still hankering over their youth like it used to be in the old days. We get people of all ages coming through the door which is very encouraging to see.

“I don't believe the interest in vinyl and CDs is going to die down. In fact I believe the exact opposite is true.

“I buy a lot of stock when the opportunity arises and there are still good quality collections out there that some people want to sell. But demand is strong from music lovers and Bexhill has a strong music loving community which I am confident will continue to thrive.”



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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

9th September, Gulliver's Bowl's Club, Knole Road, Bexhill. 10am-1pm.

Plenty of cakes and great raffle prizes. All are welcome.

ROTHER COMMUNITY CHOIR SUMMER JUBILATION

10th September, St. Mark's Church, Little Common. 7pm

Originally scheduled in June, but unfortunately, Covid struck. The choir will be performing an eclectic mix of songs and will be supported by the very popular Sammy Lou. The concert starts at 7 with doors open at 6:30. Tickets are available from Records & Retro in Sackville Road and Little gem in Little Common. They are also available direct from Choir members and there will be available at the door.

THE FRIENDS OF LOSSIE LONG FUNDRAISING CONCERT

17th September, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Glassenbury Drive, Bexhill

Daisy Noton, Finalist BBC Young Musician 2020 with Paul Tiberghien. A programme of classical music for flute and piano including works by Telemann and Schumann. Tickets are £15 each and are available from Second Spin, Sackville Road (01424 210894) or Tim on 01424 213456/07480 646 276. Tickets may also be purchased on the day at the door. Included is a glass of bubbly - or alternative - and canapés which will be served prior to the concert. Working in partnership with St. Stephen's Church, The Friends of Lossie Long is a charitable organisation supporting older people in the area.

GOLDEN BAND NIGHT

17th September, Bexhill Conservative Club, Amherst Road, Bexhill.

The Jack Jeffreys Superhero Trust is holding a 'Golden Band Night' to mark Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Local band 'Waifs and Strays' performing for the night. There will also be a buffet provided. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children (age 5-18, under 5's are free) and can be bought from the Jack Jeffreys Superhero Trust or from Bexhill Conservative Club. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and the colour is GOLD, so everyone is encouraged to wear or accessorise with something gold. Proceeds from the night will go to the Trust

which is a Bexhill-based charity that raises money to support children with cancer and other life-threatening/life-limiting conditions and their families in and out of hospital.

GLASS ILLUSTRATED TALK

19th September. The Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings, 2pm-3.15pm

You are invited to an illustrated talk on Dale Chihuly. You may still be familiar with the wonderful "Rotunda" chandelier in the V & A Museum which Dale created. Notably, he studied glassblowing under Harvey Littleton, who is considered the father of the studio glass movement in the United States. He also gained a Fulbright scholarship which enabled him to work and study at Venini Fabbrica, the renowned glassblowing workshop in Murano near Venice. The Chihuly Garden and Glass is a museum in Seattle showcasing Dale Chihuly's work. The talk to be given by Charles Hajdamach will give you greater insight into his various famous works. Charles Hajdamach, an accredited Art Society Speaker, is one of the top authorities on glass in the country. He also lectures internationally to glass museums and collector's societies. Non members welcome: suggested donation £5.00. Email: info@theartssocietyrothervalley.org.uk. Contact: Jenny on 01424 421344

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

30th September, The Bull Inn, Bexhill Road, St. Leonards. 3-6pm.

Tea/Coffee and homemade cakes for sale, tombola, Grand Raffle (donation of prizes always gratefully received), Stalls selling a variety of goods and Live music plus much, much more. Book your own stall for £5.00 by calling Pauline on 07747 303867.

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET TESTING

30th September, Bexhill Caring Community, Sackville Road, Bexhill. 9am-3pm

Bring your electric blanket along to this event for a free safety check. If you, or a family member/friend can attend on your behalf, please call Bexhill Caring Community on 01424 215115.



Rother Community Choir Summer Jubilation

READERS' LETTERS

Dear *Bexhill News*...

I was delighted to see the new mural brightening up an eyesore site opposite Bexhill Station but saddened to see graffiti



artlessly and indiscriminately scrawled across the image of TV pioneer John Logie Baird, who lived in Station Road, Bexhill, at the end of his life. Graffiti is a dreadful scourge, defacing streets up and down our land. It is not art. It is vandalism, pure and simple, and the perpetrators should be prosecuted.

I am amazed but delighted that the wonderful footbridge gallery at Bexhill Station has so far escaped the attention of these graffiti jobs.

This may be a controversial view, but I do not regard Banksy as an artist but as someone who randomly disfigures public buildings. He may have made graffiti respectable in some people's eyes, but in my view, he is simply encouraging anti-social behaviour.

Back to the Bexhill mural, I wonder if there is any way Bexhill Town Council can maintain greater vigilance over graffiti in the town and erase it as soon as possible after it appears? Hopefully, the vandals would soon get disheartened if their handiwork quickly disappears.

Yours faithfully,
Ivor Jones.

Dementia is one of the greatest health challenges facing society. Alzheimer's Society estimate that by 2025, one million people will be living with dementia in the UK, and by 2040, dementia will cost the UK economy £94.1 billion annually. Of the top ten causes of death worldwide, dementia is the only one that can't be cured, stopped, or even slowed down. I would like to see this changed.

Improving the lives of people affected by dementia is so important to me because I live with a progressive neurological condition which means I am at a higher personal risk of developing dementia than my healthy peers. I have personally seen families almost broken caring for their love ones because of the crisis in social care and the unfairness of accessing 'continuing health care'. Neurology patients have been forgotten for too long. If the proposed changes to social care proposed by the Johnson Government are dropped by the soon to be new Prime Minister, this will send a shocking message that the most vulnerable in our Society are worthless and of no importance.

With a new Prime Minister taking office next month, this is a rare and crucial moment for dementia in our local area. It is our chance to ensure it does not slip down the political agenda. Since the General Election in 2019, the Conservative Government has promised to deliver:

- A Dementia Moonshot, doubling dementia research funding to deliver breakthrough treatments

- A massive reform of the Social Care system, putting people in control of their care and reducing the amount they have to pay for it
 - A 'visionary' ten-year plan for dementia, backed by proper funding and powerful partners, which could be transformational for 900,000 people with dementia in the UK.
- We must ensure these promises are kept by whoever becomes the next Prime Minister. I want to see Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss pledge to make dementia a priority in their Government, and help people in this area affected by dementia live more fulfilled and less fearful lives.
- Annette, Wealden

Today I picked up your newspaper for the first time and found it informative and enjoyable.

Hence I've decided to ask you for rather unusual help. My husband, myself and a good friend enjoy social private games of bridge, but unfortunately our present 'fourth' is finding it difficult to find the time to play regularly (although we will continue playing together whenever possible).

As a result, we need to find a fourth person who should be able to play friendly games of bridge (interrupted by a coffee & cake break, chat and a laugh). Doesn't have to be an expert as long as he/she is willing to accept that bridge should be, in the first place, an enjoyable way to spend a few hours.

Can you, please, help us find the right person?
Kind regards, Linda Scott
(Reply to letters@bexhill-news.co.uk)

A word of thanks to *Bexhill News*

Since moving to Bexhill in '72, many changes have taken place. Not always for the better, indeed a changing face.

