

# Bexhill News

DECEMBER 2022 | ISSUE 06

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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



Here approaches the end of another year which seems to have gone in a heartbeat, especially since launching *Bexhill News* just six months ago, you Bexhillians have certainly kept me on my toes and given me plenty to write about!

As we approach a very expensive time of year, and at a time where we never know what's going to hit the national headline next, I feel we have to remember how lucky we actually are.

We are always reminded of those who are suffering war, starvation and those having to flee their homes and cities without any choice. We, of course, have our own problems in this country and we have to give as much support as we possibly can to the thousands of families who are struggling to make ends meet as we all experience never-ending price increases on literally everything.

It was amazing to see so many people come out onto the streets last month to mark Remembrance Sunday. It's always such a poignant occasion and an important time to educate youngsters about why we mark the day. That's why it's always great to see the cadet groups, scouts, cubs and brownies all coming along and giving their respects to the fallen. See our photos on the centre pages.

We're bringing you another packed edition this month, read all about the terrible situation on Bexhill Seafront with the rat infestation and also, take some time to discover one of the town's little secrets — The Mall in Western Road. We take a look at the quirky offering in-store there on Page 21.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2023.

Paul Gibson, Editor



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# DRINKING WATER PIPE UPGRADE TO DEAL WITH RISE IN DEMAND

**N**ew pipelines and equipment will be installed this month to support the movement of fresh water around the network and keep customer taps flowing in the area.

Work will include connecting existing mains in Ellerslie Lane and fitting new equipment in Turkey Road.

It's part of a £50,000 investment by fresh drinking water provider South East Water.

With the community of Bexhill growing, work is required to ensure that the underground network of pipes supplying homes and businesses with fresh drinking water can keep up with the additional demand.

It forms part of South East Water's £433 million five year investment programme which includes upgrading the network, particularly in areas seeing an increase in demand as communities grow.

Jeremy Dufour, Project Manager for South East Water said: "Upgrading the network around the Turkey Road and Ellerslie Lane area of Bexhill is a vital project to ensure that water continues to flow to our customers as demand for water in the area grows."

To enable the work to be carried out safely, a small section of footway to the south of Turkey Road will be closed for a few weeks in early December, followed by a road closure at the junction of Ellerslie Lane and Turkey Road in February 2023.

A diversion route, agreed by East Sussex Highways, will be clearly signed with access to homes and businesses along the closure route available at all times during the work.

Jeremy added: "Footpath and road closures are always a last resort but this is vital to ensure



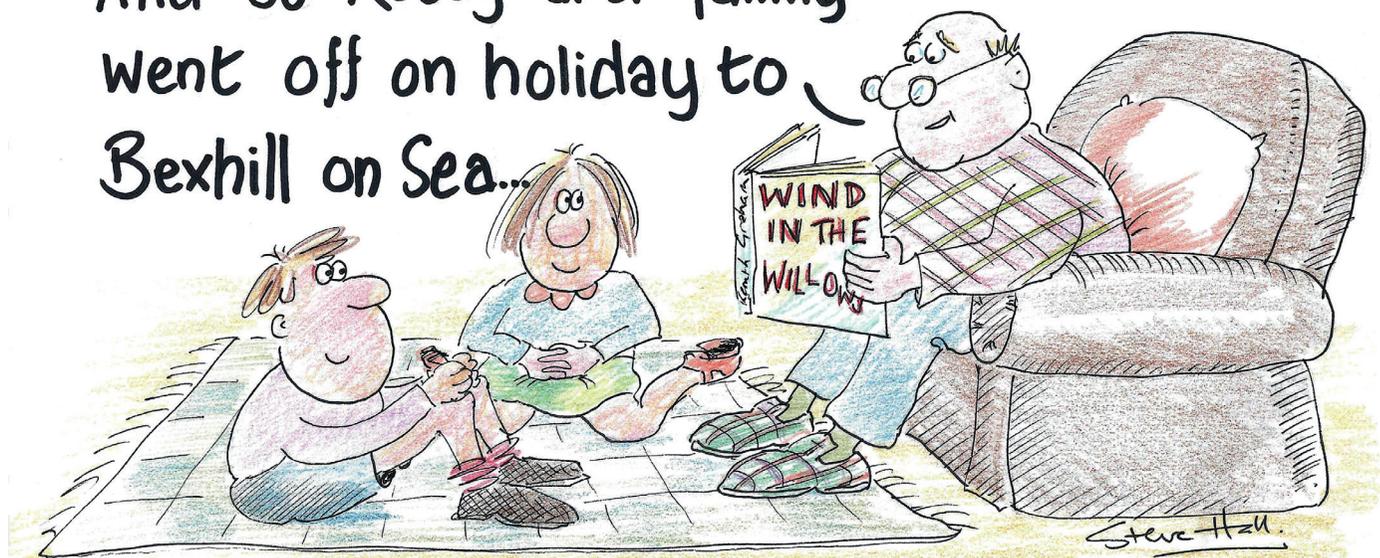
the safety of our team and the public while we install the new pipe. Our team will work as quickly and safely as possible to complete the project as soon as possible.

"I would like to thank the community in advance for their patience and understanding while we carry out this essential work."

The two sections of work are each expected to take two weeks to complete, beginning on Monday 5 December 2022 and Monday 27 February 2023 respectively.

**The community will be able to keep up with the latest on the project at [www.southeastwater.co.uk/turkeyroad](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk/turkeyroad)**

And so Ratty and family went off on holiday to Bexhill on Sea...



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](mailto:steve54.hall@gmail.com).



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# WORKERS' FURY OVER EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AT ROYAL MAIL

BY KIM MAYO

**P**ostal services in Bexhill and beyond are being “decimated” by Royal Mail management, according to a leading local union official who is calling for an agreement to be reached to settle the ongoing dispute.

Protests have been held since the summer and Paul Plim (pictured) spoke out during a demonstration outside Bexhill Post Office late last month where he couldn't conceal his frustration and anger.

He said: “The communication workers union have been trying in vain to settle a dispute the workforce has with the Royal Mail national team.

“What started out as a straightforward pay claim has escalated to a fight for survival for one of the most cherished bodies this country has.

“In short, our current national management team is hell-bent on selling off this 500-year old service that has served the public so well over the years to an asset stripping company.

“This is a workforce that even carried on during the recent Covid pandemic, providing that human contact to so many during the lockdown periods. It was a contact that so many in Bexhill were glad to have and has resulted in massive public support for our industrial action.

“We are also informing the public of our loyalty to the Universal Service Obligation and the one price goes anywhere ethos that has served the county so well over the years.

“There are aspects of the postal service that are at considerable risk of vanishing in our Chief Executive's race to the bottom.”

At the most recent protest, motorists tooted their horns to

voice their support, a move which Mr Plim is very grateful for.

He added: “The chief executive, Simon Thompson, has to be held to account. All we are asking for is fair pay and conditions. That is not too much to ask, is it?”

“But, we are continually hitting a brick wall when it comes to negotiations, which is why we must continue with our struggle.

“They (Royal Mail) are decimating everything. It is an ongoing nightmare. National policies are affecting everything, including local services, which will have a hugely negative impact.

“We want to continue to serve our customers to the very best of our ability, but we are having to work against the toughest of conditions.

“Every time we think we are close to an agreement, the conditions change once more. It is an impossible situation

“The national policy of Royal Mail is having a hugely negative impact on local jobs, with local pick ups of mail in Bexhill getting later and later and some post boxes even being removed.

“What about the elderly and infirm who rely on our local services? Not everyone is in a position to travel into the town centre, especially as parking is at a premium.

“The pay and conditions are terrible and we have had no option but to take the action we are currently undertaking.

“Of course, we are hoping a deal can be struck, but as it stands industrial action will continue throughout December and also include the two days before Christmas.

“It really did not have to come to this, but if management continues with their current policies, then we really have no option.”



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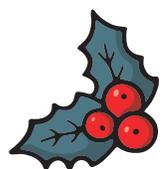
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# HELP IS AT HAND FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT COPE WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS



**A**s the cost-of-living crisis continues to escalate, there are significant concerns more people than ever will end up on the streets for the simple reason they can no longer afford to have a home of their own.

Utility bills continue to rocket with mortgages and rent also becoming not only extremely expensive but, in many cases, unaffordable.

Due to increasing concerns for those who may find themselves in an untenable situation, Rother District Council has teamed up with an award-winning social enterprise to

help homeless people rebuild their lives.

The council has joined forces with Beam, a crowdfunding platform that supports homeless people to access training and get into work.

The aim of the service is to help people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to find stable employment, accommodation and financial security.

Through the initiative, Rother residents will be referred to the scheme by the council's Housing Department.

Using Beam's online platform, members of the public can read homeless people's stories

and donate funds to help pay for transport costs and training to provide them with a better chance of finding employment and new accommodation.

Supporters can also leave messages of encouragement when donating to a person's campaign and can opt to be kept up to date on the progress of the people they support via email.

Those in need of help are given ongoing support to find new jobs and homes, with each person assigned a dedicated Beam caseworker to help them progress to a more secure future.

One of the first people to benefit from the scheme in Rother is 39-year-old Haroon, who fled Afghanistan in August 2021 with his wife and three children.

Haroon had been working for the British Embassy in Kabul for 14 years when the Taliban took over. With support from the British Army, Haroon and his family sought asylum in the UK and were supported into accommodation in Rother.

