

# Bexhill News

JULY 2023 | ISSUE 13

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## HUGE JEWEL IN BEXHILL'S CROWN



**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW - DE LA WARR'S CEO IS SO PROUD OF VENUE'S SUCCESS — SEE PAGE 14**

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## EDITOR'S WELCOME



**IF you live in Bexhill then you will be fully aware of our town's "jewel in the crown" and it is quite rightly much-loved.**

The De La Warr Pavilion is a magnificent Modernist structure which is at the epicentre of the arts, crafts and music community.

It is perfectly situated on the seafront and rarely does a week go by without an event being staged to cater for all tastes.

The mastermind behind the success of the De La Warr is chief executive Stewart Drew who took time out to give Bexhill News an exclusive interview.

It was a wide-ranging discussion embracing all aspects of the spectacular venue and there is no doubt the future looks extremely bright, although nothing is being taken for granted.

In some ways, the De La Warr is punching above its weight with fierce competition from venues in Brighton and Eastbourne, but the sheer variety of events makes it a big player on its own terms.

Stewart has worked incredibly hard, along with his dedicated staff, to make the De La Warr a success and it is certainly reaping handsome dividends.

But, it is vitally important that we, the public, support them in their continuing endeavours. Having survived the Covid pandemic when so many other businesses went to the wall in our town the De La Warr stood tall despite the considerable pressures it faced at the time.

Stewart admits he has big plans ahead as he and his team decide how best to invest the Levelling-Up fund which was granted by the Government for the venue and also to Sidley.

Of course, the windfall need to be spent wisely but there will be no rash decisions. It needs to be planned carefully and meticulously.

But one thing is patently clear. The De La Warr is in good hands and we should all look forward to the future with considerable confidence.

However, that comes with a proviso. Check out what is on offer and then get out there and support it by attending as many events as possible.

Kim Mayo, Editor

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# BEXHILL MP WELCOMES SOUTHERN WATER IMPROVEMENTS

**What do you think?**  
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**B**exhill MP Huw Merriman has welcomed the latest data from Southern Water and the Environment Agency which shows Bexhill bathing water quality is within the "excellent" category thus far this year.

Southern Water has introduced a "shadow" testing regime which takes frequent water samples across 14 sites in Bexhill, including the Environment Agency's official testing point at the Egerton Park stream outlet.

Coastal samples are prioritised, but inland and upstream water samples are also taken. All Southern Water samples taken in the week commencing May 29 were in the "excellent" water quality category.

The Environment Agency's own regular water testing of Bexhill bathing waters since May 5 also show excellent water quality from three samples and are far better than the equivalent samples from the last two years.

The increased water testing regime comes following a debate the Conservative MP held last autumn in Parliament where he urged water authorities to test Bexhill bathing water quality throughout the year and from more locations.

Following the debate, Southern Water committed to the shadow testing regime and launched a separate project to investigate potential contamination entering the Egerton Park stream, the outlet which is the water testing point for the Environment Agency.

The project to investigate and identify possible contaminants entering the stream further inland was commissioned with the support of Rother District Council. While no major pollutants have yet been identified, some results have led to further investigation and the project will continue until the whole area has been mapped and analysed.

Speaking after his bi-monthly meeting with the Southern Water to discuss the findings, Mr Merriman said: "Bexhill's beaches are really important for residents, tourists, and local business so the sea water needs to be of highest quality.

"I strongly felt that not enough work was being carried out by the relevant authorities to establish why Bexhill beach was only deemed to have "sufficient" water quality unlike neighbouring beaches which achieved "excellent".

"This is why last year I sought assurances from the then Environment Secretary that our water quality would be prioritised for investment and I asked Southern Water and the Environment Agency to carry out more work to investigate why our bathing waters were not cleaner.

"I am pleased with the response from both organisations which are now carrying out more water testing and working to establish causes of pollutions.

"The latest water testing results show that Bexhill's bathing water quality is better than may have previously been thought and this is good news for the town.

"I hope these results will provide more reassurance for those who will be making the most of the sea in these sunny days.

"However, very heavy rainfall can still result in combined sewage releases into the sea to prevent homes being flooded. But a separate new 'Outfall Awareness' project being carried out by Southern Water will clearly identify all 11 outfall pipes along Bexhill beach which will also better inform the public about what comes out of them."

Meanwhile, Mr Merriman has nominated Bexhill GP, Dr Suneeta Kochhar, who is also a Clinical Lead for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Sussex, and Marie Hockley, Deputy Chief Officer, Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, for an NHS Parliamentary Award for their innovative work on combating blood pressure.

Raised blood pressure is the greatest risk factor in cardiovascular disease, which includes heart attacks and strokes. It is also the largest cause of the life expectancy gap between the least and most deprived areas in Sussex. High blood pressure is symptomless and can go undetected.

Dr Kochhar and Ms Hockley, working on behalf of NHS Sussex and Community Pharmacy Surrey and Sussex, created a new system to help pharmacies and GP surgeries to work together to support patients and identifying people at risk.

Mr Merriman met Dr Kochhar and Ms Hockley in Bexhill to find out more about the service they designed.



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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# ARRIVAL OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AT NORTHEYE SITE 'DELAYED'

BY KIM MAYO

**T**HE Government appears to have applied the brakes on its proposed development of the former Northeye Prison Centre in Little Common to house asylum seekers.

According to the "fact sheet" published on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website, the plan to house asylum seekers at the site from September has now been removed as opposition to the plans continuing to grow with many deeming it as completely inappropriate.

In a separate development, Rother District Council has confirmed that it will continue to press for further information from the Home Office as the debate over the suitability of the site rages on.

There have already been several protests held in Bexhill with many against the proposals sporting "No to Northeye" T-Shirts and brandishing banners.

In a statement, Rother District Council leader Doug Oliver said: "We understand that residents and businesses remain anxious to know more regarding the Home Office's proposal to accommodate up to 1,200 single male asylum seekers at the Northeye site in Bexhill.

"The Home Office has informed us that they have amended their Bexhill Fact Sheet and



Protesters make their voices heard outside Huw Merriman's office

taken out the original proposal of opening in September 2023.

"The council continues to press the Home Office for information and on June 7 our legal team formally wrote to the Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, seeking further information and assurances about the future use of the Northeye site.

"We will continue to explore all legal options available to us and will continue to stress to the Home Office the importance of keeping residents updated on their asylum centre plans

for Northeye.

"In the meantime we are continuing to work with our multi-agency partners to prepare if plans go ahead and we will continue to keep residents updated when we know more."

No to Northeye co-founder Nigel Jacklin said: "Last Saturday (June 12) about 200 protesters set off from Little Common for a protest march in opposition to the Northeye asylum seeker accommodation centre.

This was the third peaceful event organised by the No to Northeye campaign group and the

sixth time residents have gathered in the ten weeks since the Home Office announced plans to use the Northeye site as an asylum seeker accommodation centre.

"With widespread opposition to the camp, residents are still on tenterhooks. The Home Office has not announced a final decision on use of the site with the sale of the land being subject to a toxicology report.

"In response to a series of questions from local MP Huw Merriman, the Home Office has said it will not consult with local residents. In addition no detailed plans have been released."

Mr Jacklin added after the latest protest: "There is widespread opposition to the camp. This is not a genuine emergency, it is a failure of the Government and the Home Office to do their jobs.

"If they sorted out illegal arrivals and processed claims quickly they would not need large-scale accommodation centres."

A small number of protesters congregated outside of Mr Merriman's constituency office wearing masks portraying the Bexhill and Battle MP's image as they chanted "Merriman go, go, go and Northeye no, no, no."

The campaign group now hopes to persuade Rother District Council to follow in the footsteps of Bexhill Town Council and voice their strong opposition to the Northeye proposals.

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# EVENT ORGANISERS HIT OUT AT COUNCIL OVER CHARGES TO USE LAND

**A GROUP of outraged local events organisers have written to Rother District Council requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the recent implementation of ground rent charges for community and charity fundraising events in Bexhill.**

However, the council has defended its policy in a lengthy statement issued to Bexhill News.

That, though failed to pacify the organisers who put on some of the biggest events in Bexhill, including Bexhill Chamber of Commerce, Roger Crouch, 18hrs, Bexhill Carnival, Bexhill 100 and Bexhill Lions alongside some of the charities who benefit most from fundraising.

Prior to Covid, Rother had a policy of allowing community and charity events to use Rother land like the Polegrove as well as the seafront lawns and promenade as a contribution in kind to help and support community events and charities.

This was done on the understanding that these were public spaces paid for and maintained from council tax on the proviso event organisers ensured that there was appropriate insurance in place and that they complied with all necessary safety regulations for big summer events like Roaring 20s, MotoFest, Festival of the Sea and carnival.

