

Inside:
Your Pull Out
Guide to What
is Happening
in and Around
Hastings



**ARTISAN
SPRING FAIR**
at THE OLD RECTORY
5th & 6th APRIL
• SHOP • RELAX •
• UNWIND • SAVOR
MORE DETAILS INSIDE
THANK YOU



**Liv Long
& Prosper**

8 →



13 →

Wild Garlic

Explosive Chemical Find Brings Chaos to St Leonards

PAUL McLAUGHLIN
and FERDUSARA ALI

Emergency services cordoned off roads around the A259 Marina on Thursday evening after explosive chemicals were found in a property. Police declared a major incident with “immediate risk of threat to life” and called in bomb squad officers from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team.

The emergency resulted in the evacuation of 80 local residents from their homes, many of them taking refuge at the nearby Royal Victoria Hotel, where Hastings BC established a rest centre. It also led to the cancellation of the Hastings Half Marathon as a precaution.

The police cordon was in place over the weekend and resulted in traffic chaos with motorists advised to avoid the area and to use alternative routes.

The EOD team found large quantities of one material that indicated explosive elements in it and carried out a controlled burn in a skip on Saturday morning. They also uncovered around 500 canisters containing unknown chemicals, although these are not considered to be explosive. These will be tested and assessed by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and national specialists following the completion of the search.

A 28-year-old man has been detained under the Mental Health Act. The police investigation is ongoing but from evidence gathered so far, suggests there is no indication that the man arrested intended to cause harm either to himself or anybody else.

Initially, Sussex Police believed they had discovered a “meth lab” for producing methamphetamine, a highly addictive and illegal drug. However, they have since ruled out this theory. The po-

2 →



Half marathon cancelled - but some ran anyway

JASON ELLIS



Lightning Fibre

Hyperfast Broadband

Full Fibre Broadband
All 24 month packages now

£20*
per month





YOUR DESIGN, OUR COVER
Let's see your seagull on our cover!
Details from design@yourhip.co.uk

EDITOR'S NOTE

As HIP goes to press and further details emerge, the town is recovering from the St Leonards chemical incident. Safety first or police over-reaction? - opinions vary. Cancelling the half marathon at the very last minute was a blow to the whole community, not just runners, yet some enterprisingly took it in their stride (sorry) organising a mini run and even travelling to a similar event in Reading.

In other news, the fallout from the recent academies' upheaval continues with a teachers calling for schools to return to local authority control. We examine the biggest local government reorganisation proposals for 50 years, see the Owens debacle reach parliament (the second time HIP has been mentioned in the House of Commons this year) and are unsurprised by reports of housing developers trying to weasel out of their community obligations.

Alternatively, our arts coverage takes a zeitgeisty look at improv comedy - having a moment after years out of the spotlight - along with musical variations on the themes of folk, fiddlers and The Philharmonic.

Last - never least- our Sports page has the latest rugby, hockey and footy results.

Contact

Editorial Enquiries & Submissions info@
Sales Director Ian Lydon-James advertising@
Newsletter Editor Ben Bruges, Melitsa
Nicolau, Zakir Mohiyuddin info@
Social Media Editors Kayla Power and Erin
Ward via our Instagram page
Content Coordinator #273 Dave Young
News Coordinator #273 Paul McLaughlin
newsdesk@
design@
yourhip.co.uk

Art Director Jason Ellis

Section Editors
Chris Connelley community@
Kent Barker opinion@
Susan McFie hande@
Ben Bruges, Serena Ferrari features@
Nadine Keats, Hugh Sullivan,
Harry Hawkins, Melitsa Nicolaou,
Owen Prachar listings@
Victoria Kingham arts@
Pete Donohue literature@
Edwina Hughes food@
Jordan Connelley business@
Hugh Sullivan sport@
yourhip.co.uk

Sub Editors
Rod Webb, Fiona McGarry, Gill Goldenberg,
Linda Thomas, Celia Partridge

Contributors
Ferdusara Ali|James Ellis|Julia Hilton
Hannah Foulds|Nick Pelling|James Rowllins
Vera Bell|Gail Borrow|Steve Green
Tim Barton|Annie Waite|Steven Short
Nicky Torode|Sonja Colman

Have Your Say letters@
yourhip.co.uk

Telephone 01424 559085

Hastings Independent Press CIC
57 Linton Road Hastings TN34 1TN

News

lice have also stated that, “at this time,” they do not believe the incident is related to terrorism. Superintendent Michelle Palmer-Harris thanked those residents affected and the wider community in St Leonards for their patience and support. She said, “The declaration of a major incident allows emergency services and other partner agencies to work together effectively to keep the public safe.”