The council referred Haroon to Beam in October 2022 with the aim of helping him secure full-time work by removing the financial barriers in his way. He was able to raise £2,332 from 14 members of the public to fund childcare costs, a laptop, smartphone, SIA licence, travel and work clothes.

With Beam's help, he started a full-time job in November as a facilities officer and now feels more secure about his future.

Haroon said: "I came to the UK from Afghanistan with nothing except the clothes on my back. I wanted to get a full-time job



With Beam's help, Haroon now has a full-time job as a facilities officer

but it was hard as I needed a laptop for my job search and support with childcare, so my kids could go to after school clubs while I'm working.

"Thanks to Beam, I was able to get the items I needed. I now have a new full-time job as a facilities officer at a high school. I'm really excited about my job and the fact that I can now support my family to achieve their goals. I'm keen to develop my skills and progress in my career. Beam has made that possible."



## PLATINUM JUBILEE TREE TAKES ROOT IN BEXHILL

Members of the Bexhill Trefoil Guild unveiled a tree planted to honour the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, during their monthly meeting at Guide Headquarters recently.

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy, a national initiative to plant trees in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, John and Polly Gray planted a Rowan tree in the front courtyard of Girlguiding Bexhill's Headquarters on London Road for the Trefoil Guild.

When it blossoms in spring it will attract bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects, with the berries attracting birds in the autumn. The Rowan tree should live for around 200 years, hopefully growing alongside future generations of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoying their guiding adventures in Bexhill.

In addition to the young tree, Polly and John also planted a rose bush, appropriately named the Queen Elizabeth, to celebrate 60 years of the Bexhill Trefoil Guild, a branch of Girlguiding for adult members. Following the unveiling in



the wind and rain, members of the Trefoil Guild enjoyed a warm cup of tea and cake inside Headquarters.

The Queen's Green Canopy initially was due

to conclude in December 2022, at the end of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee year, but it has been extended to March 2023, to include the full tree planting season, and to give people the chance

to plant trees in memoriam of Her Majesty.

The Bexhill Trefoil Guild meets on the 3rd Monday of the month, at Guide Headquarters, London Road, from 7-9pm.



# WHEN SANTA IS VISITING YOUR ROAD THIS CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Club of Bexhill-On-Sea with Santa, his Sleigh, brightly lit Reindeers and Rotary helpers will be passing your street or nearby on the dates shown below.

They will not call at your door, but Santa and his Sleigh will be driving along, or near your road for you to come and see him. Please give generously as the Rotary will be donating the proceeds to Bexhill Foodbank, Hastings & Bexhill Mencap, Local Youth Organisations, and other Rotary charities. Routes start at 5:30pm each evening.

They will also be collecting outside Tesco on Saturday 10th and 17th December, and outside Boots on Devonshire Road.

## THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Cranston Avenue (part), Salvington Crescent, Cranston Rise, Collington Lane East, Collington Park Crescent, Fairfield Chase, Eden Drive, Winston Drive, Alexander Drive, White Hill Drive, The Borodales, Collington Grove, Collington Rise (part), Pinewoods, Pinewoods Court.

## FRIDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Oakleigh Road, Willow Drive, Chestnut Walk (part), The Gorseway, Fontwell Avenue, Frant Avenue, Frant Close, Fyning Place, Spring Lane, Berwick Close, Woodlands, Cowdray Park Road (part), Alfriston Close, Lavant Close, Woodstock Close, Oakfield Way, Magpie Close.

## MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER

Hawkhurst Way, Westham Close, Findon Close, The Shrublands, Warnham Gardens, The Spinney, Saltdean Way, Monterey Gardens, Monterey Close, Ceylon Walk, Carmel Close, Ashcombe Drive, Falconbury Drive, Heighton Close, Effingham Drive, Kewhurst Avenue (part), Gillam Wood Road, Tilgate Drive, Shipley Lane, Hawthorn Avenue, Wellesley Close, Glebe Close.

## WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Roads — Courthope Drive, Duke Street, Riders Bolt, Fowlers Close, Bale Close, Millham Close, Sussex Close, Blackfields Avenue, Bushy Croft, Byfields Croft, Summer Hill Road, Primrose Hill, Knebworth Road.

## THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER

Glenleigh Avenue, Glenleigh Park Road, Uplands Close, Kingswood Avenue, Clevedon Road, The Fairway, Broad View, Ward Way, Warwick Road, Hever Crescent, Dalmeny Road, Roedean, Bidwell Avenue, Deans, Drive, Windmill Drive.

## FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Mount Idol View, Pankhurst Rise, Putlands Crescent, Davis Close, Pankhurst Close, Blackmill Close, Jubilee Road (part), Ashby Close, Paton Road, Milwood Road, Beacon Hill.

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# COUNCIL'S ELIMINATION OF RATS IN 'GARDEN OF EDEN' IS HEAVILY CRITICISED

**R**other District Council says it is dealing successfully with the rodent population that "invaded" the green space adjacent to Channel View West on Bexhill seafont.

A spokesperson for the council confirmed the area continues to be monitored after the rats were dealt with, but its methods have been heavily criticised by the Bexhill and Hastings Wildlife Rescue Sanctuary.

The council says when the green space is reopened to the public, visitors are urged not to leave food and other detritus in the area because it attracts rats and other so-called vermin.

The council added in a brief statement: "We carried out treatment in the area and that is now complete. We will continue to monitor the area but urge the public not to drop food or food wrappings in the area."

At present, the area remains fenced off and closed with residents and visitors told to keep out.

That, however, does not cut any ice with the sanctuary, which says the way the rats are disposed of with the use of "bait boxes" is extremely cruel as the rodents will suffer a lingering and agonising death.

In a statement posted on Facebook, the sanctuary said: "Earlier this year, a wildflower garden was planted on Bexhill seafont; an ever-popular way of councils to show they are taking steps to contribute positively to biodiversity and the environment.

"It was beautiful, and quickly attracted all manner of fauna.

"The insects included pollinators and those, such as beetles and gastropods, who eat the plants. These minibeasts in turn, attracted birds and small mammals, who eat and distribute the wildflower seeds as well as controlling the insects.

"These then attracted larger mammals, such as foxes and badgers, who control the populations of the smaller prey species, and so, the local wildlife began to thrive on the new habitat.

"However, after the wildflower garden's contribution to local wildlife became established it seems that some humans rediscovered their inability to share space with others with exceptions hypocritically made for limited species such as songbirds and hedgehogs.

"Some residents complained of wildlife using the garden and Rother District Council have responded by fencing it off and distributing poison throughout; with warning signs advising 'treatment' (notice the council's choice of word) targeting our very intelligent and misrepresented brown rat.

"The fact is the overwhelming majority of our UK rat population is healthy and well and plays a very important role in our local ecosystem.



"The council uses poison, because it is easy to place and does not require as much work but this is one of the most inhumane and cruel ways to murder of all.

"It's designed to be slow acting, to allow time for treatment in case of any accidental ingestion from domestic species or humans. But the consequence of this is that the wild animals endure up to five days of constant suffering with severe headaches, dizziness, lack of co-ordination and then relentless pain whilst their bodies start to bleed internally.

"Some of our most distressing intakes have been poison victims, usually coming to us too late for any antidote to be successful. Thankfully our fantastic vets gently put them to sleep and avoid the possibility of the poison being passed further up the food chain.

"The poison in use by Rother District Council, Difencoum, is one of those that can poison animals that eat a poison victim (relay toxicosis); with birds of prey and cats being the most at risk due to their smaller body mass.

"We are totally disgusted by Rother District Council's cruelty but also baffled by its hypocrisy in creating a wildflower garden, only to kill the wildlife it had only just started to support, in the outdoors where they belong."



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## READERS' LETTERS

Email your letters to the Editor to: [letters@bexhill-news.co.uk](mailto:letters@bexhill-news.co.uk)

### VOTING DISAPPOINTMENT

I was disappointed that your features editor Kim Mayo announced in your November issue that he is planning to abstain from voting at the next General Election as "politicians will ultimately let you down."

I too have wrestled with the question of whether voting is worth it but have always, when it comes to the crunch, come to the view that it is. I believe that voting is one of the most important rights we have in a democracy. Why leave it to someone else to decide?

I would also ask Mr Mayo not to tar all politicians with the same brush. Yes there are some rogues, as in all walks of life, but I believe, maybe naively, that the vast majority do try their best.

A few years ago I had some dealings with our local MP, Huw Merriman, on a transport issue and he dealt with the matter quickly and efficiently. He didn't let me down.

Mr Merriman has a considerable 26,000 majority in Bexhill and Battle and I am sure if you asked him he would say that being re-elected in 2019 was the greatest honour you could bestow him. As it meant he was doing a good job. If he'd been incompetent, the voters would have turfed him out and rightly so. I firmly believe in the right to recall and dismiss a useless MP.

Like Mr Mayo I have no political affiliations whatsoever, and I come in the floating voter category. But, unlike him, I do believe that voting is essential.

I once had a discussion with someone who

was passionately anti-voting. And I brought into the debate the well-known suffragette martyr, Emily Wilding Davison. As you know, she is most remembered for her dramatic protest at the Epsom Derby in 1913 when she ran in front of the King's horse and shortly after died from her injuries.

If the cause meant so much to her that she sacrificed her life, we should at least exercise the democratic right that she died for.

So perhaps Mr Mayo could reconsider? He firmly believes in the power of local government so it would seem he thinks voting in those elections is needed. Casting your vote in a national poll is equally, if not more, important.