But I have never looked back with regret, For me this is the place to be. It offers so much more. Than just living by the sea.

Some things are lost for evermore, But thankfully some return. And having the Bexhill News each month, Our praise you surely earn.

For without a doubt you're meeting a need, for the whole of the community. Something I read from cover to cover, which simply is not like me.

I now look forward every month, to having a really good read. It's attractive and informative, both in word and deed.

Once again my sincere thanks, for all that you do share. For without a doubt for this community, you have a heart to care.
John B. Knight.

To write to the editor, please email: letters@bexhill-news.co.uk

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Come along, have a great time and raise much needed funds for this fabulous cause!





Steve Perrin, Long Man Brewery's Head Brewer taking a sample of a new brew



BEER, BREWERIES AND THE LONG MAN

BY: CHRIS DABBS

As I drove along the twisty roads heading up to the Long Man Brewery, I wondered whether I'd taken a wrong turn. Sharp bends, potholes, farms and wonderful views of the Downs didn't fill me with confidence that I was heading in the right direction. But, I spied the sign and there it was. Nestled in what looked like a small valley was a much bigger operation than I expected.

I've been to small scale breweries and vineyards before. Their buildings have been small and the land they're on equally so — as long as you don't count the fields of crops and vines all around.

But this was different, a large car park, a café destination for cyclists and what I was to learn later on, a lovely tasting room and shop where the beer flows and the chat is convivial.

Celebrating 10 years of brewing in 2022 the Long Man Brewery is based in a converted flint barn at Church Farm, Litlington, in the heart of the South Downs National Park just outside of Polegate.

And in case you don't know, the brewery is named after the famous Long Man of Wilmington. The ancient chalk human cut into the side of the downs. You could say that he's actually

a 'tenant' of the farm as he's within the farm's boundaries.

Now what struck me when I met Head of Sales Tom O'Neill was just how knowledgeable and passionate he was about their product and its integral place in the way the farm works.

And if I thought Tom knew what he was talking about, I was blown away by the passion that Church Farm's owner Duncan Ellis showed. He's a third generation arable and beef farmer and he's managed to move the family farm in directions that were never dreamed of. Not just with beer but in natural ways of using his land so as to create the least impact on nature as possible. And their hard work is paying off with over 40 awards so far for their business practices and beers.

The team are equally passionate and include Steve — the Brewmaster. He's the engineer, the wizard, the maestro that brings the beers to life and makes sure they are consistent. He spends his time making sure the brews are just right. And, as pictured above he's working hard on a new brew that uses more of the farm's wheat and, from what I tasted, will be a sure-fire winner for the brewery (and drinkers!) when it's launched in the next couple of months.

If you like beer and want to know more, check out their website at: www.longmanbrewery.com



Long Man of Wilmington



Pouring Barley



Cleaning out the equipment



Long Man Brewery's Long Blonde



Long Man Brewery's Tom O'Neill



Open to the public



TOWN CELEBRATES BEXHILL DAY WITH SPITFIRE FLYPAST



A salute to mark the flypast



Cllr Plim enjoys the flypast



Spitfire flypast over the Albatross Club

Bexhill had its own airshow for a very small period of time last month as a Rolls-Royce Spitfire roared over the town to celebrate Bexhill Day 2022.

Bexhill Day was originally celebrated in 1917 by the then Borough Council to lift the town's spirits during the First World War. The new Town Council reinstated the town's celebration day in 2021. It was marked locally this year with music, crafts, a salute and special offers across the town.

The Mayor, Councillor Paul Plim, marked the day with a walk from the town's boundary at Lunsford Cross taking in Chestnut Meadow

Campsite, Dragonflies Nursery, Bending Crescent Play Park. He popped into the Bexhill Community Fire Station to thank the team for making Bexhill a safe place to live and was accompanied on the rest of his walk by the Girl Guides.

The Royal British Legion Standard Bearers from Bexhill Branch and Little Common Branch met at the Town House pub and then marched down to the Albatross Club to watch the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight as it flew directly over the club.

Mayor Paul Plim said: "It's great to see such enthusiasm for Bexhill Day in the town. It's an important part of our heritage and I'm so

glad this tradition has been reinstated by the Town Council.

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 the 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.



Residents join in the celebrations

Afrobeat legends hit the right note



Photo: Rick Burton

It was a hot August night, but if you really wanted to work up an additional sweat there was only one place to be... the De La Warr Pavilion as Afrobeat pioneers Orchestra Baobab came to town and rocked the joint with a two-hour set interspersed by an interval to give everyone the chance to get their collective breath back.

The band, from Senegal, have a long and illustrious history and music lovers from across Sussex flocked to the venue to see them in action, especially as it had been several years since they last played in Bexhill.

It was worth the wait because they sure know how to put on a show. The capacity audience, both young and the more mature among us, certainly lapped it up, dancing non-stop from the first chord and vocal to the very last.

Formed in Senegal, in 1970, they have unsurprisingly undergone several line-up changes over the years, but that takes nothing away from the sheer power and impact of their music.

Orchestra Baobab has been at the forefront of Senegalese music for decades alongside the likes of Youssou N'Dour and is fortunate to have an extensive back catalogue to choose from.

The musicianship was uniformly excellent as were the vocals, the band clearly enjoying the experience just as much as the audience.

There is something joyful about the music of Africa. In short, it lifts the spirits, leading to a collective feel-good factor.

These sort of eclectic gigs, encompassing all genres of music, are what the De La Warr has become renowned for and all credit to them for that.

One week it could be Elvis Costello or the Flaming Lips, the next Orchestra Baobab and this is what our town needs.

Why travel to Brighton or Worthing when so much live music is right here on our doorstep?

Sometimes superlatives are over-hyped but they are not in this particular instance. Expectations were both lived up to and

exceeded on this particular occasion.

When you have a back catalogue as extensive as theirs, it is more a case of what to leave out, rather than include.

For one night only we were transported from Bexhill to Dakar amid great music, colour and joie de vivre. It was certainly a heady brew.

At the end, as the crowd flocked out of the De La Warr, there was tangible jubilation, the prevailing mood being one of a collective "wow".

Exhausted? Definitely. Exhilarated? Absolutely. It was a show that will live long in the memory and hopefully, the band will return sooner rather than later.

Orchestra Baobab is a class act. Simple as that. **Next month Bexhill News will be reviewing the gig by Sussex singer-songwriter Tom Odell at the De La Warr. For more details visit the box office at the venue or book online.**



'BEST SHOW EVER' CAR SHOW WOWS CROWDS AT THE POLEGROVE

PHOTOS: JTP53 PHOTOGRAPHY

Almost 500 stunning vehicles packed the Polegrove recently to celebrate the annual Bexhill 100 meeting. The show on the Bank Holiday weekend hosted vehicles from the past 120 years including motorbikes and unique custom builds from around the area.

Entertainment came courtesy of the Bexhill Lions along with cream teas, Bexhill FM played music whilst singer Chelsea Shan Brown entertained the crowds throughout the day.

The show has been going since 2005 and has gone from strength to strength - it has raised over £115,000 for local charities and good causes.