However, Rother has now introduced a policy of charging all users of the land regardless of who they are or what cause they are supporting. Although the council informed some organisations which had longer-term service level agreements for use of the Polegrove that their terms were changed and they would have to pay to use the land, most event

organisers were not informed and were taken by surprise when they were hit with retrospective invoices after their events had taken place.

Roger Crouch, who organises popular events such as Pirate Day, Roaring 20s, 60s Revolution and the recent Coronation Medieval Pageant, said: "Rother District Council is being ridiculous. If I had known they were going to send me a bill for putting on the Medieval Pageant I wouldn't have done it because we can't afford it."

Howard Martin, President of Bexhill Chamber of Commerce, who organised and covered the costs for the giant video screen that showed the Royal Coronation added: "Three hundred people came out in the pouring rain with their umbrellas and picnic chairs to sit on the seafront lawns, which they pay for from council tax, to watch the Coronation of our King and Queen and now Rother has retrospectively sent us a bill for £440 after they expected us to be grateful for a £500 grant, it really does beggar belief."

A spokesman for the carnival said: "We had to negotiate hard with Rother to be able to continue to use the Polegrove for Carnival Week. The whole week is about charity fundraising for disabled kids and those with terminal illnesses yet we had to divert some of our fundraising to cover the thousands of pounds' cost Rother loaded onto us."

"We have managed it for this year but it is unsustainable to rely on the goodwill of our community to keep paying the council."

Bexhill 100 whose seafront classic car displays and Polegrove Classic Car festival raises tens of

thousands of pounds for local charities every year are also angry at the way the charges have been implemented.

Chris Speck, spokesman for Bexhill 100, said: "When they charge us to display on the promenade as we raise money for charities, which charities do Rother want to go without so that we can pay them to use space we have used for free for decades?"

"We are an important part of the heritage of Bexhill and it seems like they want us to just go away."

Bexhill Lions, who raise thousands of pounds from attendance at almost every big event in Bexhill were genuinely shocked by Rother demanding that they should pay to use various Rother-owned woodlands if they wanted to continue to hold their children's nature trails during the summer holidays.

A spokesman said: "We help and support many disadvantaged children to access nature during the long summer school holidays with our fun nature trails."

"We ourselves clean up and help maintain the woods for Rother yet they now want us to pay to do it. Our committee could not justify paying the council for us to help young people."

"Fortunately we have been able to move our 2023 summer nature trails to a private wood that is free. So, it is Rother which has lost out all round with this policy."

In response to the criticism, a Rother District Council spokesman said: "We appreciate and support the good work organisers do to put on

events across the district but due to the council's £3million funding gap, we are no longer in a position to support discretionary services in the same way as we have in the past.

"Previously, some event organisers had Partnership Funding Agreements with the council to support with costs. These originally expired in March 2022 but were extended to March this year."

"Other regular event organisers were informed in 2019 that event charges would be uniformly applied from 2020, but because events were severely disrupted due to Covid-19, charges were not applied to large events in the summer of 2022 in order to treat all in a fair and equal manner."

"Such events do not take place at no cost to the council, with costs for grounds maintenance as well as a considerable amount of staff resource liaising with organisers and checking documentation to be considered."

"The council also has a statutory duty to ensure that any events taking place on council land have necessary safety provisions, and in addition, they can result in loss of revenue from sports bookings or car parking dependant on the location."

"The council's regeneration team has opportunities for event grant funding and more information, including how to apply, is available on our website. To encourage community events, the council also has separate tiers of charges for not for profit/charitable events and commercial events, and our current event charges can be found under the Leisure and Events section of the council website."




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# DON'T MISS OUT ON BEXHILL'S HIDDEN GEM



Colonnade Staff with Chamber President Howard Martin

**W**ITH summer now firmly upon us, Bexhill businesses no longer have to batten down the hatches and can finally look forward to bumper trading over the next few months providing the weather holds.

As residents and visitors know full well, Bexhill has plenty to offer and a number of summer events have been arranged to make a trip into town even more worthwhile.

The beach is quite rightly the number one destination with

fantastic views along the coastline and the opportunity to top up the summer tan but don't forget to pay a visit to the shops in town, spend some time at the De La Warr and visit other businesses which may not be so well known but would undoubtedly welcome your custom.

One destination which does not receive anywhere nearly enough publicity is the Colonnade Quarter on Bexhill's seafront.

Nestled beneath the imposing lawns behind the De La Warr, the

businesses owners situated there are determined to put themselves firmly on the map.

As a result they have come up with a plan to attract customers with a series of summer events.

For starters, they will be celebrating summer with Thursday late night shopping openings with live music into the evening at the Colonnade Cafe throughout July and August.

The Colonnade Quarter is the wonderful array of bespoke gift and craft stalls and great food on Bexhill's vibrant seafront right in front of the De La Warr Pavillion.

During July and August the stalls will be open late on Thursdays from 5pm to 7pm to encourage those taking in a summer evening.

Why not stroll along the seafront to pop in and see some of the great arts and crafts that are making such a buzz around town.

There will also be a live music at the Colonnade Cafe as well as a special summer fish and chips and lite bites menu.

Bexhill Chamber of Commerce is supporting the initiative to boost visitor numbers to the town and President Howard Martin said; "The Colonnade Quarter is one of the best places to buy bespoke gifts in the area.

"There is such a wide selection of items on offer with Retro Art, The Bag Lady, The Pebble People, Unica Cosmetics, Bees 'n' Bobs and Rachels Glass store.

"It's like a seaside Covent Garden that is quite unique. While many know how special the place is we want more to wander down, enjoy some live music and explore this hidden gem of what our town has to offer."

**You can find full details of Colonnade Quarter Thursdays on their website at [www.colonnadequarter.co.uk](http://www.colonnadequarter.co.uk)**



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# IT IS TIME TO BRIDGE THE GAP WITH SOME FANTASTIC ARTWORK



**A**RTISTS of all ages and abilities are being actively encouraged to enter a colourful competition to help brighten up Bexhill.

The second Footbridge Gallery art competition is now underway with entrants encouraged to submit their artistic efforts.

Many residents of Bexhill know and love the gallery on the footbridge that crosses the railway line, but others may not be aware of it or know the reason why it has become so special to the local community.

Previously the bridge was a bit of an eyesore and clearly unloved but thanks to the dedicated work of the Footbridge Gallery team led by Diana and Tim Birch it has been transformed.

The initial competition resulted in a wonderful and varied array of entries and the winners' art

was displayed on the footbridge, leading to an overwhelmingly positive response from the community after its opening in October 2021.

The opening was attended by many supporters, including including Tom Chaplin, lead singer of Battle band Keane, local MP Huw Merriman and then Bexhill mayor Paul Plim.

Ms Birch said: "We were thrilled at the level of support for the first competition and now that the project is established and been granted so warmly we would like to encourage more entries from an even wider field.

"Our thanks must go to Tom Chaplin who is continuing as a patron and to Huw Merriman MP as well as others who have committed to involvement in our new competition."

However, organisers are keen to stress the



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completion is not just restricted to paintings. Far from it in fact.

The competition is also open to two and three dimensional artworks and is open to everyone working in the Bexhill and Rother areas.

Artists from Eastbourne and Hastings are also welcome to enter their work for consideration by the judges.

Media that can be submitted includes original photography; digital arts; painting; drawing; written word; mosaic; knitting; sculpture and poetry. Sound files will also be considered.

In fact, any entry that can be reproduced digitally as 2D artwork is eligible for the competition.

The competition is open to entrants of all ages. Children aged 16 years and under must have, however, have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Winning entries will be displayed for two years on the footbridge which is used by hundreds of people every day.

The theme of the competition is "Connections" and there is plenty of time to still enter with a new closing date extended to July 14.

**For details of how to enter and any queries, email [fgartcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:fgartcompetition@gmail.com)**  
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### CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 1st July from 10am-2pm. St. Stephens Church  
Hall, Downs Road, Bexhill. TN39 4HD.

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If you would like anymore information please contact us via our Facebook group 'The crafty collective' or email us on [thecraftycollective3@yahoo.com](mailto:thecraftycollective3@yahoo.com)

### THE BEXHILL & DISTRICT VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The Town Square Social Club, London Road, Bexhill  
Every First Thursday of the month, 1pm - Meeting

Second Thursday of every month. We are an Association for Navy, Army and Airforce Veterans and their wives and partners. On the 2nd Thursday of each month we go for lunch at various restaurants in the town and sometimes just outside. Any ex-service personnel that would like to find out more, either attend one of our meetings or contact the Chairman, John Collins on 07922 529904 or [johncollins4664@aol.com](mailto:johncollins4664@aol.com).

