



Safer Hastings Partnership Presentation

Members of the Crime & Safety SIG decided after our Question Time event last year when Mike Fagan, the Council's Community Safety Manager and P.C. Nick Marriott, the town centre officer answered Forum members' questions that we would appreciate having a more in-depth talk on the work of the Safer Hastings Partnership.

Mike Fagan came to the Town Hall once again last March, and gave an excellent presentation in the Council Chamber that was extremely informative, and included anecdotes about his former career as a police inspector; he joked at one stage that he was not the Michael Fagan who achieved world-wide notoriety when he broke into Buckingham Palace and entered the Queen's bedroom! Several members later commented that Mike's presentation was the best that they had ever heard, and is a view with which I absolutely agree.

We were told that the Partnership members include Sussex Police, Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex Fire & Rescue, and Amicus Horizon.

Among the Partnership's priorities for 2015/2016 are tackling alcohol and drugs abuse, because they are strongly linked to offending, supporting high risk and vulnerable victims of antisocial behaviour and hate crime, and road safety, with crashes involving death or serious injury having increased.



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Back: Mike Fagan & Cllr. Andrew Cartwright
Front: P. C. Nick Marriott & Paul Broadhurst

Latest news on our plan for a dementia friendly community

On Thursday May 21st in Hastings Town Centre, by Debenhams, HSSF and the Steering Group will be publicising and promoting our Plan. Please do come along and see for yourselves what HSSF is trying to achieve with other like-minded organisations locally. We will be so pleased to see you - 10 am to 4 pm - rain or shine!

As anyone who has had any involvement with dementia knows, this is a worthwhile cause which just needs more of us to understand the 'dementia journey', and maybe sign up to be a Dementia Friend. Bexhill has successfully qualified to be a Dementia Friendly Community, and Rye is on its way.... with your support we will join them.

For more information please contact **Pam Brown** by email at pambrown1066@tiscali.co.uk or tel: 01424 424693.

Who's Who in the Forum

President: Pam Brown OBE

Chair: Ann Lowndes

Vice-Chair: Paul Broadhurst

Treasurer: Ken Hales

Secretary: Esther Craberre

Committee Members: Marie Garaty, Joyce Thatcher, Pam Webb, Laretta Okagbue, George Webster

Publicity Officer: Ann Fergy

Newsletter Editor: Paul Broadhurst

Membership Secretary: Currently vacant

Website: Clive Turner

Membership Secretary enquiries membership@hssf.org.uk

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Chair's Report

Welcome to our spring/summer newsletter. Some good news and some bad. The first piece of good news is that we have a new secretary, Esther Crabbere, we are very grateful to her for taking on this position.

Sadly our Membership Secretary Clive Turner, due to family circumstances, has had to resign; he will continue as Webmaster so anything you want on our webpage can still be sent to him. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Clive for all his hard work over the years.

Another piece of news is that HSBC has agreed to fund the office for another year.

We are always looking for more members to join the committee and the SIGS, and of course we are looking for a new Membership Secretary. If you would like to join us please contact me or one of the SIG chairs.

By the time you read this the new bus timetables will be in operation, the forum raised a petition against the changes but some have gone ahead, this means that some meetings at Jackson Hall will have to start later.

Wishing you all a good summer. **Ann Lowndes**

Life's Support

This is an event dealing with the 'Health and Wellbeing' of Hastings, organised by the Health and Social Care group of Hastings and St Leonards Seniors Forum. It will be held in the Town Hall between 10.00 and 12.30 on 4 September.

There will be representatives from 'Supporting People', Healthwatch and Active Hastings with presentations, questions, stalls in support and refreshments, with light entertainment. Do join us to help make our town a healthier, happier place.

Please confirm your intention to attend, by email to duncan_1066@yahoo.com or tel:01424 754200

Dr Duncan Cameron - Chair, Health & Social Care Special Interest Group

The articles appearing in this newsletter are the views of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Forum

We welcome your ideas, comments & letters, which can be sent without a stamp to The Secretary, HSSF, Freepost RSUK-TELCG-TCGX Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Transport Open Day

The Transport Special Interest Group's biennial Transport Open Day will once again be held in the splendid setting of the Council Chamber of Hastings Town Hall, this time from 10 am to 2 pm on Friday, 17th July.