The event was sponsored by Maltbys, Box Broadband, Yeomans Hyundai, Peugeot and Parker Building Supplies.

Local charities will benefit from the event. These include Bexhill Heritage, The Golden Marigold, Eastbourne Lifeboat and Children with Cancer.

Chris Speck from the Bexhill 100 Motoring Club Show Committee said: "From the feedback from the vehicle owners and public, it was one of our best shows ever! We would like to thank all the public that came to our show and we hope you had a fantastic day."





ECHOING AROUND THE CHAMBER



Emma Pearce Presentation at recent Chamber meeting



as diverse as licensing applications and high-speed rail links. Bexhill Chamber has nearly a hundred and thirty members from the big local national players like Hastings Direct and Park Holidays to small single person e-bay traders like Always Sparkle gifts. We pride ourselves on having a strong distinctive voice for business in Bexhill. Our Chamber is managed on a day-to-day basis by an executive committee currently made up of twelve members from diverse business backgrounds.

Rather than a Chair we have a President and Vice Presidents, alongside an accountant treasurer and “ordinary” exec board members who guide policy and make executive decisions on behalf of our members. Our Chamber truly reflects the new dynamic and business diversity of Bexhill. Nine of our current exec board members are women and represent, law, accountancy, business consultancy, events, arts and culture, retail, light manufacturing, business investment and property development.

We are fiercely independent and politically neutral. We are not affiliated to any religious or political party, organization nor alliance. Some local politicians don't properly understand our neutrality and have even tried to subvert it in the past but our exec board are incredibly robust and we can assure our community that bringing business growth, investment and jobs to Bexhill is enshrined in our constitution and it is that which drives us on to regenerate Bexhill has a dynamic and prosperous place to live, work and play.

If you would like to know more about Bexhill Chamber of Commerce go to: www.bexhillchamber.org

A massive welcome to everyone who has picked up this copy of Bexhill News. We are Bexhill Chamber of Commerce and we want to make some noise for businesses in Bexhill. Many people wonder what a Chamber of Commerce is and what we do, who can join and what do businesses enjoy about membership.

Bexhill Chamber was founded in 1925 and since then we have stayed loyal to our grassroots at the heart of our community. We are proud to be a non-profit association of members, our members are our Chamber, everything we do is defined by our constitution as being for our members and our local community.

The motto of Bexhill Chamber is; Business — Prosperity — Community, and that pretty much describes what our Chamber does, we bring businesses together to create

prosperity for our community.

Through regular networking events, charity fundraisers, social evenings and investment in community projects, Bexhill Chamber is at the heart of our community in many ways. Whether it is supporting a members' planning application, helping fund the beach wheelchair access ramp, raising thousands of pounds for charities, or challenging council policies that are against our members interests, we are proud to make a difference where-ever we can.

But you don't have to own your own business to join our Chamber, you can be a self-employed freelancer, charity or social enterprise or have executive power in a larger firm. We work alongside all the key stakeholders in Bexhill including our MP, local authorities and Government funded bodies such as SELEP and SeaChange. We are often consulted on matters

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BexhillShopping

TWO NEW BUSINESSES OPEN IN WESTERN ROAD



We're so lucky in Bexhill to have a higher than usual ratio of local independent shops to most towns, writes Viktoria Cowley. In just the past few months, two new businesses have opened in Western Road and they happen to be right next door to each other.

Bexhill Gelateria and Lux Locks by Edie sit at 1, and 1B Western Road, respectively. I met with David from Bexhill Gelateria who explained he makes all the authentic Italian Gelato & Sorbetto on the premises, which are all made a day in advance due to the freezing process. David has his closely guarded secret recipes, having taken some old classics and making them his own.

The Sorbetto's are entirely vegan, and David is able to make some of the classic favourites vegan by swapping out the cow's milk for vegan alternative milk.

The Gelateria is also a regular café, serving sandwiches, paninis and soups for lunch, and waffles and milkshakes for desserts. Also tea, coffee, soft drinks and beer & wine are available.

BEXHILL GELATERIA

The word 'gelato' comes from the Italian word 'congelato', which means frozen. A gelato shop is called a 'gelateria' and the person serving it is called 'gelati.'

Less fattening — Another reason to eat more gelato is its low-fat content. It contains 3-8% less fat than regular ice cream and is much more flavourful. The typical ingredients of gelato are

fruit, sugar and milk. Traditional ice cream contains 10-17% milk fat. Since it is made with less butterfat, the flavours are bolder and don't coat your palette in the same ways that ice cream does, alongside the lack of egg yolks.

Popular flavours — Some of the most popular flavours include chocolate hazelnut, fig, coconut, pistachio, and lemon gelato. The slow churn makes these flavours more vibrant and creamier.

Authentic gelato — If you're looking for authentic gelato, you'll need to get it from a shop that uses a spade or paddle. Authentic gelateria doesn't use scoops because a paddle is better equipped to smoothly scoop gelato.

To create authentic Italian gelato, the mixture contains much less fat compared to ice cream, and it's churned at a slower speed so less air gets mixed in.

This provides a more dense and fuller texture and creates more intense flavours than fluffy, whipped ice cream. Gelato is also served at a slightly higher temperature than ice cream, allowing the flavours to shine through.

LUX LOCKS

Next door, I spoke to Edie at Lux Locks. Edie and Holly work as a team to beautify and treat your tresses providing hair extensions in all colours and lengths, delivering some stunning results and extremely happy clients.

Lux Locks opened on 17 July by Edie, 23, who's originally from Brighton. Previously a Negotiator in a Bexhill estate agent, Edie wasn't in love with her job. However, Covid provided an opportunity and, during Lockdown she decided to retrain in the hair extension field, a job which she now loves.

There are many benefits to having hair extensions, mainly to add length and volume to your hair, especially if you aren't blessed with long, thick tresses. You can inject different colours, blend and tone with your natural look, or try something completely different. The ability to play around with different hairstyles and they're easy to use and easy to care for. They can also boost your overall self-confidence.

For advice on how to get started with hair extensions, which ones would be the right ones for you, including correct shades, styles and length, book an appointment with Edie.



INDIA GABRIELLE BRINGS NEW LASER TREATMENTS TO BEXHILL



i-LASER is Bexhill's brand new Laser Clinic — part of India Gabrielle Bespoke Permanent Makeup & Aesthetics, a multi UK award-winning clinic based in Devonshire Road, Bexhill.

The launch of i-LASER offers access to a range of medical-grade, UK manufactured Laser Hair Removal, Laser Tattoo Removal and Laser Skin Rejuvenation services — all performed by a highly trained team of certified practitioners.

To celebrate — the clinic is offering heavily discounted introductory offers — which includes; up to 55% off Laser Hair Removal, up to 30% off Tattoo Removal and 6 Laser Skin Treatments for the price of 5! Consultations and Patch Tests will also be free for a limited period.

The clinic takes pride in using advanced laser technology, which has been endorsed by the likes of celebrity Doctor Alex George and is produced in the UK by global industry leaders —

AllWhite (AW3) Laser.

Unlike traditional Lasers, the state-of-the-art Laser Hair Removal technology used in the clinic can safely and effectively treat ALL skin tones and hair colours. It is also 10 times faster than IPL — full legs can be treated in just 10 minutes!