Yours faithfully,  
Ivor Jones

### BREXIT... NOT COVID

I have only recently been aware of your publication and I hope that you will be focused on the facts rather than the politics and vested interests.

I was surprised that in the subject article and paragraph — "It's obvious there's been a complete refit of this hotel..." — that supplies had been difficult because of covid. This may be one difficulty but when it comes to trading with the EU and the negative impacts such as form filling, this is entirely the failure of Brexit and should not be hidden from public awareness. I hope in future you will be more concerned with the accuracy of your reporting.

Regards,  
John Barrs.

## HEARING AID MAINTENANCE SESSIONS ARE BACK

Residents are now able to visit the regular hearing aid maintenance sessions which have returned after finding a new home.

The service is available on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm till 3.30pm, at The RAFA Albatross Club, 15 Marina Arcade, Bexhill.

Bob Cavendish from the service said: "We look forward to welcoming you and hope this new venture will make life easier for all who live locally and wear hearing aids. Please remember to bring your brown NHS hearing aid book with you to obtain new batteries and tube replacements."



## BANDSTAND TOPPING OUT

Bexhill Heritage volunteers celebrated the 'topping out' of the East Parade Bandstand last month.

Topping Out has ancient traditions which include placing a fir tree on a new building's highest point once the roof is in place.

Having hoisted the fir tree, the Bexhill Heritage team raised their glasses in thanks to everyone involved in their ambitious restoration of this iconic building.





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# RESIDENTS AND GROUPS GATHER FOR OCEANS EVENT



**The St. Peters Community Centre was the venue for the first local Ocean Symposium event last month which saw almost a hundred attendees.**

It was the fourth annual Ocean Symposium event, but the first time it happened in Bexhill. The event, was organised by the UNA Climate & Oceans, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Bexhill-based Community Supporters. It was attended by residents, businesses and local organisations.

The theme this year was 'Communities for Ocean Action' and showcased many local environmental groups such as Strandliners, Friends of Combe Valley Countryside Park and the Bexhill Environmental Group.

There was also a full day's programme of talks and films, one of the most popular presentations being from Young Pollinators, a group of teenagers from Bexhill and Hastings, who talked about the proposed Bexhill Beach Garden project.

This hybrid event was also followed throughout the day by attendees on Zoom link from places such as the USA and Taiwan and was particularly well attended by younger generations.

The event also saw the launch of the UN Decade of Ocean Science where attendees were invited to sign up as an Ocean Ambassador.

The event was opened by Tim Dapling (Chief Officer for Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority), Cllr Kathy Harmer (RDC Chair), Cllr Andrew Mier (RDC Vice Chair) and Peter Thompson (UN Secretary General. The event was sponsored by RS Aqua, a marine technology company from Portsmouth.

# TALKING NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR VOLUNTEER READERS



**The Bexhill and Hastings Talking Newspaper has put a call out for budding readers to record local news for its large audience each week.**

This charity has been supporting visually impaired residents in Bexhill, Hastings and the surrounding area for over 40 years.

It records local news and magazine-style articles once a week and send out around 120 memory sticks to our listeners who use a 'boom box' supplied by us to access the programme. They are all very appreciative of the service as it keeps them in the loop about local events.

They already have a team of around 40 volunteers but do have some vacancies for some new readers. It is looking to recruit readers for the magazine who record once in four weeks, mostly on Zoom.

Most readers research their own articles and the recording takes less than an hour. If you would like more information do contact the volunteer coordinator Ron Brazier on 01424 844177 or [ronbrazier26@gmail.com](mailto:ronbrazier26@gmail.com).



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# BEXHILL WOMAN PIONEERS TRAIN CARD SCHEME FOR ASSISTANCE DOGS

**T**housands of people who rely on assistance dogs to get out and about are to benefit from a new UK-wide scheme that has been developed with the help of a disabled from Bexhill.

Train travellers are being provided with a handy laminated card that will explain why their assistance dog needs to sit under an unoccupied seat whilst on Southern and Thameslink services.

By raising awareness, this simple card should also improve the overall experience of passengers who want to use the railways with their assistance dog.

The cards can be particularly useful on services where it's not possible to book a seat in advance. Most assistance dogs are trained by well-known charities registered with Assistance Dogs UK.

Local resident Fiona Bower who has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair helped to launch the scheme. For the past six years, she has had the help of 'Mr Wiz', her Golden Retriever assistance dog. Mr Wiz was trained and continues to be supported by the charity Canine Partners, based near Chichester.

As a member of Govia Thameslink Railway's volunteer Access Advisory Panel, Fiona advised GTR that was working with the industry body Rail Delivery Group in developing the scheme.

She emphasised that having adequate space was vital for assistance dogs to be able to have their owner in sight at all times and perform their roles properly. That includes being able to settle and be comfortable and away from other customers who may be tempted to pet them.

Fiona said: "Mr Wiz, my registered assistance dog, and I welcome this new initiative which will be of tremendous



Fiona Bowers and Mr Wiz

benefit to all those passengers who, like me, depend on a specially trained dog to care for them."

Jacqueline Starr, Chief Executive Officer of the Rail Delivery Group, said: "We've all seen guide dogs when they are out

**Assistance dog under seat**

**Please do not sit here**

**Thank you for your co-operation**

**This card is reusable**



This scheme is supported by Assistance Dogs UK



and about supporting their visually-impaired owners. It's less well-known that many of our other four-legged friends have their own skills and character quirks that help people with a range of support needs. These include people with physical disabilities and those with autism, epilepsy or other complex health conditions.

"Many of these conditions are not visible so we want to make life easier for the people whose daily lives they affect. Being able to place the card on the seat next to them — together with the other ID the dogs carry — should achieve that on their train

journeys. It will also help fellow passengers adjust to the sight of assistance dogs doing their job while apparently relaxing under a spare seat."

The cards, which were tested with charity Assistance Dogs UK, can also act as a red flag for customers who are allergic to dogs or afraid of them.



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# LET'S SHOP LOCAL TO KEEP BEXHILL BUZZING



**OPINION BY  
FEATURES EDITOR, KIM MAYO**

**W**hen walking through Bexhill town centre recently, I noticed several shops had posters in the window with the slogan 'shop local' and it is a message we should all take heed of and act upon whenever possible.

Many of the shops in town are small independent businesses and the run-up to Christmas is when the proprietors have the best chance to cash in before the much tougher trading months of January, February and March.

As a nation, we are becoming lazier and lazier with home delivery increasingly becoming the norm. Well, I am the exception to the rule because I actually enjoy having a good old nose around the shops.

Internet shopping, which we increasingly rely on, has a hugely negative impact on the local economy.

Take, for instance, Amazon. Yes, everything you could possibly want is there at the click of a button, but it is hardly a rewarding shopping experience is it?

What has happened to that good old British ethos of the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker?

Fortunately, Bexhill still has a butcher and several bakers, although candlestick makers seem to have fallen by the wayside.

Last month I visited Brighton for the first time in three-and-a-half years. Suffice to say it was not an enjoyable experience.

For some reason, people seem to love the city which begs the question of why?

It is crowded, dirty and largely unwelcoming with a plethora of shops which are uniform in their blandness. In effect, the big chains have taken over.

All the usual suspects are present and correct in the city centre and it is an unedifying experience for those of us who

prefer the quirky and unique.

The streets are crammed, you need to take out a second mortgage to park your car for a few hours and a pint of lager for the friend I met and a glass of wine for yours truly came to a staggering £14.50.

Without naming any specific watering holes, you can get both of those beverages for a damn sight less in Bexhill.

Now, I am not suggesting for one minute we all become hermits and never venture beyond the outskirts of our town, especially with the likes of Hastings and Eastbourne within easy reach and offering their own particular charms.

But the beauty of Bexhill lies in its simplicity. You can take a bracing walk along the seafront during the winter months and bask in the sun in summer.

Everything is more or less at your fingertips and we should all be grateful for that.

I moved here more than three years ago because rents for properties in Portslade were going through the roof.

Despite working in central Brighton at the time, I thought the trek to work each day would be worth it for one simple reason, that being my quality of life would improve immeasurably.

And so it has proved. I made the right decision having quit the job in Brighton and setting up permanent camp in East Sussex.

Any regrets? None whatsoever. Admittedly, the recent Budget has forced most of us, with the exception of the lucky few, to tighten our belts but life in general is really not that bad.

I managed to do all of my Christmas shopping for family and friends in Bexhill without spending a fortune and I actually enjoyed the experience.

As one gets older, one realises life is all about simple pleasures rather than unnecessary expenditures.

Bexhill has plenty to offer so let's all make the most of it.

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### EVENTS AT THE BULL INN

Sunday Folk - 1st January at 5:30pm

Monday Quiz - 5th & 19 December at 8:00pm

Folk at Christmas with Ragati Strings - Sunday 11th Dec - 5:00pm

60s, 70s & 80s Vintage Disco - Sat 17th Dec, 8-11:00pm

Sunday Karaoke - 18th December at 7.00pm

Christmas Eve & New Years Eve Parties - 8.00pm-Late

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# BexhillEvents

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For a **FREE LISTING**, email your details to: [events@bexhill-news.co.uk](mailto:events@bexhill-news.co.uk)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. BARNABAS

Sunday 11th December, 3pm

Sea Road, Bexhill TN40 1JG

Community Carol Service, with mince pies and punch. Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve, 7.00pm, First Eucharist of Christmas. Sunday 25th December, Christmas Day, 10.30am Family Eucharist.