### CHANTRY CP SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

Barrack Road, TN40 2AT. Saturday 8th July from 11am-2pm

Kids under 12 go free, adult entry £1 per person. Join us for fun and games to help raise money for our school! Stalls include BBQ, inflatable assault course, lucky dip and games. We also have a raffle with the first prize of a Nintendo Switch!

### BEXHILL STAMP & POSTCARD CLUB

St Augustin's Church Hall, Cooden Drive, Bexhill, TN39 3AZ. Wednesday 26th July, 7.30pm

Come and join us for a friendly and informative evening. Find out how a display entitled "the Danube" is connected with stamp collecting, while you enjoy refreshments and a raffle. You can also find out about our forthcoming Stamp Fair in August.

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# CELEBRATION AS SCULPTURE IS RESTORED TO FORMER GLORY



**“We will not be defeated”**. That was the defiant message from supporters of the sculpture of a black woman which was vandalised on the lawns at the rear of the De La Warr Pavilion.

The sculpture was praised by many with its message of hope and celebration of diversity yet despite that, there were some who clearly disagreed and reacted by daubing the artwork with white

paint.

That led to an outpouring of anger from many in the Bexhill community who, armed with buckets and sponges, made a concerted effort to get rid of the graffiti. Their combined efforts restored the sculpture to its former glory.

Hundreds of volunteers turned up on the day with large queues forming to lend a hand, proving once again that most want to see the arts and entertainment sector prosper and thrive.

Politicians of all persuasions were also in attendance on the day to lend their support and condemn the act of vandalism.

As a result, the De La Warr organised a celebratory picnic near the sculpture and once again the local community turned out in force to enjoy

a few drinks, a punnet of strawberries and various snacks on a gloriously warm summer’s day.

Stewart Drew, chief executive of the De La Warr, said: “The response from the community has been great and we are absolutely delighted. It just proves what a wonderful town Bexhill is when we all pull together.”

The vandalism occurred in the early hours of Monday, May 15. Created by artist Tschabalala Self, it proved to be a popular addition to the seafront and underlined the De La Warr’s commitment to promoting the town’s arts and entertainment industry.

The community was understandably shocked by what had happened but they certainly rallied in style with hundreds turning out to help on Sunday, May 21 despite the sweltering conditions.

The picnic which followed was a celebratory affair with the weather once again proving kind with a cloudless sky and plenty of sunshine.

Ms Self was also in attendance and paid tribute to all those who had helped out in the wake of the vandalism.

She said: “It has been overwhelming and underlines what is so special about this town and the De La Warr Pavilion’s commitment to the arts in all shapes and forms.

“It is lovely to sit here while looking out to sea and listen to so many people saying how much they have enjoyed the sculpture.

“Art is subjective, that is the point. You might like one exhibit but not another, which is fine. That is what sparks debate. But vandalism achieves nothing.

“However, the response of this community has been absolutely amazing and I really cannot thank them enough.”

The public sculpture is three metres high and is entitled “Seated”. It is made from patinated bronze, uses an everyday item, a seat, and is described as an entry point for questions of permission and performance within public spaces.

The sculpture is due to be on display until October 29.

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# FLY-TIPPING CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR HEADACHE ACROSS ROTHER

**A** SECOND waste facility for the public's use has been removed due to persistent fly-tipping, inconveniencing many of those who use it responsibly.

The facility in Sidley is being closed, following the removal of one at Riverside do to persistent misuse, which is not only illegal but also creates an eyesore.

The site at Sidley closed on Wednesday, June 7 as the clear instructions on how it should be used were repeatedly ignored.

A large notice attached to the facility stated: "The closure is due to continuous and high levels of contamination caused by people dumping household waste in with the recycling and using it as a site for fly-tipping."

The illegal practice has become an increasing problem across the entire county with even beauty spots being targeted by those who simply don't care about the environmental impact.

Rother District Council has made its zero tolerance approach patently clear with perpetrators likely to be prosecuted and facing a potential criminal conviction as well as a hefty fine.

Even if an individual hires a contractor to get rid of waste, both parties can face prosecution if the contractor is not licensed.

Examples include builders who may have done work on your property recently without having the necessary paperwork to dispose of items responsibly; a friend of a friend who volunteers



to get rid of a few items of bulky furniture on your behalf; or a local waste removal company who came and took items away that you were unable to transport to the local tip.

There are recycling sites at both Pebsham and Mountfield which are both easily accessible if using a vehicle.

Rother District Council's advice is to suspect everyone involved in the practice of waste removal. It is vital to check that they are registered to do so.

If they cannot provide proof that the waste is being disposed of responsibly and legally then find someone else who can.

If someone comes to your property and offers to remove something for you, say no unless they can provide you with proof of who they are, their vehicle registration and their waste carriers' licence which must be registered with the Environment Agency.

## TOUCHING TRIBUTE HELD TO REMEMBER D-DAY LANDINGS

A TOUCHING remembrance service was staged in Little Common last month to remember and pay tribute to the Fallen during the D-Day landings.

D-Day took place on June 6 1944 and was the largest amphibious invasion in the history of warfare.

The Allies used more than 5,000 ships and landing craft to carry troops on five beaches in Normandy, and the D Day Memorial Foundation recorded a figure of 4,414 Allied personnel killed on that day.

That mark in history and ultimate sacrifice by so many should never be forgotten.

Former Mayor Lynn Langlands was honoured to join the Little Common British Legion and the Reverend John Fraiss of St Marks Church in a small service at the Little Common Memorial, which was dedicated to their sacrifice and our freedom.

She said: "We are still losing many men, women and children in the fight for freedom, and a world with peace might be a wish too far, but we must



never give up hope and actively work towards that end"

The D-Day landings were codenamed Operation Neptune. They laid the groundwork for the liberation of France and subsequently Western Europe, leading to the Allied victory on the Western Front.

The amphibious landings were preceded by relentless aerial bombardment and then that was followed with the landing of 24,000 British, American and Canadian troops to ensure that 50 kilometres of the Normandy coast would be controlled by the Allies.

The coastline was divided into five sectors entitled Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword but on the days itself strong winds blew the landing craft east of their intended destinations.

The Allied troops showed immense bravery as they came under heavy fire from gun emplacements overlooking the beaches and the shoreline had also been mined with wooden stakes, metal tripods and barbed wire.

The Allies failed to achieve their initial objectives on the first day of combat with Carentan, Saint-Lo and Bayeux remaining under German control.

But it was only a matter of time before the Allies ultimately triumphed, despite incurring horrendous loss of life as indeed did the German troops.



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# IT'S A LONG WALK TO HELP THOSE MOST IN NEED

**S**INCE the beginning of July last year Perry Puddefoot, President of Bexhill Rotary Club, has been taking The Long Road by going walking every month in aid of a variety of charities.

Perry's original aim was to walk 1,000 miles in his year as President. A recent foray took him on a 43.5 mile stroll along the Thames Path taking him further along The Long Road. He has, as a result, now far outstripped his original target and has currently put over 1,600 miles behind him.

Even though Perry is delighted to have already raised a four figure sum while on his walks for charities that include Bexhill & Hastings Mencap, Bexhill Foodbank and local youth groups, he doesn't want to stop there and is very keen to raise even more for these needy causes before his presidential year comes to an end.

His final flourish on The Long Road was due to take place on Friday 30 June, his very last day as President, and was a 26 mile hike from Lewes back to Bexhill.

To give Perry a final boost for his fundraising walk, he is looking for Plenty of sponsorship donations.

These can be made to THE LONG ROAD fundraising initiative quoting the reference PPWALK: BEXHILL ROTARY CLUB TRUST



Perry Puddefoot

FUND: Sort code 51-70-12. Account number 65650395.

Any donations, whatever the amount, are very welcome and, in these difficult times, really appreciated so thank you for any support you can give him and the causes he is collecting for.

## UKRAINIANS PUT ON A SHOW TO SAVOUR DURING NATIONAL REFUGEE WEEK



**UKRAINIANS** who have fled the war with Russia and settled in Bexhill celebrated National Refugee Week at the De La Warr with a dazzling display of music and dance which drew a capacity crowd to the venue.

Many of the performers were dressed in traditional costumes as they sang and danced with considerable aplomb, much to the delight of those who were in attendance.

It was both touching and moving as the local community warmly welcomed those who have chosen to make a new life for themselves in Bexhill.

Group spokeswoman Valeria said "I want to thank the Bexhill community for the support and compassion which has been shown to the Ukrainian community.

"One day this war will be over and things will get better. That is something we are all looking forward

to.