The ND Yag Laser Tattoo Removal system is also used and loved by industry leader Jay Hutton — a Tattoo Removal & Cover Up Specialist from Tattoo Fixers. It can safely remove any type of unwanted tattoo — no matter the colour, size or style.

New Laser Skin services available at the clinic include treatment for hyperpigmentation clearance, removal of broken thread veins, blackhead and pore size reduction, wrinkle therapy, rosacea clearance and blemish clearance, as well as removal of unwanted freckles or birthmarks. The globally sought-after Carbon Laser Facials — which are loved by celebrities and models around the world will also be available to treat an array of skin concerns.

India Gabrielle said "My team and I are so thrilled to announce that we have a new Laser clinic in Bexhill. We are passionate about offering only the highest-quality service and pride ourselves in using medical-grade, UK-manufactured laser machines to deliver the safest and most effective treatment for our valued clients. As our treatment menu grows —



we are also so excited to welcome new clients to the clinic."

The well-established clinic has an extensive client base, with a 100% 5 Star review rating. It already specialised in Multi UK Award-Winning Bespoke Permanent Makeup, Medical Aesthetics performed by a Nurse Prescriber and a range of advanced skin treatments.

To book an appointment or for more information, visit www.i-laser.co.uk or call 01424 730999.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE



West End Songstress Lizzii Hills made a welcome return visit to The Albatross RAFA club last month entertaining the packed patio area with a great selection of hits of the past few decades and sprinkled these with some memorable moments from popular West End Musicals. Her extensive performing credentials include roles in High Society, Chicago, Guys & Dolls and The Wizard of Oz, to name but a few. Some may recall her as Karen in Eastenders. She can now add Bexhillians to her list of followers.

A MUSICAL CHARTER COURSE...

Alongside the drama and spectacle of the 1,250th Anniversary of the Signing Of The Bexhill Charter last month on the lawns of the De La Warr, there was a mighty fine modern musical break thanks to The Other Band. In scorching heat, they delivered a blistering set of their take on Americana, Blues, Country and Rock music. The harmonised vocals, thumping bass, delicate mandolin, deft guitar work and accordion backing, all added up to over an hour of great sounds, which brought the Charter Signing event bang up to date.



RAGATI STRING BAND FLYING HIGH

As part of the Bexhill Day celebrations last month, The RAFA Albatross Club on the seafront was the hotspot for entertainment. As well as a special flypast from a Spitfire, on the ground the atmosphere took off with a fine set by the Ragati String Band. A magical mix of guitar, squeezebox, tea chest bass, and a beat box. A veritable feast of folk, country, pop and rock was served up to the crowded outdoor arena.



RICKY'S RAT PACK SCORCHER



On yet another scorching day in August, Ricky Hendrie cooled the audience at The Albatross Club on the seafront in Bexhill, with his mix of 60s Standards, including hits from Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Neil Diamond, plus of course The Rat Pack. Young and old, the crowd filled the patio area and spilled over up to the grassy verge, lapping up the crooning and the sunshine.

WHEATSHEAF BURSTING WITH BUDDING PERFORMERS

The regular Tuesday night Open Mic nights at The Wheatsheaf pub in Little Common are still attracting a large following, and a recent session was again bursting with budding



musicians eager for the opportunity to build their confidence playing to a live audience. The skill range is wide — from nervous but determined — to accomplished, and the appreciation is high. Organiser Ashley Davies is a terrific host and is full of encouragement for the players. No-one is judged or criticised — everyone gets a round of applause, and above all, it's a fun night. With the experienced Ashley on percussion and Stewart Grimes on bass, the open-mikers have a solid backing to help them along. Great stuff.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE SPECIAL!

Town Councils usually work with committee structure. It helps to share the workload. The Community Committee of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council's role is to oversee the strategy and communications of the council. They ensure the council is involved in local events and are developing the civic role of the council. In this month's issue we are highlighting the work of this group and its impact on the community.

The committee is made up of: Cllr Claire Baldry (Chair), Cllr Lynn Brailsford (Vice Chair), Cllr Dan Barfoot, Cllr Tony Carroll, Cllr Elly Gibson, Cllr Paul Plim, Cllr Charlie Rustem, Cllr Viv Taylor-Gee, and Cllr Richard Thomas.

The Community Committee meet bi-monthly and you can attend out meetings in person or listen to them via the link on the website www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk thanks to Bexhill Radio's audio streaming service.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Two key projects that the committee have been progressing are 'Happy to Chat' and 'Dementia Friendly Coffee Mornings'.

HAPPY TO CHAT

'Happy to chat' schemes have been rolled out in other parts of the country and have been hailed a successful method to tackle loneliness. The town council has been looking into ways that a safe place can be created in our town for residents to meet and 'chat' to others when they are feeling isolated. The project will be piloted in the Corner House café and Bake House in Sidley later this year. The café will have a table dedicated as a drop in area for anyone that is happy to be approached for some friendly conversation. There will be safety precautions in place to make sure that participants are protected, and it is hoped that this will offer a lifeline to those that may not have social interaction in their lives. The chair of the Community Committee, Cllr Claire Baldry, said "The lockdown really isolated some members of our community, and I am so pleased we can facilitate a way for a natter when needed!"

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COFFEE MORNINGS

The Committee is keen to support members of the community with dementia and memory loss illness, their friends and family. The committee has organised a coffee morning for the residents of Prideaux Lodge, as a way of ensuring sufferers are able to get out and about and meet others. Residents will be collected from the home by minibus and taken to St Marks Church Hall for tea and cake and music from a local entertainer. If this coffee morning is a success, the council will look at other homes that it can work with to support residents and carers. Cllr Connor Winter, of St Marks Ward visits Prideaux Lodge regularly and said "It has been a real pleasure to be able to visit and support the residents, staff, and family of Prideaux Lodge. I have enjoyed assisting them with finding ways of getting out into the community whilst following COVID-safe guidance."

EVENTS

We all know that Bexhill is well known for its events, so the town council has been supporting these wherever possible, to generate interest and encourage visitors to the town. So far we have donated £500 the Bexhill 100 Jubilee car show, £1000 towards the Bexhill Carnival, £500 for Made in Bexhill to repair their float and have a tent at the event and £500 to the Millifest our town's recognition of the talents of Spike Milligan.

This is just a snippet of what the council has contributed to over the past year. If you have an event or cause that you'd like help with you can apply for grant funding via our website or contact the town clerk town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk. We want to help you!

SOME PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL

£1750 for the fantastic artwork created by Wavearts on Sea Road, which revitalised a rundown shopfront that greeted our railway visitors. £1000 towards outdoor play equipment for All Saints School. £500 to the Bexhill Community Events Group for the 1250th Anniversary of the signing of the Bexhill Charter. £290 to cover costs at the Bexhill Lions Green Fairy Trails. An afternoon of children's craft activities and competitions. Lots of fairy and elf houses were found on a trail around Collington Woods.

Shady Ladies Band keeping everyone entertained at the Green Fairy Trail!



Dressing up as fairies was encourage for all visitors, including four legged ones!