## BEXHILL CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, December 10th, 7.30pm at St. Barnabas Church, Sea Road, Bexhill. TN40 1JG

Our Christmas Concert is a feast of seasonal music, both traditional and modern and will definitely put you in the right mood for the Christmas Season. Tickets £13 in advance or £15 on the door. For more information telephone 01424 222801.

## BEXHILL'S SANTA DASH/ SANTA PAWS

Sunday 4th December along the promenade.

A great family fun event. Choice of 2k or 5k where you can run, jog or walk or join Santa Paws Walkies. Please collect on the Terrace for 11.30am start for individuals and groups and 12.00 for Doggie entrants. Santa suits will also be available from 10.30 on the day of the event on the DLWP terrace. To book, search "Bexhill Santa Dash" which will take you to the Eventrac site or visit [www.bexhill-lions.org.uk](http://www.bexhill-lions.org.uk).

## SANTA'S GROTTO AT WEATHERSPOONS

Saturdays 3rd, 10th, and 17th December between 10.00am and 2.00pm in aid of Bexhill Lions.

Meet Santa with his sleigh and helpers. They will be at the following locations between 5.00pm and 7pm: Bathing Hut Cafe. December 8th, Pebsham Community Centre December 12th and Sivyers, West Station, December 20th.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th December, 10-4pm (12-4pm Sunday) St. Michael's Church, Glassenbury Drive.

18 illuminated trees on the theme of Songs from the Musicals. Free admission. Stalls and refreshments on Saturday 10th. Full details on St. Michael's Church website.

## ELF THE MUSICAL

21st-24th December. De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. A wonderfully funny festive family musical event, just in time for Christmas! Visit the website for tickets and times.

## BEXHILL ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Thursdays 7.30-9.30, Little Common Community Hall, Shepherd's Close. TN39 4SQ.

Your first visit is FREE, Cost £4.

## MESSY CHURCH

Freedom Church, Claremont Road, Bexhill  
Saturday 17th December, 15:30-17:30.

All age creative service with crafts, activities and sensory play. Everyone can get to enjoy making crafts, learning about Jesus, who loves us, and enjoying a meal together and what's more, it's free! You don't need to believe to belong, come and join us where everyone is welcome. There will be refreshments, discussions, a variety of activities and a hot meal together. Please let us know if you are interested in coming to help us estimate numbers for the food.

## CRAFT FAIRS

Every second Saturday, St. Barnabas Church, Sea Road, Bexhill, between 10am-3pm, Free entrance.

Monthly arts, crafts, gifts and produce fairs. No fairs in January or August. [saturdaycraftfairs@gmail.com](mailto:saturdaycraftfairs@gmail.com).

## LIGHT UP LITTLE COMMON

Sunday, 4th December 2022, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Beautiful hand made Local Craft, Malt wine, Prosecco bar, Brass Band, Children's Choir and the countdown to lighting the Tree! Father Christmas will be there at 5pm to see the children and give a free present to the first 50 children. Come and join the festive fun in a village setting.

## BEXHILL TUESDAY CLUB FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Every Tuesday afternoon, St. Marks Church, Little Common.

Are you feeling isolated and want to make new friends? Then come and join in with lunches, cream teas, quizzes and entertainment. We can even pick you up and take you home. Call Jane on 01424 729323.

## BEXHILL HEALTH WALKS

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 11am, free to attend.

Free, friendly, regular walks, just an hour, no need to book, just turn up. Monday: Sidley, meet outside the New Inn. Wednesdays: Bexhill Freedom Leisure Centre, 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from outside Bexhill Leisure Pool, Ravenside. Fridays: Bexhill Seafront, meet outside De La Warr Pavilion.

## BEXHILL CHESS CLUB

Centenary House, 21 Holliers Hill (near Bexhill Hospital), TN40 2DH.

The club meets Tuesday afternoons from 1-4pm, Sunday afternoons from 1-4pm. Beginners welcome, coaching given, refreshments provided. For further information please phone Mr Sharp on 01424 715753.

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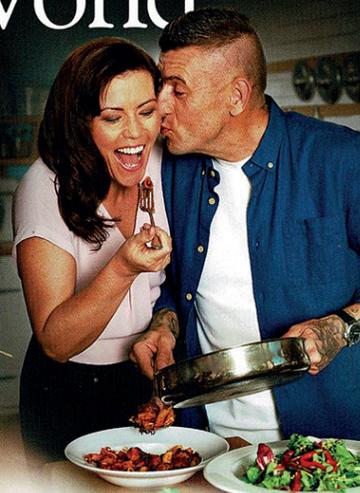


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Terry Payne has joined UK Power Networks' highly-acclaimed apprenticeship

# BRIGHT SPARK IS RELISHING HIS APPRENTICESHIP CHALLENGE

**S**tarting a new job is always a challenge with nerves kicking in before your first day, but one new recruit cannot wait to get started.

Bexhill resident Terry Payne, 36, has joined an elite power apprenticeship programme, to help keep power flowing to millions of homes, while supporting the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Terry has gained a place among 14 new recruits on UK Power Networks' highly-acclaimed apprenticeship, learning the expert skills to help keep the lights on for 8.4 million homes and businesses across the South East, London and east of England

The apprenticeship programme was recently accredited by the Institution of Engineering and Technology, meeting the highest standards of quality, content, support and assessment.

Terry will spend the next two years on the programme studying at dedicated training centres and working under supervision alongside experienced experts in Lewes to become a lines person, maintaining, connecting and repairing the overhead electricity network.

He will learn vital skills and play an important role in meeting the growing demand from communities and organisations as more and more turn to low-carbon technologies such as electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Terry, who previously worked as an electrician at a large shopping centre in Sussex, said: "Overhead power lines are a big part of the electricity network.

"It's sensational to be part of the trade. The overhead lines person role appealed to my adventurous side. I like climbing, hiking and holidays in Wales, so it appeals to my outdoor nature.

"When I decided what trade to do, I wanted to challenge myself. In this industry, there is a lot of maths and the role is safety critical. I wanted to put myself in a position where I had to be focused and on the ball and deliver work where there is an element of pride.

"I like the way the world is going with the upscaling of electric vehicles. We are like legacy-makers, we are going to be doing something that will outlive us and our children will benefit when more people are driving electric vehicles. I'm going to be a massive part of that.

"I don't want to get ahead of myself. I just want to be the best overhead lines person I can be and keep learning. I know there are more opportunities for me here and it's nice to know there are doors that are ready for me to walk through when the time is right.

"UK Power Networks saw something in me, gave me this apprenticeship and it's like a dream come true.

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# RESIDENTS UNITED TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE FALLEN

PHOTOS: JTP53 PHOTOGRAPHY

**H**undreds of residents lined the seafront at the war memorial on Bexhill seafront and at Little Common to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

It was a suitably sombre occasion with residents both young and old congregating on a sunny day to listen to an array of speakers and observe the two-minute silence as the clock struck 11am. Just prior to that, the Last Post was sounded before the crowd fell silent. You could have heard a pin drop.

In the build-up, touching poems were read out and the National Anthem was sung with considerable gusto, paying tribute to our new King.

Among the crowd, several had chosen to wrap themselves in Ukrainian flags to pay tribute to the soldiers in that besieged country who had lost their lives while battling against invading Russian forces.

Having congregated initially in the town centre, many marched to the war memorial, wearing their poppies with pride to pay fulsome tribute to the fallen while those who had served in the Armed Forces wore the medals they had won having fought with valour in the heat of battle.

The service culminated with the laying of wreaths at the memorial as Bexhill once again marked the occasion beautifully.

Afterwards, many took the time to admire the beautiful 'poppy car' which had been erected in the Memorial Garden on the seafront for the third consecutive year.

It came about from an idea Councillor Lynn Langlands had when she was Mayor during COVID. There was no opportunity for charities to raise money to support their causes, and she thought Rother District Council could not let Remembrance Day go by without a tribute of poppies.

The council worked with Lynn, as well as garden contractors Idverde, to bring the garden car sculpture to the memorial garden for people to donate and put poppies on the car. Many members of the community knit or sew poppies to put on it.

More than £3,500 was raised in the first year and is an amazing tribute to all our servicemen living with injury or fallen in battle.

Each year Lynn is asked if she will do the Poppy Car again and of course, the answer is a resounding yes as it continues to raise more than £3,000 each year for the Royal British Legion.

It arrives in the garden a week before Remembrance Sunday and is manned every day by local Rother District Council and town councillors, members of the Royal British Legion and the Bexhill community.







# THIS CRIME CAPER REALLY IS BANG ON THE MONEY

BY KIM MAYO

**A Bexhill actor, writer and producer certainly has a licence to thrill as work continues on his latest film.**

Robin Hayter is heavily involved in the movie, entitled *On the Money*, which he describes as 'a crime caper'.

"Basically, every character in the film needs money for various reasons, hence the title," he said when we met for coffee in the town centre.

"The director, Rob Walker, came up with the idea for the plot.

"We met up and spun a few ideas about before deciding to set it in locations including Bexhill, Hastings and London.

"Rob is an acclaimed theatre, film and television director who among his many achievements in the arts worked on *Circus* with John Hannah and Eddie Izzard, as well as on *Kindertransport*, *Deadhead* and many more.

"The film is an independent co-production between my own production company Perfect Pitch Productions and Rob's Canyon Pictures.

"The main focus is on a cantankerous old gangster who retires to Bexhill, but he has been cleared out financially.