Local transport providers have been invited to have a stall and provide information, and organisations who have already accepted are Stagecoach, Southern Railway, Dial-a-Ride, and Marshlink (Sussex Community Partnership).

This year, for the first time, East Sussex Disability Association will be taking a stall, and will be providing information on mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, and walking frames etc.

We will be having talks by ESCC officers on the Hastings to Bexhill link road, and on potholes.

This is a rare opportunity to ask questions and make your comments about transport services and needs to our local providers, it isn't restricted to Forum members, so do please bring your friends as well.

Admission is free, and there will be an opportunity to have a free drink of tea or coffee with biscuits.

The entrance to the Town Hall that will be used is via the Community Contact Centre (the former Tourist Information Centre) on the Priory Meadow side of the Town Hall.

The Transport SIG is a very friendly group, and makes new members very welcome, so why not come along to one of our monthly meetings at the new time of 11 am on the second Monday of the month.

Roger Sweetman, Chair - Transport Special Interest Group

A New Operator for the Isabel Blackman Centre, Old Town, Hastings

Our thanks to all of you who signed our petition to keep this Centre open whilst East Sussex County Council made the decision on who should take it over.

It all seems a very long time ago since that petition, which makes it all the more important that we managed to persuade ESCC not to close the centre during the long tendering process.

We now know that the organisation chosen to operate this Centre together with the Charter Centre Bexhill, and Phoenix Centre Lewes, is Sussex Community Development Association, who will shortly take over .

We wish them well and look forward to welcoming their plans for this extremely important local venue.



Forum members attended a protest to save the centre

Safer Hastings Partnership Presentation

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Hastings has high levels of reported cases of domestic and sexual violence, and tackling these issues is another of the Partnership's priorities.

The Partnership is also working to try to prevent people from becoming involved in or supporting terrorism.

Amongst the initiatives funded by the SHP Community Safety Partners are tools and equipment for the Community Payback Scheme. The scheme requires offenders to benefit their community by carrying out unpaid work on projects such as graffiti removal and litter-picking.



Reported crime statistics for Hastings & St. Leonards

	2001/2002	2014/2015	Reduction
Burglary dwelling	1064	554	52%
Robbery	221	121	55%
Theft from vehicles	1876	828	44%
Theft of vehicles	588	336	57%
Total crime	14,117	7,599	54%

P.C. Nick Marriott who had also been invited to speak at the event answered a variety of questions, then demonstrated personal alarms that he had brought along, and gave away free of charge to anyone who wanted to have one.

The alarms are quite small, but they do emit an extremely loud noise! We have a small supply of them, and if you would like to have one then please come along to one of the Crime & Safety SIG meetings. They are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 10.30 am in the Forum's office at Hastings Voluntary Action, Portland Place, Hastings.

Advice was given by both Mike Fagan and Nick Marriott to ladies in the audience that if they were unfortunate enough to become a victim of a bag snatcher that it was advisable not to try to hang on to their bag because of the possibility of being injured. Not long ago, an elderly lady in the town suffered quite serious injuries by doing so.

Paul Broadhurst - Chair, Crime & Safety Special Interest Group

Would you like a bit more help to live independently?

a new free service for over 50's, the Health & Wellbeing Visits Project can arrange for a trained volunteer to help you

Do you have a long term condition or disability? Are you feeling isolated?
Would you like to know more about the services available to you?

The project has trained volunteers able to visit you at home to talk about your health and well being, offer advice and information, and put you in touch with the most appropriate source of help.

If you would like more information or to book a visit, please phone:01323 462 437
or email ceilidh.jackson-baker@esfrs.org

The project is provided by a partnership of 3VA and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Conquest Hospital's 'inadequate' rating

A Care Quality Commission report published last March has been critical of Conquest Hospital in a number of areas with Outpatients and Surgery all considered to be inadequate, and A & E requiring improvement. Medical Care, and Intensive/Critical Care were though rated as good, but the CQC's overall rating of the hospital in their one hundred and seventy-nine page report was 'inadequate'.