"Bexhill people have been so kind and welcoming and we really appreciate the love and support that has been shown.

"It has been absolutely wonderful and I know everyone in the Ukrainian community really appreciates what has been done for us."

As well as the music and dance, a vast array of Ukrainian food was made and laid out on tables in the De La Warr cafe for those attending to sample, including a large brioche loaf that'd been especially prepared and certainly hit the spot.

It was a joyous occasion which was also tinged with sadness as the war continues with Russia, seemingly unabated.

The day was an opportunity for reflection but also the chance to celebrate Ukraine's history, culture and resilience against enormous odds.

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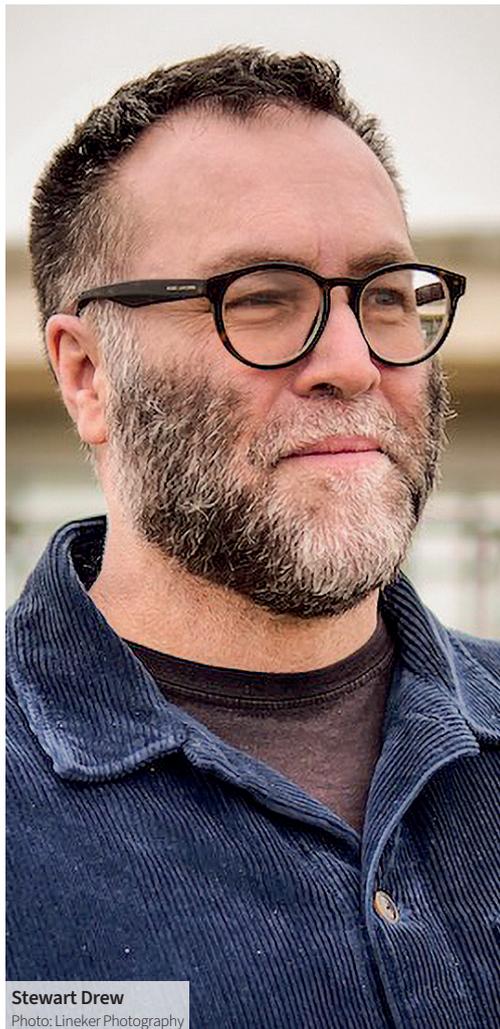


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# FUTURE OF THE DE LA WARR IS CERTAINLY IN VERY GOOD HANDS



Stewart Drew  
Photo: Lineker Photography



Photo: JTP53 Photography

BY KIM MAYO

**STEWART Drew has overseen plenty of success stories during his lengthy tenure as Chief Executive and Director of the De La Warr Pavilion but he is certainly not resting on his laurels.**

The stunning venue is the epicentre of Bexhill's thriving arts and entertainment scene and there are plenty more exciting initiatives in the pipeline.

Bexhill News met up with Stewart, an affable individual which is in stark contrast to the steely determination which lurks within.

We meet in the depths of the pavilion on a hot summer's day as the sunlight filtered through the doors.

"I absolutely love my job," he said. "Bexhill is a great town with so much going for it and it is vital we play a key role on making it even more successful for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

"I was originally a "DFL" (Down from London) and came to Bexhill in the Nineties. Right from the first time I visited the De La Warr I loved its architecture. It is a magnificent building.

"Initially I came to work with my predecessor, Alan Haydon but he, sadly, passed away after a brave battle with cancer aged 61 in 2011.

"I was basically brought in to troubleshoot as I had experience of the arts and also understood business.

"At the time funding was hard to come by and it was certainly challenging to make it work initially but slowly yet surely we made progress."

Of course, at the time of Stewart's arrival the Grade I listed De La Warr already had a long and

illustrious history.

The Modernist building was designed by renowned architects Erich Mendelsohn and Serge Chermayeff and constructed in 1935. In 2005 after an extensive restoration it reopened as a contemporary arts centre with Stewart at the forefront of its success as he worked in tandem with Alan Haydon.

"When Alan died I was asked to take over the reins," Stewart added. "We needed to steady the ship and build very strong partnerships, which we now have.

"The De La Warr is the focal point of our town and we are all very proud of that. It is all about providing entertainment for the public good whether that be through, art, music or other events.

"We also want to engage with the young people of our town, whether it be via work experience or employment opportunities. It is vitally important we engage with them.

"Health and wellbeing is so important, especially after the isolation so many people felt during the Covid pandemic. Fortunately that is largely behind us now, so there is every reason to feel optimistic about the future.

"It is important to note that this is a civic space designed to cater for everyone's tastes. We want visitors to enjoy the entire experience coming to the De La Warr for whatever reason. Basically we want them to enjoy the entire spectrum of what we have to offer."

The De La Warr also recently embarked on a tie-up with Eastbourne's Winter Gardens venue, a venture that is sure to reap handsome dividends.

"We are keen to link up with like-minded

organisations which also want to embrace the arts," he added. "It can only be beneficial to all parties involved. It is so important to bounce off others for new initiatives and ideas.

"We also want to be a pipeline for new and emerging talent regardless of which field individuals may be interested in. For instance they may want to be a lighting technician and if that is a first step on a future career ladder then that is great. We will provide help and support wherever we can."

One bone of contention for businesses in Bexhill has been the lack of budget hotel accommodation for visitors, which has a significantly negative effect on the night time economy.

"Yes, it is a problem, and it needs to be addressed," Stewart acknowledged. "Accommodation and transport links are the main issues.

"If people don't live locally but want to come and see an event at the De La Warr in the evening then more often than not they want to go out for a meal beforehand and then have a few drinks. Having a budget hotel would then give them the opportunity to extend their stay and not have to worry about getting back home immediately afterwards.

"It would complete another piece of the jigsaw and would also help to transform the economy of the town.

"Cooden is a great example of what can be done. The area is thriving and that is great but I want to see the entire town on an upward trajectory.

"But, having said that, it is absolutely crucial

we keep the balance right. Take our beach for example. It is relatively quiet even during the summer months and that is why people come here, so they can enjoy the peace and tranquility that Bexhill offers."

Stewart frequently references community spirit during a near one hours interview and never was that more amply evidence than following a recent graffiti attack on the sculpture of a black woman on the lawns behind the De La Warr as it was daubed in white paint.

"Sadly art installations like that bring out certain views voiced by a minority which is very sad and distressing," he said.

"But the response from the hundreds of volunteers who subsequently turned up to clean the paint off the sculpture was remarkable. It was a truly humbling experience to see so many people turn up to help.

"It truly showed Bexhill at its very best and sent a very powerful message to those who were responsible."

Finally we turn to the funding to the turn of nearly £20 million from the Government's Levelling-Up fund for the De La Warr and Sidley.

"It is very welcome," Stewart added. "It means we can move forward and get all our ducks in a row. Getting the funding was amazing but we are not going to make any rash decisions. It is vital we get it absolutely right.

"Obviously plans are afoot and discussions are ongoing but we will only say what they are when the time is right."

For now, though, one thing is patently clear. The future of the De La Warr is in very good hands.

# THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC ALL, IT WAS ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS



BY KIM MAYO

**T**HE latest Big Summer Sing featuring schoolchildren from across Bexhill proved once again to be a resounding success as a capacity crowd packed into the De La Warr for two sold-out performances.

Who needs the X-Factor when Bexhill has the wow factor? The sheer scale of talent on display was quite remarkable with many performances bringing a tear to the eye.

Perhaps most palpable was the sheer enthusiasm of those taking part. Proud parents were dabbing their eyes with tissues before the end of the first performance by the Big Summer Sing Choir which included everyone crammed onto the De La Warr auditorium stage and that numbered approximately 400 pupils.

The choir kicked off with a spirited rendition of Let's Start to Sing, enthusiastically conducted by Lorraine Barry, the Big Summer

Sing co-ordinator. You could not have wished for a better start.

Next up were Chantry Community Primary School who sang One World from Eddie the Penguin Saves the World in perfect unison. Great stuff.

Then the entire choir almost lifted the roof off with an absolute banger entitled Viking Rock and yes, in case you are wondering, it certainly did rock.

St Richard's Catholic College, whose love of music was clear for all to see, performed Don't You Remember Me with soloist Chloe Rubit, a Year 10 pupil. Again, it was mesmerising.

Appearing for the first time at the annual event were the Glyne Gap School Sixth Form Choir who undoubtedly provided one of the highlights of the evening.

They chose to perform the Beatles classic, Here Comes the Sun, with such unadulterated joy that it was impossible not to be moved

unless you had a heart of stone. They followed that up with Cover Me in Sunshine. The audience erupted into applause. In a word, magnificent.

All Saints Church of England Primary School sang Brave impeccably before the Big Summer Sing Choir encapsulated the mood with I Feel Better When I'm Dancing.