£1000 for a buddy bench at Glenleigh Park School. Buddy benches provide a safe place in a playground where a student can go when bullied or when they have no one to play with. The idea is that the other children notice the student on the bench and offer assistance.

OTHER FUNDING SUCCESSES

£500 for the Footbridge Project to print artworks for the amazing display on the bridge over the station. £1000 Friends of Coombe Valley improvements to the country park. £500 towards the redecorating of the Pebsham Community Centre. £500 for hanging baskets for Friends of Little Common

£500 for the Just Friends anniversary lunch. Just Friends is an independent charity organising social meets and walks for those living alone.



REVITALISING CIVIC PRIDE USING THE TOWN FLAG



From left: The Mayor, Keith Rhodes and Deputy Mayor

Town councils have a unique opportunity to add localised value to their communities, and Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council has been developing the civic pride here in our lovely town. The council is trying to make the environment a better place to live and work. The first step that Town Mayor, Cllr Paul Plim, suggested was making more of our identity.

Mayor Paul Plim said: "Reviving our town flag is a great move towards being recognised as a vibrant and one-of-a-kind community. I am so pleased that the hard work of Keith Rhodes has come to fruition and we are able to get behind this crucial symbol of Bexhill!"

Bexhillian, Keith Rhodes, has put in many single handed hours researching the history of the flag and achieving official recognition with registration at Trinity House. The Town Council has made an application for the College of Arms for the right to the armorial bearings of Bexhill and has put the two together to form its own branding. This will be used to denote projects and the presence of the town council through our projects and good work, so that residents can be proud of what we are achieving and have confidence in the work we support.

MORE TOWN PRIDE — WITH THREE TOWN CRIERS!

The last time Bexhill had a town crier was the self-appointed Dick Scrace. He died in 1906. So over 100 years later the town council knew it was time to get us back on the map! Open auditions were held at the bandstand with candidates writing their own cry and showing residents their skills in penning their own proclamations. The competitions was so fierce that all three candidates were appointed...so here we have the first ever trio of town criers for Bexhill.



Will McAuley, Juliette Mills and Alex Dugdale: Their role is to announce local news and create interest in our local business.

If you would like to book a town crier to 'cry' at your event or activity please contact the town clerk.

A DECADE OF WINNING



**LEADERS COLUMN BY
CLLR DOUG OLIVER, LEADER OF
ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

We are fortunate to have some beautiful green spaces and stunning beaches locally and I am delighted that one of Bexhill's parks has been recognised nationally once again.

Egerton Park has been awarded a Green Flag award by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy for an incredible tenth consecutive year. This national accolade recognises green spaces with the highest possible environmental standards, which are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

Winning this award for ten years in a row highlights the council's continuing



commitment to making the district an attractive and inspiring place to live and visit, and my thanks go to our contractor idverde, the Bexhill in Bloom volunteers and our officers who work so hard to maintain such high standards.

Whilst the vast majority of people value our parks and public spaces, there have unfortunately been some unpleasant incidents recently, including damage to one of the St Michael's Hospice charity duck sculptures.

I urge residents and visitors to please look after and respect their surroundings to ensure everyone can enjoy our wonderful coastline,

parks and green spaces.

The council recently reaffirmed our commitment to improving an important gateway into Bexhill – Ravenside Roundabout. We are aware that the roundabout's unkempt appearance gives a very poor first impression to visitors and action needs to be taken.

Unfortunately, after more than two years of planning and negotiation with the roundabout owners, National Highways, a lack of progress has forced us to divert the £150,000 Bexhill Local Community Infrastructure Levy that had been set aside for the project to pay for other schemes in the town.

This is an extremely frustrating situation but with so many other ongoing projects in the town requiring funding, and the timescale for the Ravenside Roundabout scheme relying on National Highways, we have taken the difficult decision to use the money for projects that are progressing.

Despite this, please be assured we are absolutely committed to this project which is why it remains in our capital programme.

Officers have worked tirelessly to get the project off the ground, but their efforts have been hampered not least by the presence of an invasive plant, which National Highways say can only be removed by its contractors.

As soon as this work is completed and the roundabout is clear, we will be in a position to move forward and will look for funding.

The recent warm, sunny weather has seen Bexhill welcome many visitors over the past few weeks, and around 300 bowlers from around the county were welcomed to the town recently for the highly successful Bexhill Open Bowls Mixed Tournament.

It was wonderful to see so many people visiting the town, supporting our local shops, cafes and restaurants while enjoying the favourable weather.

Finally I am sure many people, like me, have been enjoying the sporting successes of the last few weeks. Congratulations to the Lionesses on their historic win at the Euros and to all the Commonwealth Games competitors.

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RELAX AND UNWIND AT TOWN CENTRE STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY



On a rare day off I treated myself to a pamper session at the Soul Spa Float Centre in Devonshire Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, decided to book a Spa treatment and Floatation session. *Viktoria Cowley* writes...

After an initial meet, I made an appointment. It's worth noting that the website has a whole host of information to assist first-time visitors to the spa, including Q&As and it's well worth taking a little while

to read since it also gives information on what to eat, drink and what to bring with you, towel, robe, flip flops, etc.

I was really looking forward to my visit. I'd never done either of these before and, reading the website, there's a whole host of benefits to both treatments.

The décor throughout attracts complete calm in natural tones and soft lines to embrace the serenity and totally immersing

yourself into the therapy so you detach from the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

The first thing you do on entering is take off your shoes. It invites a quieter and softer approach as you continue to the treatment rooms. Gemma really took her time to explain everything.

In the sauna room is a glass box with a state-of-the-art sauna inside. Bluetooth enabled to connect your favourite music via pod or phone. I was given a bamboo towel to wipe away the moisture as I sat in the sauna. To say it was hot is an understatement but listening to my favourite music and thinking about the health benefits made it all worthwhile.

After the hour Gemma then showed me to the floatation room. This is a futuristic looking white pod, shaped almost like a car with a white sheet over it. Lifting the lid reveals what

looks like a massive bath with a beautiful moody blue light. I fixed my ear plugs and had a shower before climbing into the pod. As I lay back it became clear I was suddenly buoyant, and the float began. As I developed an awareness of my body's ability to totally defy gravity, I felt I was still tensed as I felt I needed to help myself stay afloat.

After a while, as I started to relax, I could feel each part of my body which was weightless and warm, and as the soft music stopped after the initial ten minutes, I decided to switch off the light, close my eyes in the darkness and completely zone out.

Floating, weightless, without touching anything, there's no sense of touch; eyes closed there is no sight, however, this gives way to a brand new sense — self-awareness. I'm aware of this 'nothingness', it feels as though there's an eternity, like a lonely planet floating in space, although enclosed and feeling totally safe and warm, I can only liken this experience to what I would imagine the pre-existence of being in utero, which is probably why it felt so natural.

There was a short period of time where I was so relaxed, I had even drifted off into a sleep.

So, why not treat yourself to some YOU time, right in the heart of Bexhill?

www.soul-spa.co.uk
01424 602963

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Floatation Therapy is literally floating in a spacious tank of warm water.

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The water and air in the pod are set at body temperature, which means you can barely feel it.