"We have assembled a very good cast and so far we have shot enough for a 30-minute film, which is just a taster for what we have planned.

"I am setting up a crowdfunding site and if all goes according to plan it can be expanded into a full-blown feature film."

Robin has been involved in television, film and theatre since the early 1980s, having had his interest piqued by his father, the well-known actor James Hayter.

James, who passed away in 1983, was best known for his role as Friar Tuck in *The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men* and as Samuel Pickwick in the film *The Pickwick Papers*, along with many other notable roles, including *Professor Prudence* opposite Hollywood legend Burt Lancaster in *The Crimson Pirate*, so it was no surprise Robin elected to follow in his footsteps.

"I did a lot of work in television including the part of Steggy

in an adaption of *The Perfect Spy* by John Le Carre and in film, including *Friend or Foe*, *Party Party* and *Fanny Hill*," Robin added. "I also played Fritz Eger, one of the lead roles in the BBC series of John Christopher's *The Tripods*."

"Once the acting bug bites, that is it. You always want to be involved in the business even when times are tough.

"There was also an episode of *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* where I played a German. The cast, including the likes of Jimmy Nail, Timothy Spall, Tim Healy and Kevin Whately were great to work with. It was a fun experience.

"In the 1990s I decided to extend myself so I went to the London College of Printing to study film-making, achieving a second-class honours degree in the process."

However, now he back with a bang, having assembled a first-rate cast, including an actor who played a baddie in the James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*.

"Yes, we have got Stefan Kalipha among the cast," Robin said. "Having an actor of his calibre working with us is great."

The cast also includes Forbes Collins, who played King John in *Maid Marian and Her Merry Men* and also appeared

in *Poldark*, as well as Brian Croucher, best known as the character Ted Hills in *EastEnders*.

Other notable names involved are Laura Savage, Shakespearean actress Emily Carding and Su Warren.

Robin is also playing a significant role in the film, which is still in production, although hopes are high that it will be completed and primed for release next year.

"Everyone who is involved in the project is very excited," Robin said. "We have a very good script and a fantastic cast and Bexhill has proven to be a very good central location to film.

"Now it is just a case of putting the finishing touches to it after we have completed the remaining scenes and edited it.

"I am so grateful to everyone who has been involved and the reception we have received when out and about filming has been fantastic too.

"The entire filming process has been hugely enjoyable and I can't wait to see the finished film which we hope everyone who watches it will thoroughly enjoy."

**For more information visit [www.robinhayter.co.uk](http://www.robinhayter.co.uk)**



# RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO LOVE LOCAL THIS CHRISTMAS



Local business owner Kaela Mills



**Shoppers are being encouraged to Love Local this Christmas and support businesses on their doorstep.** Rother District Council has launched its campaign to support local businesses in the lead-up to Christmas. Residents are being urged to shop and eat locally during the festive period in support of businesses finding it increasingly more difficult to make ends meet.

Cllr Christine Bayliss, Rother District Council's portfolio holder for economic development and regeneration, said: "Our small, local businesses have had a rough ride over the past few years, having to fight back from Covid restrictions and a change in shopping habits.

"They need support now, more than ever, as the cost of living crisis continues to bite and energy bills soar. I would urge residents to consider shopping local and support businesses that

rely on them to survive.

"We also know that times are tough for our residents — but they can save money by shopping locally - reducing the need to use cars and other transport to shop further afield. This will also lower carbon and help the environment."

Rother District Council has distributed posters around the district to promote the campaign and encourage people to support their local businesses.

Kaela Mills, owner of Bexhill-based Sprout Organic – which sells organic clothing for children and adults, says support is vital to help businesses survive.

"The cost of living crisis is having a huge impact and that is definitely the biggest challenge for high street businesses. It is not only having an impact on shoppers, but on businesses too.

"The Covid pandemic drove people to shop online and it is a shame that that seems to have continued, shoppers have not returned to the high street in the same way.

"I would encourage people to shop more thoughtfully this Christmas and make more meaningful purchases, which doesn't mean having to spend more money! Handmade or independently sourced gifts are a wonderful option and help to support your local small businesses."

To support local businesses the council will, again this year, waive its town centre off-street pay and display car parks on set days during the festive season.

**The days have been agreed with local Chambers of Commerce and business owners and full details will be available at [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk)**



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ECHOING AROUND THE CHAMBER DECEMBER 2022

# A MERRY INVESTMENT CHRISTMAS FOR BEXHILL



Sally Wickens, Grace Leo, Heather Noble, Nat Wickens



Howard Martin, Grace Leo, Cllr Kathy Harmer



Cllr Abdul Azad, Grace Leo, Sophie Pitman of Always Sparkle Gifts.

**B**exhill is back on the global map as a sophisticated destination for discerning visitors thanks to the multi-million pound investment by international hotel entrepreneur Grace Leo and her business partner Tim Hartnell in the Relais Cooden Beach resort.

Bexhill Chamber of Commerce welcomed this investment recently by holding a launch event for members and guests at the fully refurbished Cooden Beach Hotel.

Grace Leo and her team hosted the evening

with canapes and drinks. Chamber members were invited to tour the hotel and admire the depth and quality of the work that has been carried out to bring the hotel and spa facilities up to the required international standards of a Relais resort.

The refurbishment restores a real sense of continental flair to the hotel that recognises its heritage as a discreet 1930s playground for the rich and famous, including Royals on trysts and aristocracy up to pre-war skulduggery, but with a distinct twenty-first

century twist, only an international hotel influencer like Grace Leo can bring.

The Relais Cooden Beach now stands with pride of place in Grace's portfolio of international hotel developments which includes over 20 hotels from the Cadogan in London, to the Cotton House on Mustique and the Relais Henley.

The Relais Cooden Beach has already started to attract international attention and Bexhill Chamber are working with other stakeholders to manage an influx of

investment inquiries from international based developers including those representing further hotel proposals, international sports interests and the expansion of local restaurant facilities to meet the increased demand that always follows in the wake of investors of the calibre of Grace and her Relais team.

Despite the economic doom and gloom we hope that this really will be a Happy Investment Christmas and a very prosperous New Year for Bexhill.

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**"What to Drink at Christmas"**  
Wednesday 7th December

**Our Pre Christmas Menu**

**2 Courses £24 or 3 Courses £29**

**New Years Day Brunch**

**2 Courses £25**

[www.pebblesonthebeach.com](http://www.pebblesonthebeach.com)

# BexhillShopping

# CHRISTMAS HAS ARRIVED AT THE MALL



Nestled between the shops on Western Road is a treasure trove of shopping units which will offer you some excitement for Christmas. **Viktoria Cowley** arms herself with some shopping bags and discovers the delights hidden in The Mall.



Love Ria Clothing



Fragrant Affairs



Naturally Crafted



One of the pop-up Christmas shops

**You can find all your favourite stores, from clothing to clocks, books to burgers, and more! There are also plenty of events planned throughout December – there’s late-night shopping every Thursday with Christmas offers and refreshments so delicious it’ll make any winter worth it in warmth alone – this amazing market right here at The Mall has something everyone needs!**

The **Bexhill Evangelical Book Centre** has been in operation for many years. Run by long-term volunteers who want to make sure that good quality Christian literature is available for purchase locally. With a wide variety of stock available, including Bibles and children’s literature, the Centre also offers a range of gifts and cards.

**R & R Watches** – the watch repair shop is your one-stop destination for all of life’s ingenious inventions. They’re not just good at fixing watches, they have an entire section with clocks and other items to buy too!

Hungry? Well, **The Burger Shack** is a local hotspot where people go to eat burgers and socialise. They boast that all their food comes from 100% Sussex beef, salt and pepper nothing else! Carefully hand-pressed into 6oz patties made with fresh ingredients sure to

bring bold flavour to your life. They also offer chicken breast or local pork sausage meat or locally sourced prime cod fillet burgers for those who prefer something different. Vegetarian and vegan alternatives are also available on request too. The side dishes include homemade slaws and relishes and locally sourced breads. A no-plastic policy and recyclable packaging where possible and old oil is sent to be converted to biofuel – what’s not to love?

What is unique at The Mall are the **Christmas pop-up stands**. These have been decorated with a festive flair for people to come and sell their homemade Christmas goods and encourage more shoppers into The Mall. There will be late night shopping every Thursday and Santa will be in his grotto on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**Fragrant Affairs** is what it says on the tin! A shop full to the brim of colourful smellies, wax melts/bath bombs, creams and candles – products for your skin, for bathing in, your hair, for the air – anything you need a smelly for is in that shop! Now with a range of products to gift your loved ones at Christmas, you’re sure to find something to suit.

**Love Ria Clothing** is an on-trend ladies’ outlet which offers a variety of fashionable

clothing sizes 8-16 which are suitable for all ages & all occasions. From PJs and jumpers to coats and evening wear, you’re sure to find something perfect no matter what the weather throws your way! Some items are available in children’s sizes also.

**Naturally Crafted Bexhill** is a local small business selling hand-crafted gift items. Brand new to The Mall, they opened their doors last month. Business Owner and crafter, Julie Wallis deals in pyrography, which is the art of creating unique and unusual decorations on wood or leather by burning or scorching with hot instruments. Other handmade items available made by Bexhillians or fairtraders, which include jewellery, cushions, home décor and Christmas decorations.