Staff had informed the inspection team that the reconfiguration of services to single site delivery at the Conquest and Eastbourne's District General Hospital had left them stressed and unhappy.

Although most of the staff commented that they acknowledged the reasons for the changes, they considered there to have been too little consultation, and that they had received inadequate support.

The report also stated that the trust was not responsive to the needs of many of its patients, that leadership was inadequate, and the quality of medical notes unsatisfactory.

Patients' confidential data was said not to have been protected, with patient records being left in public, accessible areas without staff present.

Several areas were identified as outstanding, and included the consultant presence on critical care 7 days per week, and nurse led discharges.

The full report can be read on the CQC's website.

Paul Broadhurst

Why not enter HSSF's Art Competition?

- Finalists will be displayed at the Craft and Hobbies Fair on 1st October
- Winner to be announced at the AGM
- 1 Subject Hastings & St Leonards
- 2 Watercolour, oil, acrylic, pencil or pen
- 3 Work should be A4 mounted NOT framed
- 4 One entry per person, entrants must be members of the Forum
- 5 Entries must be from this year
- 6 Name, address and phone no on the back
- 7 Entries fee £1
- 8 Entries can be left at the Forum's Coffee Mornings in July & August.
- 9 Final date for entries 7th September
- 10 Winner will receive a voucher for a local art supplier
- 11 The Judges decision is final
- 12 The organisers will not accept responsibility for loss or damage

New Bus Timetables.

The changes to the times that some bus routes run came into effect on Sunday the 26th of April and reflect the reduction in the financial support that ESCC gives to Stagecoach.

The changes are less drastic than we expected but they will certainly inconvenience some people. A good reason to attend our Transport Open Day and make your comments.

For update information on Stagecoach routes you can tel. Stagecoach on 0845 6002299 or go visit their website www.stagecoachbus.com and for times of buses click on timetables and then click on location, there is a scroll down menu.

Roger Sweetman, Chair - Transport Special Interest Group

Diary Dates

**HSSF's Dementia Action Alliance stall - outside Debenhams
10 am to 4 pm Thursday May 21st**

Tuesday Coffee Mornings from 10.30 am at the Friends Meeting House

26th May 30th June 28th July 25th August 29th September 27th October 24th November

Wii Sessions at the Friends Meeting House - Thursdays 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm

4th June 2nd July 6th August 3rd September 1st October 3rd November

Armed Forces Day - Sunday 28th June - Alexandra Park - Please visit our stall

Picnic in the Park from 12 pm on Tuesday, 14th July - by the cafe in Alexandra Park

Transport Open Day 10.30 am to 2 pm - Friday July 17th - Council Chamber - Hastings Town Hall

Life's Support - 10 am -to 1 pm - Friday 4th Sept. -Council Chamber - Hastings Town Hall

Craft & Hobbies Fair - 10.30 am to 3 pm - Thursday 1st October - The Azur, Marina, St. Leonards

The Forum's AGM - 2 pm - Friday 23rd October - Council Chamber - Hastings Town Hall

A Message from the Editor

Every publication needs to change from time to time if it's to remain fresh, and I hope that the changes that I have made since I took on the editorship last autumn, including the printing on 'silk' paper and stapled pages are welcome ones.

This is your newsletter, and I would very much welcome receiving your comments as to what you would like to see in future issues and your contributions.

Have you an interest that you would like to write about for a future issue or are you involved in an organisation that you consider Forum members would be interested in?

I can be contacted by letter at the Forum's office, no stamp being needed if the Freepost address is used, or by email at paul.broadhurst@live.co.uk.

Paul Broadhurst

Easter Coffee Morning

Forum members enjoyed tea, coffee and hot cross buns at the coffee morning, which one member who attended described as a "joyous occasion", and indeed it was from the beaming smiles on the faces of those who came.



Our very friendly coffee mornings are a great way of meeting new people, so why not come along to one? Future dates are in the What's On section.

Money Matters by Mike Rose

£.s.d. (Pounds, shillings and pence). Fond memories to us 'Oldies' but mind boggling to our grandchildren and in some cases our children, but then we did have the most confusing and illogical system of coinage.