In the truest sense of Floatation Therapy, the light would be off and lid down. This creates a space where external stimulation is reduced to the lowest possible level, often referred to a Sensory Deprivation or Restricted Environmental Stimulation Therapy (R.E.S.T).

However, you are in complete control of the light and the lid and can leave it partially open if this makes you feel more comfortable.

The process of Floating has a whole host of associated physical, mental and spiritual benefits.



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As it gently heats the body, it makes you sweat and has all the same benefits of a traditional sauna but feels much more comfortable because the air around you isn't hot.

Sauna sessions are 60 mins long, with time to shower after. This is usually between 15 – 40 mins in the sauna with the infrared on, and the remainder of the time to sit and sweat – that's where the magic happens.

We recommend you start with 15 mins of heat and work your way up over several sessions.

Call us today on 01424 602963

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PLANS TO REDEVELOP TOWN HALL ARE SUBMITTED

Plans to redevelop the Town Hall in Bexhill and construct a new Civic Centre have taken a step closer to becoming a reality.

Proposals to refurbish the existing Town Hall building and build a new Civic Centre extension have been submitted to the local planning authority.

Rother District Council has been working on proposals to invest in and enhance the Town Hall site and will continue to work closely with the community of Rother throughout the project.

As part of the process, a further six-week online engagement on the principals of the scheme starts on Monday, August 15, where the public are encouraged to view the proposal and give their feedback.

Feedback from the engagement process will be monitored and considered by a small working group of councillors before being reported to the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet and full Council in October.

The Town Hall is an important asset of historical significance for Rother and the proposed refurbishment will maintain and restore its historic beauty.

The Civic Centre extension will have space for new businesses as well as modern, efficient meeting areas, a public café and landscaped courtyard.

The scheme, which is expected to cost £15 million, is self-funding and will be completed at no additional cost to Rother taxpayers. Income will be generated from the new development by renting out the additional office space, as well as see significant savings made on energy and maintenance costs, which combined will be used to pay back the loan required for the construction.

Cllr Doug Oliver, leader of Rother District Council, said: "The proposed redevelopment of the Town Hall and construction of a new Civic Centre will have huge benefits to Bexhill and the wider Rother district.

"Rother District Council is committed to ensuring every penny of Council Tax goes into providing the best possible



services for residents. This means not spending vast sums of money every year on energy and maintenance for a building that is not fit for purpose.

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

"We want to make sure that the public have ample opportunity to give their views as the scheme progresses and I would encourage everyone to view the proposal and give their feedback."

The redevelopment will also improve the council's overall energy performance. The Town Hall is over 120 years old and is one of the biggest contributors to the council's carbon footprint. It is anticipated that the new development could reduce the authority's energy usage by up to 80 per cent.

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

For information about the proposals, artist impressions, and to provide feedback, visit www.rother.gov.uk/business/local-regeneration-projects/town-hall-renaissance/

BOYRACERS NEED TO SLOW DOWN



OPINION BY KIM MAYO

I have always been a petrolhead. Ever since I was given a Corgi model of James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 as a child I have been hooked. In short, I love cars.

When I wrote a motoring column there was the opportunity to test drive an Aston Martin (still the world's most beautiful cars) as well as assorted Porsches, Subarus, Mitsubishis and so forth. They were exhilarating experiences, but you were always aware of the power that was available beneath your right foot.

Use it responsibly and all was fine and dandy, abuse it and you are a disaster waiting to happen. Cars in the wrong hands are weapons of destruction. It is as simple as that.

Bexhill is renowned as a genteel seaside town but sadly there are an increasing number of drivers who use it as an unauthorised racetrack



and the problem has got significantly worse in recent months, particularly along the seafront in the evening and on the likes of Bolebrooke and Sea View roads.

Souped up cars, with enhanced exhausts emitting the most fearful racket, regularly engage in either second or third gear, then blast their way along our streets at high speed, seemingly completely oblivious to the dangers or wilfully ignoring them.

To put it delicately, there are many of what is best described as "more mature" residents in the town who are not longer as sprightly as they once were.

Many use walking aids or mobility scooters and have difficulty taking evasive action when a speeding car heads in their direction when they are crossing a road.

The speed limits in Bexhill have been implemented to protect us and have quite rightly been installed in all the right places, such as near schools, in the town centre and on the seafront.

Yes, it is a pain to drive at 20mph but that is the law in built up areas and it makes perfect sense.

Speeding drivers are as much of a danger to pedestrians as drink-drivers. Both are an absolute menace and there needs to be more direct action taken to combat them.

I write from the benefit of personal experience. Many years ago I owned a Seat Leon Cupra R. A beautiful car and unbelievably quick.

One morning I took it out on Yorkshire's beautiful twisty rural roads. It was raining but I decided to put my foot down to see what it could do, took a corner too fast, skidded onto

the wrong side of the road and hit an oncoming car head on.

I could have killed the other driver. I could have killed myself. Miraculously neither of us was seriously injured although both cars were write-offs. I was called a bloody idiot and I couldn't argue. I was.

It was a salutary lesson and I can say, hand on heart, that I have never deliberately speeded since. It is simply not worth the risks involved.

That crash happened more than 30 years ago now and my days of owning high performance cars are long gone.

I am happy to tootle along in my trusty Volvo V50 Estate while at peace with the world.

Nine times out of ten speeding doesn't get you to your destination any quicker due to traffic jams and traffic calming measures such as speed bumps.

Many drivers moan about speed cameras. I don't. They are there for a reason.

If you want to be a boy (or girl) racer then head for Silverstone or Brands Hatch, rent out some track time and drive fast to your heart's content with an experienced instructor.

Our roads are not a race track. Ignore the warnings and sooner or later someone is going to get seriously injured or killed.

kim@bexhill-news.co.uk

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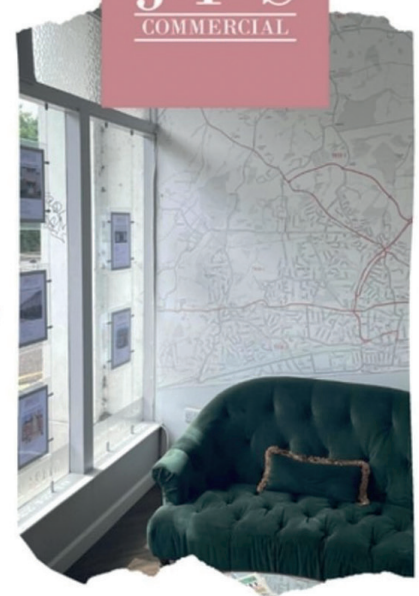
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BexhillProperty

FIRST-TIME BUYER PRICES AND RENTS RISE THREE TIMES FASTER THAN PRE-PANDEMIC

New analysis from the UK's biggest property website Rightmove reveals that first-time buyer asking prices and equivalent asking rents have risen three times faster compared with pre-pandemic years.

Average asking prices for first-time buyer type properties (two bedrooms and fewer) are up 13% (+£17,557) since July 2020, compared with the 4% (£8,069) rise between July 2018 and July 2020.

For prospective first-time buyers looking to save while renting, they face the challenge of record rents that are rising at the fastest rate ever recorded. Average monthly rental payments are 17% higher (+£128) nationally than they were two years ago. National average earnings are up by 14% over the same period.