**Mandy’s Pocket Money Toys** is a perfect place to keep the kids entertained! From trains to dolls, they’re sure to have something that will delight any child. If you’re looking for great deals on children’s toys, this is the place to go. For ages 0-10 years, there are

plenty of options available in every category imaginable and at prices that won’t break your bank account!

Community Supporters **Eco Hub** is an eco-friendly company that offers creative workshops, social groups for people to meet up in one place and discuss environmental topics. They also rent out rooms so you can have meetings and advice such as the energy saving advice. Their main activities include selling environmentally friendly products as well running the great programs they offer such as energy saving advice. People can also drop in and do activities, with ceramic painting being available all throughout December.

**Santa will be in his grotto on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 4pm-7pm. You can find The Mall at 28 Western Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1DX**



R & R Watches



The Burger Shack



Mandy's Pocket Money Toys

# BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

## BEXHILL HUB TO SUPPORT UKRAINE



On Remembrance Sunday, on behalf of the Ukrainians in Bexhill and the Bexhill Hub to Support Ukraine, Galena Diachenko, who is a florist from x (will check town) made and laid a beautiful wreath in memory of those who died for freedom.

## BE A HOST!



The Town Council has supported the Hub in creating a Hardship Fund for the Ukrainians who have sought safety in Bexhill for themselves and their children. They really appreciate it at this time as there is a shortage of hosts, and they are having to find alternative accommodation.

Hosts are now paid £ 500 per month, and if they take five refugees or more, they get a 1,000 bonus at the end! Becoming a host needs commitment and thought, but it is a fine thing to do. Anyone who would like to know more about hosting, and the support they receive, please contact [bexhillukhub@gmail.com](mailto:bexhillukhub@gmail.com).

## CIVIC AWARDS

The Council is now accepting nominations for our civic awards. You can nominate a resident that you feel has made a significant contribution to our community, and if there is someone very special you can nominate them for a Freedom of the Town Award. Check our website for more details. Here is the list of our amazing winners from last year, all worthy community champions!



The Town Council presented its first 'Freedom of Bexhill' award to local resident Alexis Markwick at the first ever Annual Town Meeting.

The award has been presented to Alexis in recognition of his enormous contribution to tourism, culture, health and well-being, and education in Bexhill. Alexis is best known in the town for his voluntary work creating and updating an Open Street Map (OSM) of Bexhill, in association with the Global Open Street Map project.

Alexis has worked on this project for many years. His OSM map is now used by thousands of visitors, residents, and organisations to discover the vast array of historical, economic and leisure facilities which Bexhill offers.

The multitude of overlays on the map cover historical features such as old maps, World War Two bombs and Martello towers, as well as up to date information about protected areas, public artwork, shops, defibrillators, cafes, toilets, and healthcare.

Alexis is currently working on a project to add a community bus map to the OSM map, and to provide printed maps for the Highwoods and Combe Valley Countryside Park.

An avid researcher about Bexhill, Alexis regularly shares his knowledge as a local speaker. He takes thousands of local photographs with his camera and drone, and these are all free to use via Wikimedia.

Alexis is also an active member of the Bexhill Museum study group which sets up popular walks and talks throughout the town. He makes a substantial contribution to Bexhill Heritage, through research, responsibility for their IT, and designing



a growing number of heritage plaques which can be viewed throughout the town.

Alongside this busy schedule, Alexis still finds time to participate in the local tri-shaw project which gives rides around Bexhill to people with impaired mobility.

Mayor Paul Plim said: "Alexis is an outstanding example of the best of Bexhill. Someone who is committed to making our lovely town an even better place for us all. There's no doubt he has really put Bexhill on the map!"

"The town council is keen to recognise outstanding achievements of our residents and has adopted the Honorary Freedom of Bexhill Awards scheme.

"If you know of an individual that has made a real impact on Bexhill-on-Sea and its residents please nominate them for this highly coveted award."

## BEACH AND SEA DAMAGE – A CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The town council is holding a public meeting at St John's Baptist Church, Victoria Road on SATURDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2022 at 10:30AM.

Local residents, businesses and community groups are invited to come along and provide evidence of how the Southern Water sewage discharges have affected you.

Once the council has collated this evidence, a portfolio will be prepared and a meeting called to present our data to the authorities, including Southern Water. The council will take up the challenge on your behalf, with an overall aim to STOP this harming of our community.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

We know that not everyone is on social media or able to access local press, so we are installing noticeboards around our area to keep you in touch with what's going on at the town council. When the council was first set up, a specific budget was ringfenced to provide noticeboards, these are primarily used to display agendas for our meetings, but we can also post items that are of local interest. You will start to see these popping in each of the wards of Bexhill. We want to keep you updated on the work of the town council and hope you find these additions useful and informative.

## DECEMBER MEETINGS

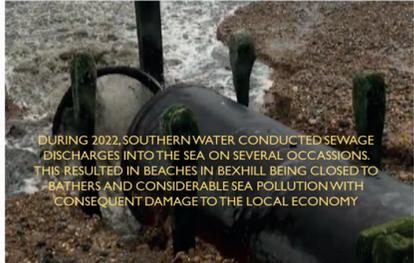
- **Wednesday 7th December: Planning Committee and Full Council**
- **Wednesday 21st December: Planning Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee**
- **Wednesday 4th January: Asset Transfer Committee and Community Committee**

Please check our website for start times and locations of meetings. The council will be closed between Christmas and New Year and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2023. Mayor Paul Plim and all your councillors wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**SEA:FACTS.**  
YOUR SAY, THE SEA AND SEWAGE DUMPING

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**  
**10:30am**  
**St John's Baptist Church, Victoria Hall,**  
**Victoria Rd. TN39 3PD**



DURING 2022, SOUTHERN WATER CONDUCTED SEWAGE DISCHARGES INTO THE SEA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. THIS RESULTED IN BEACHES IN BEXHILL BEING CLOSED TO BATHERS AND CONSIDERABLE SEA POLLUTION WITH CONSEQUENT DAMAGE TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

**A PUBLIC FORUM TO DISCUSS, DEBATE AND GATHER EVIDENCE RELATING TO SEWAGE DISCHARGES WITH LOCAL TOWN COUNCILLORS**

# COMMUNITY GRANTS AT THE HEART OF ROTHER

BY CLLR DOUG OLIVER,  
LEADER OF ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL



I was delighted this month to hear the news that our very own De La Warr Pavilion is set to benefit from significant funding as part of an Arts Council England’s programme of investment.

The venue is one of eight organisations in East Sussex to secure a share of £8.3million, which will support them over three years.

This will be a real boost for the De La Warr, but the benefits go much further with investment contributing to our visitor economy in the town and surrounding area, helping to secure jobs, ensuring work for our creative freelancers, and bringing great experiences to our residents and visitors.

There are many organisations and groups that rely on securing external funding to continue to provide opportunities, and the available pot is becoming smaller and smaller as finances become tighter.

It’s great, therefore, that once again Rother District Council can open applications for the latest round of the Community Grant Scheme, this time with a pot of around £60,000.

We are very fortunate to have been able to help so many local groups over the years who needed funding to complete projects. These have included projects ranging from upgrading play equipment, creating meeting space for the community, improving access to buildings, and much more.



These are projects that would otherwise struggle to get off the ground, so it is wonderful that Rother District Council is able to step in to help.

I would urge any Bexhill groups looking to do something to improve the lives of their community to see whether they could benefit from a share of this money. Applications are open until Thursday, December 15 and full details about the fund and how to apply can be found at [www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/](http://www.rother.gov.uk/benefits-grants-and-funding/community-grants-scheme/)

Whilst we are doing everything we can to keep our Community Grants Scheme going, we have to factor in rising costs, increasing demand on services and the ongoing uncertainty around local government funding.

Six months ago, with a lot of hard work from officers and councillors, we were able to launch an initiative to safeguard

the support that local groups and organisation have benefited so greatly from.

The Rother Community Lottery has gone from strength to strength with money from ticket sales directly benefitting local causes. Since the first draw in April this year, an impressive £12,000 has gone to local causes with £8,000 added to the Rother Community Grants pot to help even more organisations.

But none of this would have been possible without the support of our wonderful residents who are buying £1 tickets, 60p of which goes to local good causes in Rother.

**It would be great to see more local organisations singing up to lottery beneficiaries. It is free and easy to do and, once on board, all they need to do is encourage their supporters to play the lottery. More information can be found at [www.rothercommunitylottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause](http://www.rothercommunitylottery.co.uk/support/find-a-good-cause)**

## VINTAGE<sup>AT</sup>25

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**London Road,  
Bexhill on Sea**      **£1,375 PCM**

- Roller shutter door
- Industrial unit
- Separate double garage
- Two offices
- Gated off-road parking
- Kitchen & toilet facilities

## *M* OFFICE TO LET



**Victoria Road,  
Bexhill on Sea**      **£600 PCM**

- Close to town centre
- Newly decorated
- Excellent transport links
- Space & power for several workstations
- Kitchen
- Shower & toilet facilities

## *M* CAFE/RETAIL TO LET



**Cooden Sea Road,  
Little Common**      **£900 PCM**

- Popular village location
- Prominent position
- Versatile space
- 24 Cover (plus outdoor seating)
- Kitchen with extractor fitted
- Car park at rear

## *M* OFFICE TO LET



**Parkhurst Road,  
Bexhill on Sea**      **£10,000 PA**

- Town centre location
- Spacious front office
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom facilities
- Large storage room
- Two private offices

## *M* BLOCK FOR SALE



**Ninfield Road,  
Bexhill on Sea**      **£550,000 ONO**

- Freehold
- Investment opportunity
- 4x Flats
- Fully let
- Recently refurbished
- High St location

## *M* FLAT TO LET

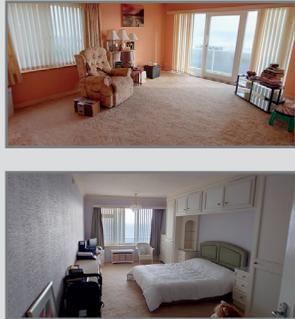


**Bexhill Road,  
St Leonards on Sea**      **£850 PCM**

- Ground floor flat
- 1-2 Bedrooms
- Courtyard garden
- Close to seafront
- Nearby transport links
- Long-term tenant preferred

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BASED IN BEXHILL-ON-SEA**



**WEST PARADE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £420,000**

Enjoying spectacular views out over the seafront and English Channel from the two balconies, Lounge, Dining Room and Bedroom One, this home does require updating to a new owner's taste but offers the chance to have a property in a sought-after position in Bexhill-on-Sea.