We had bronze coinage, the farthing, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny; the half penny, and the penny. (Plural 'pence' never pennies.) A three pence (thropenny bit). Either brass looking metal or silver. Then silver coinage, the sixpence, the shilling (12pence), the florin (24 pence), the half crown or two & six (30 pence), a ten shilling note (120 pence), and a one pound note (240 pence). If you were rich there was the five pound note.

Then there were of course the crown (60 pence), the guinea and half guinea (gold coinage worth 252 pence and 126 pence). These latter three coins were not in common use. The £.s.d. system was introduced in the 12th century and lasted right through until decimal currency was introduced in 1971. Pssst, the florin introduced in the late 19th century being one tenth of a pound was in fact the first decimal coin.

Having reminded our brains of the bygone days especially all those horrible £.s.d. sums at school or shopping bills that added up to the likes of £12 7s 6.3/4d, here are some more confusing bits from our wallets, purses and pockets of those days. There was the 'jenny'(farthing), the 'clod'(penny, the 'joey'(silver Thropenny), the 'tanner' or a 'sprat'(sixpence), the 'bob'(shilling), the 'two bob bit'(florin), the 'two and a kick' or 'half a dollar'(half crown), a 'dollar' (five shillings), 'half a bar' (ten shilling note), a 'nicker' a 'oncer' or a 'quid' (pound), a 'fiver' or 'lady godiver' (five pounds), a 'tom' (six pounds), a 'tony benn' (ten pounds), a 'commodore' (15 pounds), a 'pony' (25 pounds), a 'ton' (100 pounds), a 'monkey' (500 pounds), a 'grand' (1000 pounds). There are no doubt many more local nicknames localised around the British Isles, and I expect a lot of you know variations to these written here.

Finally, just thought you would like to know that silver coinage prior to 1947 can be worth up to 40 times its face value because of the silver content in the coin, and a 1933 penny would be worth £55,000 plus. Happy hunting!

Must dash as I need to "spend a penny".

Summer is here... So let's celebrate and have a picnic!



Where: Alexandra Park (by the cafe)

Time: From 12 pm

Date: Tuesday, 14th July

Please come and join us!

Just bring your own food & drink, and anyone else who would like to come

In Your Garden by Gillis Gardening

Steve Gillis is a professional RHS qualified gardener & Forum member

Late spring and early summer in your garden.

What a glorious few weeks we have had, the only downside has been that the spring flowering plants have gone over quicker than in a normal cooler spring, so now it is time to dead head the daffodils and other spring bulbs to prevent the plant wasting energy making seeds, but do not cut off the leaves yet, these will be putting energy back into the bulb ready for next years flowers.

The lawn cutting season is in full swing now. If you feed and weed your grass, this is the time to do it. But if you are using a granular product with moss killer, it can scorch the lawn, so needs watering in soon after you have spread it, so ideally wait until rain is forecast, and spread the feed a few hours before the rain is due or get your hose out.

The garden centres have been selling bedding plants for a few weeks now, but do not be in too much of a rush to plant these out as the nights remain cold well into May, and plants will soon catch up with earlier sowings, bedding will be available well into June.

Everyone loves runner beans, and now is the time to sow them. Even if you have a small garden or balcony runner beans can be grown in containers, but they are deep rooted and very thirsty plants so use the biggest container you can, and use a good quality compost and water regularly.

Continue feeding the birds throughout the year, although there is more natural food available in the summer, if you feed throughout the year, the birds will be used to visiting your garden. The birds will also be looking for nesting material, so an old stocking stuffed with pet hair, scraps of wool and string will be appreciated.

Remember the birds if you are planning to cut hedges, as you might disturb a hidden nest, so is it perhaps better to wait until the nesting season is over?

Most importantly of all when we are all so busy in our gardens, remember to take time to sit and enjoy your garden and the lovely summer weather we have to come.

Easter Coffee Morning Tombola

Members on the right queuing for our fund-raising tombola.

Thanks to Forum stalwart Pam Webb (left in the photo) who runs the tombolas at our special occasions, we have an amazing variety of excellent prizes, but more are always needed.

If you have anything suitable or perhaps an unwanted gift, then please bring it along to one of the coffee mornings where Pam will gladly receive it.



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