First-time buyer type properties have hit a new record across Great Britain of £224,943. Therefore, an average 10% deposit needed now stands at £22,493. This is £2,560 higher than two years ago when the deposit needed was £19,934. Between July 2018 and July 2020, the deposit needed for an average first home only rose by £807.

For new first-time buyers who have been able to save a deposit, get a mortgage and secure a property, they now face average monthly mortgage payments that are 22% higher than two years ago, due to house price increases and interest rate rises.

Monthly mortgage payments for a new first-time buyer based on the current average rate is £976, £173 more than two years ago. Average monthly mortgage payments rose just £41 in the previous two years.

In a recent Rightmove survey to identify current home-mover attitudes, those planning to buy their first home said that rising house prices and soaring energy bills are the biggest challenges they are currently facing. Nearly half (43%) hope to be able to have enough saved to buy within the next three years, with two thirds already starting to save each month for their deposit.

Despite the challenge, there are still 35% more people enquiring to buy first-time buyer homes now than back in the last more normal market of 2019. This compared to a 26% increase for all property types.



Tim Bannister, Rightmove's Data Expert comments: "Our affordability analysis highlights the many challenges first-time buyers are trying to navigate right now. For would-be first-time buyers who are trying to save up a deposit, they are chasing a fast-moving target as average asking prices for first-time buyer homes hit another new record, and rise more quickly than they did before the pandemic. For those that aren't able to live with parents or family members while saving, they also have to manage paying record rents both inside and outside of London. We understand how difficult this challenge can be, and something we've seen more of over the last couple of years, particularly with working from home becoming more common, is people looking further away or at a greater number of different areas when looking to move, to see what is available within their budget.

"Those that have been able to save up a deposit are now facing rising interest rates when considering what they can afford to repay each month. Given the economic uncertainty at the moment, first-time buyers may seek some financial certainty by locking in a longer fixed-rate mortgage term now, before interest rates rise again."

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COODEN DRIVE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA

A stunning 1920's detached house, located in a highly desirable location just off of Bexhill seafront promenades in West Bexhill.

The property boasts deceptively spacious accommodation to include; Three reception rooms, a tasteful Kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, four double bedrooms, a large south facing rear garden and off-road parking.

There is also planning permission that has been granted for further extensions on the property!

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF **£800,000**



PINEWOODS, LITTLE COMMON

A substantial detached chalet bungalow situated in a quiet sought-after location in West Bexhill.

The property boasts a large entrance hall, lounge/diner, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room, separate dining room, ground floor bedroom, and two ground floor bathrooms. The first floor offers a further double bedroom and a large master suite with a Juliet balcony, distant sea views, and an en-suite bathroom. In addition, you will find a large south-facing rear garden and off-road parking for 3/4 vehicles. **Viewing is considered ESSENTIAL!**

£795,000



CHESTNUT WALK, BEXHILL ON SEA

An exceptional three/four bedroom detached chalet bungalow in the highly desirable Little Common location, West Bexhill.

The property boasts modern accommodation that has been finished to a very high standard including; a dual aspect lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner with integrated appliances.

Dining room or ground floor bedroom, a further newly constructed reception room, two bathrooms, three first floor bedrooms, a double garage with huge loft space, off-road parking for three vehicles and a well proportioned rear garden.

£735,000



COVERDALE AVENUE, COODEN

A deceptively spacious detached house in a highly sought after Cooden location of West Bexhill.

The house is being sold with NO ONWARD CHAIN and boasts three reception rooms, garden room, utility room, master bedroom with en-suite, four further bedrooms.

A spacious landing leads to the master bedroom with an en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms, and a shower room can be found on the first floor.

A substantial rear garden, off-road parking and a detached double garage!

£675,000

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BexhillMotoring

ELECTRIC VAN BUILT IN EAST SUSSEX LAUNCHED AT BRITISH MOTOR SHOW

The Sussex built INDe EV has powered ahead with the launch of its pioneering all-electric van, designed and manufactured locally.

Sourcing sustainable parts closer to its base in Lower Dicker, reduces the risk of supply chain and transport delays and the impact of rising freight costs. That's the thinking behind JLC Group's latest innovative project which was recently unveiled at the British Motor Show in Farnborough.

The aerodynamic design of the van and its long range means drivers can go the extra mile for less. An exclusive agreement with Atlas, a company developing superior battery technology, means the INDe EV battery can be fully charged in just 15 minutes.

The company was formed in June 2021 after its founders were frustrated by the wait for components from the Far East. Their first vehicle, a light commercial fully-electric van, was designed in the UK in partnership with the academics at the University of Brighton. The driver's needs are put first, with optimised cabin space and a commanding



driving position that's comfortable for users of all sizes. Covered wheel arches, the lightweight frame and body panels

importantly help reduce drag.

The INDe EV is an adaptable modular van, with an adjustable platform and the ability to

change the cargo box. The initial payload will be one tonne with a generous cargo space of 4.5m³. A 60kWh battery will take you up to 230 miles, with a top speed of 75mph depending on the load factor.

INDe EV's CEO Tony Hayes said: "The INDe EV project puts drivers first. The concept, design and manufacture all started with the end user in mind.

"At INDe EV, we are on an indefatigable quest for perfection and engineering excellence. We have considered the driver experience, the practicality of the vehicle and its suitability to the modern world. The INDe EV embraces sustainability while proving to be a cost-effective and practical solution."

The INDe EV van will be competitively priced and is expected to be in full production by April 2023.

New production facilities are being built in Hailsham with support from East Sussex County Council, with more micro-factories planned across the UK creating more than 350 new jobs and producing more than 11,000 vehicles per year.



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SATURDAY 17th & SUNDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2022
DEVONSHIRE ROAD, BEXHILL ON SEA, 9am-5pm



Now in its 20th year the Bexhill Anglo Continental Market is very popular both with shoppers and traders.

Devonshire Road will be closed to traffic as it becomes the venue for a real Continental Street Market. Up to 40 traders bring the taste and smells of the Continent to Bexhill.

We have genuine French traders as well as many local traders and crafts stalls which can include soft furnishings, home made cakes, hand crafted gifts, handmade soaps, jewellery, scarves and much more.

Bexhill 100 Motoring Club will continue to display some classic cars. Make a day of it. Enjoy lunch in one of the many restaurants or cafes, visit the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill Museum, or have a leisurely stroll around the market, shops and seafront.



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HUGE PLANS REVEALED TO FUTURE-PROOF SIDLEY CRICKET CLUB



Clr Doug Oliver, Chris Humpries and Jamie Ramsden



BY GROUP EDITOR, PAUL GIBSON

A massive project to bring back competitive community cricket to the area is underway which will see the building of a Pavilion as well as state-of-the-art pitches in Sidley.

Just months after the launch of one of the country's largest skate and BMX park, the area is to get another boost in sporting facilities thanks to donations to Sidley Cricket Club and the hard work of numerous volunteers.

The project could cost more than £250,000 to complete when the Pavilion is built — but there is a long way to go to get to that point, according to project manager Jamie Ramsden who has spent more than 24 years with the club and is dedicated to making sure local adults and children have access to cricket.