Being South African, the next act, a small group from St Richard's Catholic College Choir, absolutely hit the top note for me.

"I have loved African music since I was a small boy, but this truly was something special.

Accompanied by two drummers, they performed a traditional South African song entitled Maliswwe followed by Ghanaian folk song Tue Tue. It was simply spell-binding.

If you talk about one act that has spanned the generations and appeals to all and sundry then it has to be ABBA does it not?

It sure does and there was a bit of mum and dancing as St Peter and St Paul's Church of England Primary School belted out Thank You for the Music from hit musical Mamma Mia.)

Then another highlight as Year 9 pupil from St Richard's Catholic College Isabelle Sutton sang I'd Give My Life For You from Miss Saigon. Wow, in a word.

We were all expecting a rousing finale and that is what we got with St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School singing When I Grow Up from Matilda, swiftly followed by show closer When Children Rule the World from Whistle Down the Wind, performed by the assembled choir plus soloists Rudy, Grace, Ellie, April and the second Ellie.

Praise must also go to the band, comprising keyboardists Daniel Goodger, bassist Russ Kennedy and drummer Ollie Boorman. They were bang on the money.

In short, it was 75 minutes of pure musical magic. Well done all, including those who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes.

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# BEXHILL NEWS CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

BY GROUP EDITOR, PAUL GIBSON

It has been a whole year since the first edition of Bexhill News hit the streets in July 2022. We cannot believe it has gone so quickly and it has been received so well by local residents. The free community newspaper was created to give the people of Bexhill truly local news from their town, not Hastings and further afield.

We have done that by producing 144,000 copies of Hailsham News on sustainably sourced paper along with almost 400 pages of news and features.

This simply shows that local newsprint is not on the decline much like the other regionals will make you believe. People still like to physically hold a publication and flick through local news at their leisure, especially when it's content that affects them as residents.

From simply an idea back in August 2021 when I created a community newspaper for Hailsham, we've grown into a strong team of five people, who all, in their own way make sure these newspapers are published successfully each and every month.

Hailsham and Bexhill News stand out from other publications, mainly because it is available on a pick-up basis only and not delivered door-to-door. Therefore, we

are able to know exactly how many readers we have, as each reader makes a conscious decision to take a newspaper home and read it.

In the last thirteen issues of Bexhill News, we've covered some amazing stories including campaigns, protests, High Street closures, littering, rescue missions and new projects in the town and hundreds of other stories which affect you — the reader!

I've always said this publication is a community newspaper, therefore our readers have played a huge part in its success by letting us know the stories they want to see tackled every month.

Please keep this going as it's the only way we can keep ahead of knowing what matters to you. We're very grateful that you continue to support and of course enjoy our newspapers which take a lot of hard work behind the scenes to ensure you get them at the start of every single month.

A massive thank you must go to our advertisers — whom without, the newspaper simply wouldn't be free to pick up, so please carry on supporting them whenever you can.

We have some amazing plans for more expansion this and next year, so I cannot wait to update you on these. Here's to another 12 months.





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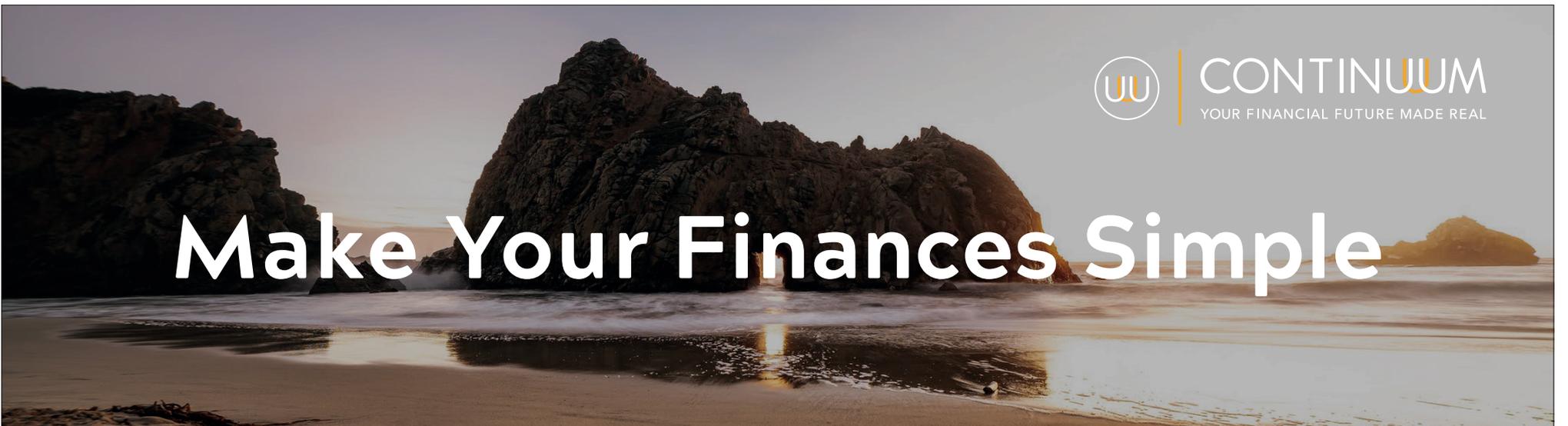
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BEXHILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM UPDATE  
**CHAMBER ECHOES**

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# THE GREAT BEXHILL EVENTS TRAGEDY

**F**or over 86 years Bexhill Carnival has been bringing our community together in a fun summer celebration of music, dance and seaside jollity.

It is a special event that both connects our town physically, with a parade from Sidley to the Polegrove, and emotionally as our whole town comes together for a week of charity fundraising.

Alongside the procession, there is a free funfair for disabled kids, inflatable fun and games, charity football, dog shows and the spectacular Party In The Park free music festival and firework display. All run by volunteers to raise money for charities who provide much-needed help for local disabled, sick and terminally ill children.

Bexhill Chamber members are proud to provide financial support and volunteers to help ensure the carnival keeps going from year to year. Post-Covid carnival has struggled, like many events, with ever-rising costs but this year they faced a new challenge, they needed to raise an extra couple of thousand pounds.

Once again everyone pulled together and donated more than the required amount within

days of the announcement. But, this wasn't money needed to buy a terminally ill child a specially adapted wheelchair, it was money to pay Rother District Council for Polegrove ground rent after they changed their terms and conditions!

Pre-Covid Rother offered community and charity events the use of council-owned public land like the Polegrove and seafront lawns for free as a way of making a contribution in kind to our then thriving voluntary events sector. RDC also distributed substantial grants to generate inward investment that helped drive the visitor economy with an internationally recognised free events programme based around thousands of people participating in Guinness World Records like Roaring 20s Charleston dancing, Festival of the Sea mermaids and MotoFest's motorcycle stunt show.

This was complemented by 60s Revolution, Carnival, Anglo Continental Markets, Bexhill Horseshow, Bexhill 100 Classic car shows and many other events of various sizes. Bexhill loved, participated in, volunteered for, and cherished these events. They attracted hundreds of



thousands of visitors worth millions of pounds to the local economy and raised tens of thousands of pounds for charities. All of this was driven by volunteers and the tremendous goodwill of our communities. But now that goodwill has been squandered by Rother who have left our town virtually barren of events across the summer.

Covid decimated our voluntary events sector but we have tried to bounce back with events like the Coronation and Medieval Pageant. However, Rother seems determined to finish us

off by churlishly charging charity fundraising and community events to use public land which is already paid for from council taxes. Rother has also slashed grants. when they do give out small amounts, as happened recently with the Coronation events, they claw it back with retrospective demands for ground rent payments. It seems that Rother sees our charity events as merely a political football and revenue stream rather than the lifeblood of our town. And that is a great tragedy for Bexhill.

## OPINION

# ARE YOU OKAY? YES, WE'RE FINE HOLLY

BY KIM MAYO

**UNLESS you have been living in a parallel universe you will know that just one story dominated the headlines throughout May and June as television presenter Phillip Schofield found himself firmly in the spotlight for a variety of reasons.**

Mr Schofield's on-screen career started when he was paired with a puppet called Gordon the Gopher on children's television channel CBBC and for those of us old enough to remember, Gordon was the undoubted star.

Sadly, Gordon was relegated to the dustbin of history as Mr Schofield moved on to bigger and better things, culminating in his lengthy stint as host of *This Morning* in tandem with Holly Willoughby.

All was fine and dandy until all hell broke loose when he admitted to an "inappropriate but not illegal" relationship with a much younger man who also worked on the show.

The presenter had previously announced that he was gay despite being married with children, prompting emotional scenes as he was supported by his colleagues live on air.

