

Welcome to February's members' bulletin.

There is a lot to share with you...

Observer Building: Pre-Planning Forum 6pm Wednesday 26th February

White Rock Neighbourhood Ventures (WRNV), who own Rock House and the Observer building, have asked us to share with you details of a [pre-planning forum](#) organised by Hastings Borough Council

This is an opportunity for Heart of Hastings (HOH) members, as 1/3 owners of WRNV, to see the plans and make yourselves aware of what is happening in this historic building.

Time and date : 6pm Wednesday 26th February

Place: Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, TN34 3UY

[From the HBC website:](#)

Find your HBC councillor [here](#).

EGM Monday 23 March 2020 : Invitation to help shape Heart of Hastings future

Background for EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting)

Heart of Hastings has won a £2 million grant to spend in White Rock, the area also known as Trinity Triangle and as the America Ground. [Map](#).

The money will help renovate the Observer Building and 12 Claremont for the benefit of local people: Plans include 16 flats in the Observer Building, all to be let at rents based on [local](#) income.

At 12 Claremont, we will create accessible community space and an art gallery; working in partnership with [Project Artworks](#). PAW are an artist-led organisation working with children, young people and adults who have complex support needs.

There will also be money to make White Rock look nicer, for example helping small business improve their signage, and restoring the lion and unicorn statues on Robertson Terrace near Debenhams.



To help make the grant work, we would like to update our organisation's “objects” (the things we stand for), by adding:

'the promotion of a sense of heritage', and 'the building of community capacity', to our [rules](#).

We will be holding a special meeting on Monday 23rd March to explain what we want to do, and ask you, our members, to comment on and agree the changes.

We will send you a formal notice of the meeting in a few weeks. What we are asking now is that you put the date in your diaries if you can come. We plan to combine the meeting with a members-only event, such as an exclusive tour of the Observer Building, as a thank you for attending.

AGM Saturday 22 August 2020

Background for EGM

It may be dull and cold now, but it will soon be August, which means, Bank holiday, School holidays, and the Heart of Hastings Annual General Meeting on Saturday 22 August. All are welcome and more details will follow.

One of the highlights of the AGM is electing new Board members. Boards are responsible for our governance – making sure it is effectively and properly run. If you would like to join the board contact us; we will talk you through it, arrange a chat with our chair of trustees, and help you decide if it is right for you.

Board members can be co-opted throughout the year and recently the board were delighted to welcome Richard Wistreich to the Board of Trustees.

Richard was unanimously co-opted at a recent board meeting, and as a co-opted member Richard will present himself to be voted on by the members at the AGM. We hope you will agree with the board that he is an asset to Heart of Hastings.

Membership Drive- Can you help?

We have a great set of members, but we would like to have more, so we are forming a small working group to look at how we might increase our membership.

If you would like to join this working group, please [email](#) us. It will probably involve 2 or 3 informal meetings, where we can discuss ideas and work out an action plan.

You don't need to have any special experience - just by being a member you have something to add. We can reimburse travel expenses, and we will provide biscuits and tea.

12 Claremont

Negotiations with East Sussex County Council are slowly continuing about the community asset transfer of 12 Claremont, next to Hastings Library. It has been slow work while ESCC solicitors draft an agreement between bouts of long term sick and maternity leave. We do now have a draft contract, which we are checking carefully. You may have also seen that Project Art works have "[activated](#)" the window at number 12. If you are passing check out the latest display.

Community Organising

We are part way through a series of courses run by trained community organiser Sam Kinch throughout the month of February. The take-up has been exceptional - and all the courses were fully booked. We will put a write up of the course sessions in the next newsletter

Gates

And finally, if you are passing though White Rock take a look at the new [gates](#) on the Alley, created and installed by artist Leigh Dyer. We think they are pretty amazing.



If you want to get in touch about anything, call, email, or arrange to drop into the office- we will be happy to hear from you.

Have a great month