The club is now located at St. Mary's Recreation Ground and work is currently underway to construct an eight-wicket grass pitch on the land which will enable the club to play up to 40 games every year. More than 140 tonnes of soil have been dug out and re-laid around the pitch to ensure an extremely hard-wearing surface for future games and training. Then, more than two hundred tonnes of topsoil is laid and left to settle over the winter months, with the aim of having the pitches ready for play in 2023. All the products to complete the pitch are being supplied by Callier Turf Care.

The land is owned by Rother District Council and it's hoped a long-term lease can be agreed to secure the future of Sidley Cricket Club which has had its problems in the past. The club

was founded in 1901 and celebrated its Centenary in 2000 when it was based at Bodiam Avenue, but that area is now being developed, so it was then moved to Gullivers Sportground. However, tragedy hit when the club became financially bankrupt, making both the cricket and football clubs homeless in 2013.

Jamie told *Bexhill News*: "When you sitting in a meeting, and a club that you do all your socialising in, all your playing in, and someone sits there and says, I'm sorry, that's it, you cannot explain to anybody what that feels like. Unfortunately, it was two weeks before our league season was due to start."

He added: "At that time, we had 60 playing members, 50 juniors and basically, the whole club had to freeze. But there were about 15 of us who decided we couldn't just let the club disappear. The Chairman, the Vice Chair, the President and I have since worked on this for nine years. The rest of the club members have all pulled together and simply carried on going."

The development plans came to a halt in 2020 when COVID restrictions came in but lots of work continued on behind the scenes to ensure work could continue as soon as it possibly could. Workshops have been held at the recreation park during the school holidays to encourage local children to learn the sport — they were all extremely well attended.

Things are moving quickly at the site with the pitches being finished and mowed this month and new changing facilities and toilets being built there by April 2023. The Pavilion will be built as soon as the money has been raised to do so.

Jamie added: "We are obviously coming very close to celebrating 125 years and it would be beautiful if on that 125th anniversary, the Pavilion is all set up. There would be a real community atmosphere on that day if the place was packed. You know, there's an awful lot of work to do before then, but it's all achievable."

When visiting the site during one of the holiday workshops, it was evident there was a passion within the community for cricket. It was incredible to see so many young children, some already with their own branded kit, playing the sports and encouraging newbies into the sport. Jamie's passion was also more than evident to get this project done and completed as soon as physically possible.

Joining us on the walk around the land, was Doug Oliver, leader of Rother District Council. He told me: "There's a great progression story here and it just has to happen. The cooperation between the Cricket club and Rother has been fantastic in order to facilitate it — it's all so exciting."

When funding is available, an artificial wicket, which will cost around £7,000 will be installed on the pitch. It requires minimal maintenance, is cost-effective and can be played on all year round.

Jamie concluded: "When it's all complete, it'll meet our ECB criteria, meets our club needs and also, we're not travelling nine miles away. We're playing smack bang in our community which is what it's all about. We're a community club and we want to be in our community."



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SPORT



PAGE 34
NEW PITCH FOR SIDLEY

DRAW FOR UNITED AT START OF SEASON



The Southern Combination football league started for the Bexhill Pirates with the long trip to Midhurst recently, it's always been a tough fixture and this was no exception, honours even with a 1-1 draw and first points on the board.

The FA Cup came up next and what would have been a plum home tie had to be played away at Eastbourne Borough due to the Polegrove still being in the hands of the Cricket.

Despite taking the lead through another Jack Shonk strike the visitors looked strong and dangerous, it wasn't long before they levelled up and two minutes later took the lead from a corner.

The game got away from the pirates in the first half and a spirited effort in the second half couldn't quite get them the win with North Greenford FC running out 2-3 winners and in the hat for the next round.

The next two league games went to plan, assured against Alfold away, 0-3 winners followed by an emphatic 0-6 win away at Saltdean United FC where new signing Hayden Beaconsfield scored on debut.

It was a Home fixture against early pace-setters Eastbourne United FC on the Bank Holiday. In the words of Bob Geldof "I don't like Mondays", never up with the pace of the game in the first half left the Pirates with a mountain to climb in the second, 0-3 down at the break. Bexhill were much better in the second period but had too much to do, Goals from Beaconsfield and Summerbell and a nonstop attack in the last part of the game entertained the 241 in attendance, but there was too much to do. The first defeat of the season with Eastbourne taking all 3 points.

Fixtures coming thick and fast now with six games due in seven days for the U18's, U23's and the first team.

BEXHILL CRICKET CLUB MATCH REPORT

DENTON I V BEXHILL III — SUSSEX LEAGUE DIV 9 EAST

At 119-2 after 19 overs Denton looked on course to set a challenging target at the Denton I v Bexhill III, Sussex League Div 9 East match.

Captain Liam Paulton (32) had already fallen, run out by the bullet arm of Steve Phillimore, but when Martin Deva also went for 43 Bexhill took control and the hosts fell to 128 all out.

Adam Smith (4-24) and Owen Cullip (2-28) did the majority of the damage.

Wobbling at 31-3 after Gary Wick's 25 Phillimore then took control making an undefeated 51 to see Bexhill home at 129-4 and also deny his brother a bat.

Louis Haffenden 17 and Cullip (14*) assisted. Paulton and Kai Davis took 2 apiece for Denton.

POLEGROVE LADIES ARE BOWLING COMPETITION WINNERS



Polegrove ladies had a fantastic end to their County season by winning the double; Top Club and Double Rink competitions.

The team beat the Drive (Brighton) to win the Double rink for the third year running and beat Norfolk (Littlehampton) to win the Top Club title.

The squad, Nina Allbut, Nicki Dale, Denise Hodd, Jo Watt, Margaret Adcock, Phyllis Stevens, Rosamund Wood, Jo Hearsam, Lorraine Hume, Carolyn Worth, Alison Watt

Carolyn Worth has accumulated the points needed for her to be awarded her Sussex County badge next season.

Rachel Mackriell was crowned County singles Champion for an amazing seventh time and was runner up in the two woods and triples along with Nina Allbut and Denise Hodd.

Rachel also reached the regional stages in the mixed pairs, senior singles and champion of champions National competitions. Nina was runner up in the County champion of champions.

Rachel, Nina and Denise represented Sussex at the National finals Leamington Spa in the triples competition recently and Rachel will contest her singles competitions at Leamington this month.

WALKING NETBALL INVITED NEW MEMBERS



Bexhill Walking Netball has been running for almost seven years and recently became members of England Netball. The group is now inviting new members to try a free session.

It's a group of ladies (mainly 55+) who love playing this slightly slower version of netball. Their aim is to get fitter, improve co-ordination, balance and general well being, whilst playing a friendly team sport.

The team has recently tasted success after

taking part in a Sussex tournament for the first time in which they came third.

Active Rother has recognised this aim by funding members on a Walking Netball coaching course. It has also enabled them to purchase new posts and balls.

Sessions take place at the Freedom Leisure, Downs Road, Bexhill on Mondays between 11:10 and 12:10. Contact 07447 031308 for more information.

DO YOU RUN A LOCAL SPORTS CLUB?

Send us your news, reports and photos and we'll include them in our sports pages in *Bexhill News*. Just email: editor@bexhill-news.co.uk