However, since details of his relationship with his former colleague hit the headlines one of the most famous faces on British television has been subjected to a witch hunt, culminating with him feeling he had no option but to resign from a show which he had been primarily responsible for making a success.



This is a price you must pay if you are a well-known "celebrity" and deemed to have stepped out of line. It started when he and Ms Willoughby were accused of "jumping the queue" when Her Majesty The Queen was lying in state but did the pair really deserve to be vilified to the extent they were? No, of course not. It

was a misjudgement, but nothing more.

Since Mr Schofield's resignation a variety of talking heads have lined up to put the boot in, particularly over his relationship with the much younger member of the production crew which is now over.

Ms Willoughby even went on to make one of the most ludicrous statements ever broadcast on national television as she returned to our screens after taking a break from presenting duties as the Schofield story hit the headlines.

"Are you Ok," she began. Well, of course we are ok.

Then it got worse as she continued: "I imagine that you might be feeling a lot like I have... shaken, troubled, let down, worried for the wellbeing of people on all sides of what's been going on, and full of questions.

"You, me and all of us at This Morning gave our love and support to someone who was not telling the truth. Who acted in a way that they themselves felt that they had to resign from ITV and step down from a career that they loved. That is a lot to process.

"I think what unites us all now is a desire to heal for the health and wellbeing of everyone.

"I hope that as we start this new chapter and get back to a place of warmth and magic that this show holds for all of us, we can find strength in each other."

I mean, seriously, have you ever heard such utter claptrap?

Indeed, some have even gone as far to say that relationships between work colleagues should potentially be a sackable offence, which is without doubt one of the most ludicrous suggestions I have ever heard in my entire life.

As long as the relationship is consensual and is embraced by both parties while not adversely affecting their work it should not be deemed an issue.

Prior to the era of the internet most people ended up dating and in many cases either living with or marrying a work colleague.

First of all it tended to be a chat at the water dispenser or coffee machine, then an invite for a drink after work and if it was accepted the chances were that fledgling friendship would develop into something more.

If said invite is rejected then fine, such is the nature of attraction which is not always reciprocated. If that proves to be the case then move on.

Of course, there are those with predatory instincts within the workplace who think that anyone they have their eyes on is "fair game" but thankfully with the advent of Human Resources there are complaints procedures in place to protect workers from unwanted attention.

However, the suggestion that work colleagues should not have the right to embark on a relationship

is palpable nonsense.

As far as we can ascertain, Phillip Schofield did nothing wrong, broke no laws, yet despite that his career lies in tatters due to trial by the tabloids.

I have worked in the media for 40 years now and during that time have witnessed punch-ups, screaming rows and, horror of horrors, work colleagues embarking on relationships, some successful, some ultimately not.

That is the nature of the business. Even today, it is an abrasive and competitive world, whether it be a career in newspapers or television.

On that basis, Phillip Schofield, whether you like him or not, did extremely well to rise to the top of his profession and on the rare occasions I have watched one of his programmes, he is clearly a consummate professional.

He says he is a "broken man" having seen his career implode just because he saw someone he fancied in the workplace and the colleague in question reciprocated in kind. The age gap between them doesn't matter one iota on the proviso both parties are over the age of consent.

Yet like Gordon the Gopher he will become yesterday's news once the media frenzy dies down. It is time to leave the man in peace and not become both hanging judge and jury.

Remember that Biblical quote which remains true to this very day. To paraphrase, it says... "you hypocrite. First, remove the beam from your own eye and then you can see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

# OUTSTANDING CHILDREN'S NURSERY CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESS



A BEXHILL children's nursery is celebrating after being rated as "outstanding" in its latest Ofsted report.

In 2019 East Sussex County Council announced the closure of 15 children's centres and the last of Bexhill's two remaining centres, including Rainbow Childcare Centre, where Dragonflies now resides.

In March 2021, The Bexhill Family Collective CIC took over the early years provision with the sterling support of local families, the local community and comedian and actor Eddie Izzard.

Dragonflies Community Nursery now provides early years education to more than 90 pre-school children from the local areas.

The team have proved conclusively they are passionate and dedicated practitioners who provide a safe, nurturing, happy and stimulating environment

where children can play, explore and experiment to become confident, inquisitive and capable learners.

Bexhill Family Collective chief executive Heather Winchester said: "We are so happy that we have not only been able to open Dragonflies Community Nursery to support our local community but have continued to provide this service at such high quality."

"Having our service recognised by Ofsted cements all that we have known from the beginning of this journey."

"Dragonflies Community Nursery is a truly special place and one we must protect for future generations."

Full details of the Ofsted report can be found at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk> and information about the nursery is available at <https://dragonfliescommunitynursery.co.uk>.

# CALLING BEXHILL RESIDENTS



We have 37 unpaid Carers in the Bexhill area waiting for a volunteer to give them a couple of hours respite break from their 24/7 caring role.

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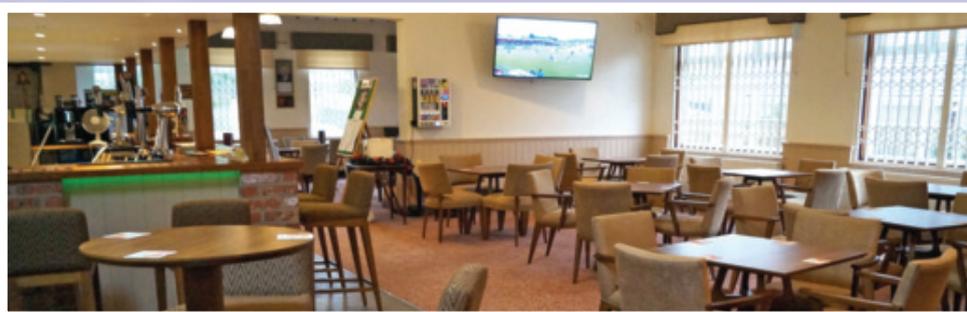
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# BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE



Bexhill Mayor Cllr Lynn Brailsford

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW TOWN MAYOR

**I must apologise for being unavoidably absent for the earlier Council meetings as my return flight to the UK was unavoidably delayed for three days by Storm Oscar. This does not detract from the great privilege I feel at being voted Chair of our Council and the First Lady Mayor of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.** These sentiments are also reflected by Cllr Connor Winter who I believe is one of the youngest Deputy Mayors in the UK.

Firstly, and also on behalf of my Deputy Mayor, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Councillors Paul Plim and Claire Baldry for all of the good work they have done for Bexhill over the past two years, as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill. They will be a hard act to follow but between us, we are firmly committed to do our best for the people of Bexhill.

I am proud to come from a long line of Bexhill families, and feel it an honour to represent them, and the other lines of Bexhill families who make up the core of our community. I grew up in Little Common and Sidley and attended Little Common Primary School when it was first built, then went on to attend Bexhill Down School (now Bexhill High School) and have some great memories and made some good friends at both.

I am greatly looking forward to working with the current Bexhill Town Councillors, who represent sectors of our community ranging from our younger people, people with little ones and school age children, hard working members from our business sector and many other walks of life.

These councillors have made a commitment to combine their many skills and give their time as volunteers in order to make a good impact on our town and residents. They are local residents who have a vested interest in Bexhill and we will all work hard together to make the next four years the start of something good for our town.

I would like to see a co-operative and productive relationship between ourselves and Rother District Council. I hope to establish a productive link with Bexhill Chamber of Commerce, who I feel could offer us first-hand experience from the traders and professional businesses in our town, and to get feedback from our event organisers to see if they have any ideas on how to promote more visitors for Bexhill.

I am greatly looking forward to meeting new people in this



350 residents packed into Bexhill Sixth Form

## NORTHEYE POLICY

**Your newly elected town council recently voted in favour of opposing the Government plans to house asylum seekers in Bexhill.** After holding a public meeting at Bexhill College, which over 300 people attended, we've been collating residents' responses to the proposals and are now demanding answers from the Home Office.

Local campaigner and new Town Councillor Nigel Jacklin said, "Residents have a wide range of reasons for objecting to the proposals. The strongest concerns are for the safety of women and children. Many people live here for the peace and quiet; they feel this will change. Others have pointed to the fact that local developments have taken six years to get through the planning process and the plan was to redevelop the site, near Pevensey Levels, in less than six months. They simply see the use of emergency legislation to push this through as wrong."

coming year, from our various hard-working community groups and to hear about what they can offer, and their ideas on how improve things for the people who live here. This is an adventure I intend to share with all.

This is the start of a new era for Bexhill, we have a term of four years to work hard together with input from our residents to make Bexhill into a town to celebrate, full of people with a pride in where they live and to be happy to live here.