Inside you have a good size lounge with double glazed door opening on to the main balcony, the dining room with door opening to a further smaller balcony, 2 large double bedrooms, a kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom, and separate WC.



**BYWORTH CLOSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £530,000**

A community of similar styled detached homes offering a peaceful residential position for families to enjoy. Little Common is a great place to live, included in the Village Centre is an array of independent shops and facilities including the Post Office and Doctors Surgery.

This property has four bedrooms, three reception rooms, two modern bathrooms including the en - suite shower room, landscaped gardens, a double garage, and off-road parking. Inside the property it does need some updating, but what a project.



**COODEN SEA ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £389,950**

If you seek a beautifully presented home within the village confines at Little Common, then this may be the property for you. There are three good sized bedrooms, two bathrooms and 3 WC's with Oak flooring throughout.



**PARK ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £260,000**

The flat comes double glazed, has gas central heating, a kitchen with appliances fitted including fridge/freezer and cooker, 2 bedrooms, and a lounge with sliding doors to a balcony which offers the views out over the seafront and the English Channel.



**BEDFORD AVENUE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £220,000**

The Flat comes double glazed, has gas central heating with a recently fitted boiler, 2 double bedrooms, a good-sized lounge, kitchen and bathroom/separate WC but does require some internal updating decoratively. Could you make this your ideal home?

**FREE VALUATIONS FOR SELLING & RENTING**



**HASTINGS ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £230,000**

The apartment, which is on the second story of a purpose-built apartment building, has two bedrooms, a bathroom/WC, a kitchen, double glazing, and gas central heating. It also has a south-facing sun balcony.



**COODEN DRIVE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £225,000**

Once you enter this property, you will be pleasantly surprised by the good room sizes, such as the lounge to the front, with its balcony offering far reaching town and sea views, to the 2 double bedrooms to the rear.

**LANDLORDS**

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**IF YOU HAVE A PROPERTY SIMILAR, CALL JAMES AT REDWELL ESTATES ON 01424 224242**



**WOODVILLE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA - £850.00 PCM**

The flat has 2 double bedrooms, a good size lounge, modern kitchen and bathroom and has the benefits of double glazing and gas heating. This is a bright and airy, spacious home that is available soon for a new tenant with viewings late November.



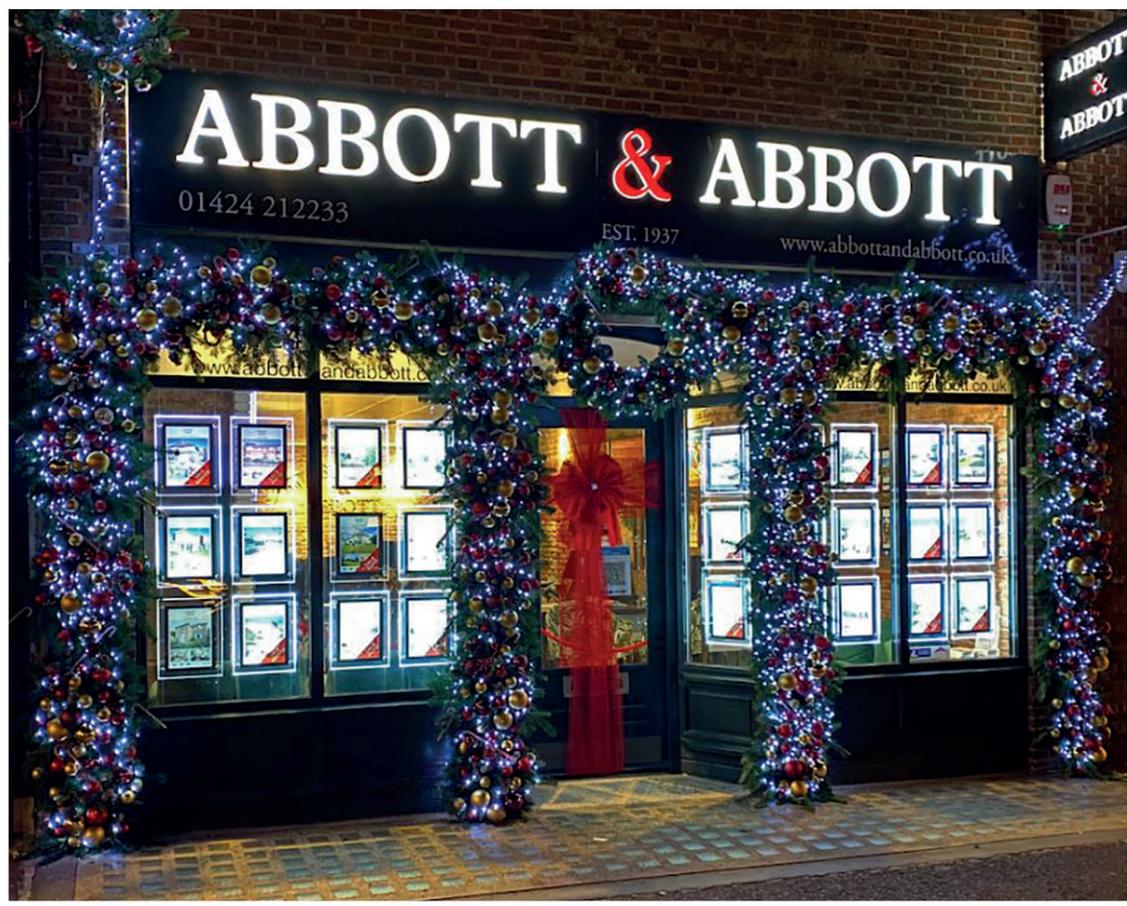
**NORCROSS CLOSE, HASTINGS, £1,150.00 PCM**

Conveniently positioned in a cul-de-sac just off The Ridge for the shops, facilities, and schools. This modern home comes with 3 bedrooms one with en-suite shower, a family bathroom, a good size lounge/diner, ground floor WC, and kitchen with built in dishwasher, oven, and fridge/freezer.

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2022-23 143

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[eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs) (search for Greenwood)



# THIS BAND REALLY ARE SUPER COOL

REVIEW BY KIM MAYO

**W**hen it comes to writing about music, which I have done on and off for the past 40 years, there is one golden rule, be objective no matter what.

However, that is a bit of a conundrum when a band you are about to review live in concert, includes one of your friends.

What do you do if you hate it? Lie? Well, fortunately, there was no need to when I went to see Aircooled at the De La Warr Pavilion last month.

Their debut album was released a couple of months back on a new record label, Music's Not Dead, named after the vinyl record shop run by Del Querns and Oliver Cherer at the venue.

Having spent a fortune buying vinyl records at the shop over the past three years, I have got to know Del and Ollie pretty well and invariably we chat about music... the good, the bad and the downright ugly - and it is safe to say we don't always agree.

So, when Ollie announced he had formed a new band, Aircooled and they were releasing their first album, entitled St Leopards, I greeted the news with some trepidation.

Fortunately, those fears quickly evaporated because it is great. If you like Krautrock and especially the likes of Kraftwerk, Can and Neu, then Aircooled tick every box.

Word of mouth is a wonderful thing and having garnered extremely positive reviews and plenty of radio play, the album sold like hotcakes, to the extent that the first pressing is rapidly becoming a collector's item.

Ollie and bandmates Justin Welch, Katharine Wallinger and Riz Maslen, then decided to perform a free gig at the De La Warr, playing the album in its entirety.

If they were worried about how many people were going to turn up for an intimate gig in the foyer then there was absolutely no need to. It was absolutely rammed.

It was an eclectic audience too from Dr Martens wearing



trendy youngsters to ageing 60-something rockers like me and many others too.

But that is the beauty of music these days is it not? I am old enough to remember the 1980s when you were afraid to step into a record shop and choose an album or single because there was every chance the music snob proprietor would diss the purchase in question even though he was more than happy to take your hard-earned cash.

However, Aircooled blasted out of the blocks like a turbo-charged musical version of Usain Bolt.

This was their chance to show off their debut album in all of its technicolour glory and the audience lapped it up from the opening notes.

Ollie is not one for long monologues between songs. He and his bandmates let the music speak for itself.

We got a "hi, thanks for coming" and then it was back to business and by that I mean keeping the crowd entertained



with a spectacularly good set.

Highlights included the superb 16-minute opener Aircooled and the disco influenced stomper Supermotodisco which had the crowd bouncing and punching the air in unison.