Thank you and my best wishes to you all,  
Lynn

## YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS

Councillors are now all appointed for the next four years:

- **Central Ward: Paul Plim and Andrew Crotty**
- **Collington Ward: Lynn Brailsford and Paul Wilson**
- **Kewhurst Ward: Bryan Clasby and Brian Drayson**
- **Old Town and Worsham Ward: Memish Huseyin and Alan Goss**
- **Pebsham and St Michael's Ward: Huseyin El and Charlie Rustem**
- **Sackville Ward: Claire Baldry and Elly Gibson**
- **Sidley Ward: Julie Norris and Tony Carroll**
- **St Marks Ward: Nigel Jackling and Connor Winter**
- **St Stephens Ward: Alan Thomas and Trudy Hampton**

Look out for local surgeries where you can meet your councillors. They next surgery for Sackville Ward and Old Town and Worsham Ward at the De la Warr Road entrance to Manor Barn Gardens from 10.30 am until midday on Saturday 15th July. Residents are invited to drop by for a chat and bring along any queries about

local services and the work of local councils. Representatives from East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council will also be there.

## TOPICS AT FULL COUNCIL

Councillors can bring forward new ideas for the council to consider at each meeting. New initiatives agreed on so far are for the council's committees to have a minimum number of female representatives where possible, a new promotion about the dangers of lead in water, and for the council to draft a neuro-diversity policy. Cllr Andrew Crotty said, "I'm very pleased that Bexhill Town Council is fully supporting a new policy to support those with Autism and learning difficulties".

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Committee Wednesday 5th July 6pm and Wednesday 26th July 6pm

- **Full Council Wednesday 5th July 2023 6.30pm**
- **Asset Transfer Committee Wednesday 12th July 6pm**
- **Climate, Nature and Environment Committee Wednesday 12th July 7pm**
- **Finance and General Purposes Committee Wednesday 26th July 6.30pm**

Please check our website for the agenda as venues and times can be subject to change.

## BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

35 Western Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN40 1DU

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am-12pm, and 12:30pm-2:30pm

Contact: [town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:town.clerk@bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk) • [www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bexhilltowncouncil.gov.uk)



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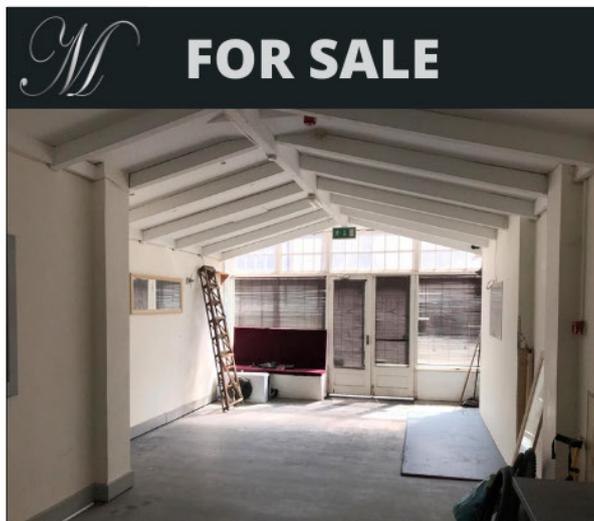
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Please send a copy of your CV to the Director, Miss Joy Hazell with a covering letter to [joy@jfsproperties.co](mailto:joy@jfsproperties.co)

Closing date: Monday 10th July 2023  
Interviews: Week commencing 17th July 2023.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 APPLICATION FOR BEXHILL OUTFALL PIPE

Notice is hereby given that Deborah Kenneally, Rother District Council has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the maintenance and extension of an outfall pipe.

Copies of the application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at [www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register](http://www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register).

Representations in respect of the application should ordinarily be made by: Visiting the MMO public register at [https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO\\_PUBLIC\\_REGISTER/search?area=3](https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER/search?area=3) and accessing the 'Public Representation' section of case reference MLA/2023/00042;

However, we will also accept representations via the following formats:

- By email to [marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk); or alternatively
- By letter addressed to Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH

- In all cases, correspondence must:
- Be received within 28 days of the date of the first notice (30 June 2023);
  - Quote the case reference; and
  - include an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent. The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

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# BATTLE ABBEY PREP SWIMMERS MAKE A BIG SPLASH AT NATIONALS



BY MIKE LEGG/PICTURE: JEFF PENFOLD

**A** Battle Abbey Prep School sweet 16 have made a splash at national swimming championships.

A fab four bagged gold and bronze at the English Schools' Swimming Association National Relay Championships.

That success came hot on the heels of silver and bronze medals for pupils competing at the Independent Association of Prep Schools national finals at the prestigious London Aquatics Centre.

Sixteen swimmers got last month off to a flying start at the IAPS National Finals (June 3).

The boys' 8 x 25 metre freestyle relay team, which was seeded fourth, put in an almighty effort to come third - narrowly missing second place by less than half a second. They took 14.26 seconds off their qualifying time.

The team comprised of Oliver Lay, Charlie Turk, Sebastian Serrano, Lucas Williams, Felix Macmillan, James Lay, James Allen and Oliver Wenham-Vale.

The girls' 8 x 25 metre freestyle relay team, having been seeded seventh, swam their way to a remarkably close second place and slashed 22.34 seconds off their qualifying time.

The team was Jasmine Jackson, Frederica Sheppard, Annie-Rose Brandrick, Isadora Bennett-Brewerton, Elodie Harris, India Wenham-Vale and Ella Rushton.

Following on from the IAPS success, Oliver Lay, Jackson, Turk and Rushton travelled to Sheffield's Ponds Forge International Sports Centre to compete in the 27th Primary Schools' National Relay Championships.

First up, the four won their medley heat and then overcame the odds to finish a respectable third in the final.

The team then had the 4 x 25 metre freestyle relay and put in an incredible swim in the final to secure a brilliant first place to become the Small Schools' national champions. Gold was one better than the previous year.

Headteacher Craig Austen-White said: "We are delighted that our swimmers have had the opportunity to represent Battle Abbey Prep at national level.

"Our swimmers are so dedicated and attend early morning swim three times a week. It is wonderful that they now see if they put in the hard work, they can achieve anything. To become ESSA National Champions in the mixed relay is a huge achievement, especially when you consider our coach, Gemma Govan, only has 60 pupils in Year 3-6 to pick from.

"It is testament to the fantastic coaching they receive. A huge well done to everyone who represented us at IAPS (National Aquatics Centre in London) and at ESSA in Sheffield."

## OLD BEXHILLIANS WALK AWAY WITH LEAGUE TITLE



and going on to win the league with just one defeat in 12 games for a near-perfect record.

Remarkably, they finished with a superior goal difference despite having ten goals disallowed.

Team gaffer Duncan Nolan said: "This win is dedicated to two beautiful souls lost recently - David Willis, an ex-player and Wimbledon legend, and one of our players' family member Craig Oakley. "The dedication and acute attention to detail to mastermind each game is very tiresome but well worth it for days like today and seeing my lads lift that trophy. "The win is for everyone associated with the wonderful Bexhill club and its

chairman Mick Davies.

"There's lots of changes happening at the club, however, we will always remember the founders and the nostalgia."

Team: Dougie Morris, Mick Davies (Chairman), Brian Cook, Howard Whitelaw, Nick Gardner, Duncan Nolan, Chris Osborne, Alan Osman, Mark Oakley, Darren Showsmith, Roger Kidney. Not pictured: Steve Over, John Monroe, Perry Puddefoot, Jason Borg.

Bexhill welcome all footballers, male and female from beginner to old pros. We train Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Contact [mickdavies48@gmail.com](mailto:mickdavies48@gmail.com) for more information.

**O**ld Bexhillians are celebrating after winning the first-ever South Coast Walking Football League East Division.

The club were unsure whether to enter a side as the surrounding teams of Burwash, Battle and Eastbourne were very strong.

But with six minutes to go before the deadline - and after some frantic WhatsApp messaging - the decision was made to go for it.

OBS' hopes were pinned on beating Hasting - who claimed to be rivals - with a top-three spot classed as a good season.

But OBS surprised themselves, continuously thrashing their 'rivals'

## ZAK THE CENTURION IS OVER THE MOON

BY JACKIE KNIGHT

**B**RT's super trail runner Zak Overfield accomplished an awe-inspiring Centurion SDW100 (miles) from Matterley Bowl Winchester to Eastbourne Sports Park.

The South Downs Way National Trail pushed Overfield's physical and mental limits but provided him with inspiring views across the Weald in the north and south to the coast.

He finished in 28 hours and 33 minutes. Any 100-mile foot race is tough at the best of times but Overfield said: "To actually complete my first, and one and only, in 30-degree heat is something no one can take away from me."



ParkRunners, Eastbourne

An epic journey of resilience and determination was accomplished after six months of hard-core training in all weather conditions which involved running 50 miles a week with two awesome pacers. Andrea Harwood paced from Kithurst Storrington (50.1 miles) through to 69.8 and then Sharon Dickson paced from Clayton Windmills (69.8) through to Eastbourne Sports Park.

Support was provided by Zak's amazing wife, Claire, and crew buddy, Andrew Courtney.



BT 3 Peaks Challenge Four



Zak Overfield Centurion

Four BRT trailblazing runners were out on the Yorkshire BT 3 Peaks braving the 25 miles with over 1,700m of climbing.

Despite being up against 47 other teams crossing rugged countryside terrain, Grant Docksey, Simon Leonard, Geoff Tondeur and David Rogers came second overall, won the veterans' prize and triumphed as Line of Business winners.

It was the BT fell walking competition's 50th year - but also its last - as the awesome foursome brought the curtain down in style.

Malcom Jones entered the Weald Challenge trail half marathon, taking on the Wealdway and the Vanguard way. The event contains undulating routes of irregular shaped fields and ancient woodlands. The heat wave was on, but Jones finished in a time of 2hr:44min.2sec.

A final shout out to parkrunners. Always fun on a Saturday morning. This month was an amazing BRT turnout at Eastbourne Parkrun. BRT's Oliver Carey hit a super speedy PB to finish first despite soaring temperatures.

If you have ever thought about running with a friendly group of like-minded people, please go to the BRT webpage for more information for adult and junior membership. <https://www.bexhillrunnerstriathletes.co.uk>



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# SPORT



SWIMMING PAGE 26



Stephanie Toogood and Willow Johnson after winning the Women's Junior Pair



Abi Little and Ebony Hutton-Mitchell won the Women's Double Scull at Shoreham



Bexhill Women's Junior 4 at Shoreham

## POLEGROVE TRIO ON ENGLAND DUTY



Polegrove Ladies

**Polegrove ladies Nina Allbut, Denise Hodd and Rachel Mackriell were due to represent England in the triples competition at the British Isles Championships.**

They will play the winners of the Scotland versus Jersey match for a place in the final against Wales or Ireland.

Polegrove have been doing well in National and County level competitions.

The ladies are through in National and County Top Club competitions and the mixed 4s' over-60 team is in the Sussex semi-final.

# AWESOME EFFORT AT BEXHILL ROWING CLUB REGATTA

BY SPORTS REPORTER, MIKE LEGG

**B**exhill Rowing Club had a bumper home team entry for its annual regatta — and has been making waves at events around the coast.

The club is marking its 130th anniversary this year and rowers from across the South East descended on the town.

Stephanie Toogood and Willow Johnson won the Women's Junior Pair, while Jess Plail and Ebony Hutton-Mitchell took the Women's Double Scull victory.

Mark Mitchell and Kieran Cahill triumphed in the Men's Senior Pair.

Those tremendous results, coupled with many other top performances, secured Bexhill second place in both the Coastal League and Grand Aggregate behind a strong Shoreham.

The club has had a few years of struggle, hampered by an albeit amazing but limited number of volunteers and dwindling membership.

It faced the fight to open safely after the Covid lockdowns and is now slowly building newer members' confidence and competence on the water following their lengthy winter land training.

The club has previous years of achievement at many events, from world championships to ocean rows.

Back on local seas for the May 21 regatta, many past retired members joined forces with new rowers.

Despite a battle against the wind, the regatta was a great success under the watchful eye of the safety team, the Hastings Voluntary Lifeguards and the committed Coastal Association Umpires.

Captain Vinny Hourihane said: "Bexhill Rowing Club Committee would like to say a big thank you to all sponsors and supporters that made the day possible and a great success. Especially all the parents and new members that kept the day going smoothly."

**Other Bexhill Rowing Club results:** Men's Novice Single Scull 3rd. Men's Junior Single Scull 4th. Men's Senior Scull 4th and 5th. Women's Single Scull 2nd, 4th and 6th. Women's Double B 6th.

Men's Junior pair 6th. Men's Senior Pair B 5th. Women's Senior Pair 4th and 5th.

Men's Novice Four 2nd. Men's Junior Four 2nd. Men's Junior Senior Four 3rd

Women's Novice Four 3rd. Women's Junior Four 4th. Women's Senior Four 3rd and 4th.

Women's Master 40s Four 3rd. Men's Master 50s Four 2nd and 5th.

Boys' J16 Quad 2nd. Girls' J16 Quad 2nd.

One of Bexhill's J14 girls teamed up with Shoreham for a combination crew in the J14 Quad placing 4th.

In the new mixed fours, which featured two men and two women, one of which must be a novice, Bexhill saw the winning combination of father and daughter Mark and Hannah Mitchell join forces with husband-and-wife Doug and Rachel Holdaway coxed by Phil McCorry.

Shoreham hosted their regatta the following weekend.

A much smaller Bexhill squad travelled and rowed hard to make it worth the journey.

There were wins from Abi Little and Ebony Hutton-Mitchell in the Women's Double Scull, Women's Junior Four from Willow Johnson, Gabrielle Ward, Ebony and Taya Hutton-Mitchell coxed by Darren Mitchell, and the Men's Novice Four of Chris Botha, Byron Cramp, Sebastian Ward and Ollie Golding-Hazell.

Bexhill also placed second in the Women's Novice Fours, fourth in the Women's Junior Pair, while the Men's J16 Quad team came second.

Douglas Holdaway and Kieran Cahill were victorious in the Senior Men's Pair at Dover (June 10) while at Hastings (June 17) Abi Little and Ebony Hutton Mitchell claimed the win in the Women's Double Scull.

Little and Hutton Mitchell repeated the feat the following day at Eastbourne while the boys' junior 16 team of Oliver Golding-Hazell, Christopher Golding, Byron Cramp and Sebastian Ward crossed first. Jessica Plail also took the Women's Novice Sculls.

Dedicated junior Ebony Hutton-Mitchell is also travelling the country to pursue GB Beach Sprint opportunities.

The club is currently seeking volunteers to support the growing squad's training, on land and water, so if you think you can help, please get in touch.

The current support is focused on getting those that have been land training over winter now out on to the water, before opening its door to new beginner members. However, anyone interested in joining is invited to email for information on future have a go sessions or membership opening. Bexhill Rowing Club takes adults over 18 or juniors of secondary school and college age. Contact the club at [bexhillrowingclub@hotmail.com](mailto:bexhillrowingclub@hotmail.com)

## PARKER PROVES TOO GOOD



Bob Palmer, winner June 4 Sunday Series

**Rick Parker led home Darren Good and Ken Edwards, all sailing Lasers, in the Fast Fleet in Bexhill Sailing Club Sunday action (June 18).**

Cadet Captain Malcolm Brookes was first in the Slow Fleet with Rachel Wynn and Fi Brown second and third respectively in their Comets as the racing took place in bright sunshine ahead of the rain.

The Asymmetric craft were out too, with Dusty Miller and crew ahead of Chris Heath, this time in his RS Vision.

There was a beautiful evening for the fourth Midweek Race (June 14). Ben Cole, on his Sprint catamaran was fourth round the course, which was headed well by the Slow Fleet Europes of Richard Eagleton and Lee Roberts, followed by Miles Coote and Fi Brown sailing a Miracle.

The Fast Fleet saw Tim Murray's twin hulled Vortex lead two Laser Radials and Chris Heath in his new Zero. Paul Libreri just pipped John Stebbing to second, after a right ding-dong all the way round.

The skilled Malcolm Brookes sailed his Comet to Slow Fleet victory ahead of Fi Brown and Rachel Wynn in race one of the Saturday Evening Series (June 10).

The Fast Fleet saw the Lasers out again as Ken Edwards took the honours from Rick Parker and Paul Libreri.

The Cats were represented by Tony Lane and Hanna Bolton, Asymmetrics by Dusty Miller and Andy Bullen and Novices by Helen Etherington. Eve Fifield again demonstrated her progress as a Cadet in her Laser 4.7.

Working with the tides, the trainee sailors had a blast as they took to the water for the first time prior to the evening races.

The previous weekend was sun blessed — but with a wind excess (June 4).

Winds gusting to force six meant Saturday races were cancelled but a small fleet of four battled the surges on Sunday.

Ben Cole's Cat was handicapped out of the running, and although the experienced Colin Cord with his new Radial sail on his Laser relished the conditions, it was Bob Palmer sailing the humble Topper who won out of the four dinghies after handicap. Richard Bratton's Europe was second.