Sadly, it was all over far too soon in just short of an hour but there is no doubt Aircooled are a band here for the long run.

So, where next?

"Well, our new single has just been released and there is a new album in the pipeline for next year too," an exhilarated Ollie exclusively told *Bexhill News* after the gig.

Great news indeed and I am not saying that just because he is a friend.

## PUBLIC NOTICE - LICENSING ACT 2003

I, James Silva Do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority at Rother District Council for the grant of a premises licence at 51 Western Rd, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1DT, and known as Alfredo and Sue's Cafe, the application is to: Sale of Alcohol by Retail on and off the premises between 10:00 and 23:00 Monday to Sunday. Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to Licensing Officer, Rother DC, Town Hall, Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3JX or email [licensing@rother.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@rother.gov.uk) not later than 19th December 2022. Representations received after this date cannot be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at Rother DC, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Bexhill On Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3JX, during normal office hours or [www.rother.gov.uk](http://www.rother.gov.uk).

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

64 NINFIELD ROAD, SIDLEY

**THE CORNER CAFE & BAKEHOUSE**  
64

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# Life & Style

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## YOUR GUIDE TO STAYING ACTIVE THIS WINTER

**A**s the winter draws in and we are faced with shorter, colder, darker, and wetter days, it can be tempting to repeatedly press the snooze button on your alarm and forfeit your morning run for a cosy lie in.

It's important, however, to stay motivated and keep active during the winter months. The NHS tells us the benefits of regular exercise include lower risk of coronary heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, bowel cancer, breast cancer in women, early death,

osteoarthritis, hip fracture and falls (among older adults).

It's also important to stay active so that your immune system remains strong. When you exercise and get your blood pumping, immune cells circulate through your body more quickly, which helps them seek and destroy infections.

Living an active lifestyle all year round contributes to having a stronger immune system and means you're less prone to illnesses such as colds and flu. This is



particularly important in the height of winter when we are generally spending more time inside and in closer contact with others, and therefore when colds and flu are more likely to spread easily.

Beyond the physical health benefits, being more active can also improve your mood, reduce your risk of depression and dementia, boost self-esteem, and increase your ability to deal with stress.

You may have heard of seasonal affective disorder, more commonly referred to as SAD. SAD is a form of depression that comes and goes with seasons. Symptoms can include feeling sad, down and hopeless, lack of energy, difficulty concentrating, constant fatigue and oversleeping and suicidal thoughts.

For any form of depression, exercise is hugely beneficial. When we exercise, our bodies release endorphins; hormones which reduce pain and increase our feel-good hormones. Exercising also improves our energy levels, increases our self-esteem, improves sleep, and reduces anxiety... all important tools in combatting depression and SAD.

### HOW TO STAY MOTIVATED TO BE ACTIVE DURING WINTER

Put your phone on the other side of your bedroom when you go to sleep, so you're less tempted to sleepily press snooze over and over, try something new by getting stuck into a new group or activity which is a great way to spark some enthusiasm when the weather is a little bleak outside.

Find a workout buddy and commit to meeting up and holding each other accountable. Whether it's once a week for a swim at your local pool or every other day for a winter walk, you're more likely to stick to your plans when someone else is counting on you.

If the thought of leaving your house and having to wrap up in hundreds of layers of warm clothes turns you off the idea of exercise entirely, fear not. Just because you don't like winter weather, doesn't mean you can't exercise at all.

One of Active Rother's partners, Sarah Warner, provides a variety of online classes such as Tai Chi, Pilates, yoga and body conditioning, all of which you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home.

Set yourself a goal. Not a runner but want to get into it? Try the NHS Couch to 5k programme, or maybe sign up for a sporting event like Park Runs, which is also

a wonderful way to meet others in your community.

### STAY SOCIAL!

As well as being good for your physical health, engaging in group activities and classes is also a great way to stay social during the winter. Loneliness is an issue that can affect us all, at any point in our lives.

Loneliness is particularly common in older people, and the Ageing Well Festival in East Sussex saw a number of events and activities organised to bring older people in the community together.

It is important to stay connected when the cold comes in, as socialising plays a huge part in our overall wellbeing. Some benefits of socialising through exercise, particularly in winter, include a motivational boost, moral support, develop teamwork skills, promotes healthy and friendly competition and the opportunity to meet likeminded people and make new friends.

### DON'T BREAK THE BANK

Staying active and fit doesn't have to be expensive, and with the cost of living a worry for all, exercise shouldn't be another stress. There are plenty of group activities in Rother that are low-cost or entirely free.

There are Health Walks all across the district that are free and are a great way to meet new people while enjoying a gentle walk (up to 1.5 miles) taken at your own pace. The walks are suitable for all ages and abilities, including those who are recovering from illness or injury. Other options include going for a simple walk or jog on your own or with a friend, which is completely free.

Alternatively, if you want to try some routes for yourself, 123 Walks provide a range of one, two and three-mile self-led walks across East Sussex which you can do in your own time.

### HOW CAN ACTIVE ROTHER HELP?

Active Rother is a partnership made up of local government organisations, the NHS, activity providers, and community groups. Active Rother aims to facilitate and encourage the development of a wide range of low cost, quality assured activities that contribute to increased levels of physical activity within Rother.

Visit [activerother.co.uk](http://activerother.co.uk) for more details, advice and activities.



## BOXING DAY

*At The Polegrove*

**BEXHILL UNITED VS LITTLE COMMON**

11.00am KICK OFF

Admission prices: adults £6 / concessions £4 / under 18s £1



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# BEXHILL UNITED MORE CONNECTED THANKS TO FIBRE SUPPORT



**Players and members of Bexhill United are now benefitting from a unique team-up with fibre provider Box Broadband allowing them to be more involved with the club.**

The United clubhouse located on the Polegrove has been kitted out with the latest fibre technology allowing anyone access to the high-speed network throughout the building. A 75-inch television has also been installed so that World Cup games can be played out to visitors using the fibre network, encouraging more use of the bar and facilities.

There are also plans to expand the network into the Grandstand so spectators seated there, or those watching games in the Polegrove can still use the high-speed fibre.

CEO of Box Broadband, Nathan Vautier said: "We're delighted to be part of Bexhill United and what they do for the community here. It's a really nice way for us to introduce ourselves and be part of the community and have people experience our service. As a British and local company, we're really proud to do something with local teams that provide more support also for the local community."

He added: "We don't have any legacy and network issues, we are rolling out the latest superfast, super reliable technology that allows customers to be connected, be that for work or for pleasure."

Bexhill is well-known for having poor connectivity issues throughout the town, so this new facility is also hoped to allow spectators to keep up-to-date with other football scores and news whilst they're



Box Broadband's CEO Nathan Vautier (left) with Bexhill United's Chairman, Graham Cox

visiting the Polegrove, as the network will be easily accessible to all. This in turn is hoped to bring more people to the grounds and support the club.

Chairman of Bexhill United, Graham Cox told us: "The speeds are reliable, it's always what is promised. The customer service has been really good, the installation was really good, very swift, very professional and left us with a product that worked straight away, we're really impressed."

He added: "We've had another meeting with Box Broadband and they're going to try and extend it so we can use it externally as well, which would be excellent for people who want

it. Everyone gets a good signal and is able to do what they want like check the scores, check the local Twitter when the games are on. Everyone's looking at their phones to see how everyone else is getting on."

Mr Cox concluded: "We're all volunteers at the football club and we have to raise money to support 15 football teams, which is an expensive business - it's an expensive business trying to run the clubhouse. The floodlights are expensive to run with the cost of fuel energy going up, and not only that, we have to move them each year. So, the support we're getting from Box Broadband is greatly appreciated."

## RUNNING ATHLETES CELEBRATE TRIUMPHS IN TRAIL AND ROAD RACES

**It has been an exciting season for the Bexhill Town's Running and Triathlon Club (BRT) following some incredible results.**

This year saw some amazing running champions — congratulations to Sharon Dickson for her fabulous victory in completing the Centurion Grand Slam which consisted of four centurion 100-mile trail events.



Sharon Dickson



Syreeta Watts, Mark Thomas, David Rogers, Simon Leonard and Grant Docksey

Amazing performances were followed by Grant Docksey, Simon Leonard, David Rogers, Mark Thomas and Syreeta Watts all achieving the Wendover Woods non-stop 50-mile Centurion Grand Slam.

Andy Croft accomplished the 100km South Coast Challenge, Eastbourne to Arundel and Malcolm Jones raced in the 50k Serpent Trail from Midhurst to Petersfield. Barefoot Runner, James Graham finished several marathon races in Amsterdam, Rome, Hamburg and Ypres all in aid of the Macmillan Charity.

The season had runners facing many racing successes including the South Downs off-road half marathon in Chichester for Mandie Henderson, Jo Swap and Laura Ward. Cathy Bate, Charlotte Elliot and Jackie Knight for the



Malcolm Jones, Cathy Bate and Jackie Knight

Great South Portsmouth 10-mile run.

Other strong performances involved Ellie Docksey, Harry Scott, Amanda Tondeur, and Geoff Tondeur at Rye 15k and 30k Ancient Trails. Importantly, many other running and triathlon events provided recognition for club members from the jubilant IronBourne to the iconic Beachy Head 10k, half marathon and marathon.

If you have ever thought about running or just want to keep fit with a friendly group of like-minded people, please visit [www.bexhillrunnerstriathletes.co.uk](http://www.bexhillrunnerstriathletes.co.uk)



Jo Swap, Mandie Henderson and Laura Ward