Local MP Helena Dollimore thanked the emergency services who “have worked through the night to keep our town safe” in what has been a “very troubling incident for our community.” She urged people to stay away from the affected area to allow the police to do their jobs as safely and efficiently as possible.

The vast majority of residents evacuated were allowed to return home on Saturday evening and the police cordon was shortened. A small number of properties remained within the cordon, however.

The cancellation of the Hastings Half Marathon on Saturday evening left 3,000 runners registered for the main event and 400 participants signed up for the junior race disap-

pointed. Many of them had trained for the 13.1 miles for months and some had travelled to Hastings from across the country and from Europe.

The race organisers, Nice Work and the Hastings Lions Club explained that the difficult decision had been taken after consulting with the police. The President of Hastings Lions Club, Hayley Luck, said the organisers of the race “also recognise and understand that mental health difficulties present itself in many different ways and hope that the young man and his family receive the support that they need.”

It wasn’t just runners who were left disappointed. The financial impact of the cancellation of the race will have a major impact on local charities who rely on the race to boost their fundraising. Local businesses have also been affected. Goodmans, the Barbershop and Coffee Spot, based on the seafront in St Leonards says the half marathon is usually one of the busiest days of the year for trade.

Within minutes of the race cancellation, however, social media was abuzz with runners expressing their determination to complete the 13.1 miles and to follow the actual course as closely as possible. Others ran their own race to raise funds for charity. Amy Biddle was one of those who was not to be put off. She ran from Rye to Pett Level and back in support of Motorneurone Disease “to honour all the kindness that people have shown me in their sponsorship.” Rebecca Fairbairn, was another who ran from Heathfield to Polegate.

St Michael's Hospice (Hastings and Rother) thanked “everyone who powered through alternative routes to raise funds for their chosen personal and charitable causes. We are very proud of the Hastings and Rother community for coming together.”



Chemicals retrieved by emergency services



James Ellis is Lead NEU rep for UBAT schools

NEU calls to return schools to LA control

James Ellis

The National Education Union (NEU) held a well-attended demonstration in Wellington Place on Saturday morning (22 March) to support the return to local authority control of six primary and two secondary schools in Hastings currently run by the University of Brighton Academies Trust (UBAT).

NEU members who work for schools have been in dispute over the way UBAT has managed its finances and the impact on jobs and workload. Following a request from the trustees, the Department for Education has dissolved the Trust. The NEU is against plans for the schools to join another academy trust, arguing that academies lack accountability and misuse public funds.

The NEU also called on the Government to fund schools properly to make sure they can provide the kind of education students deserve.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Notice Under Article 13 of Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Proposed development at:
Land to south of Crowhurst Road, St Leonards-on-sea,

Hastings, TN38 8EG

Take notice that application is being made by: **Arran Allison**

For planning permission to:
Proposed provision of two traveller pitches and an elevated solar array with a water collection roof.

Any owner of the land or tenant who wishes to make representations about this application should write to:
Hasting Borough Council, Aquila House, Breeds Place, Hastings, TN34 3UY
By: Friday 18 April 2025

HASTINGS TIDES								
DATE	HIGH AND LOW TIDES				SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOON	
FRI 28 MAR	L 4:45am	H 10:00am	L 5:09pm	L 10:18pm	5:41	6:23		
SAT 29 MAR	L 5:32am	H 10:42am	L 5:54pm	L 10:59pm	5:39	6:25	NEW	
British Summer Time								
SUN 30 MAR	L 7:16am	H 12:23pm	L 7:35am		6:37	7:27		
MON 31 MAR	H 0:41am	L 7:57am	H 1:05pm	L 8:15pm	6:34	7:28		
TUES 1 APR	H 1:24 am	L 8:36am	H 1:47pm	L 8:51pm	6:32	7:30		
WED 2 APR	H 2:07am	L 9:13am	H 2:30pm	L 9:28pm	6:30	7:31		
THURS 3 APR	H 2:52am	L 9:51am	H 3:17pm	L 10:07pm	6:28	7:33		
FRI 4 APR	H 3:43am	L 10:34am	H 3:17pm	L 10:56pm	6:25	7:35		
SAT 5 APR	H 4:51am	L 11:31am	H 5:32pm		6:23	7:36	FIRST	
SUN 6 APR	L 0:02am	H 6:20am	L 12:48pm	L 7:00pm	6:21	7:38		
MON 7 APR	L 1:32am	H 7:48am	L 2:31pm	H 8:24pm	6:19	7:40		
TUES 8 APR	L 3:22am	H 9:10am	L 4:05pm	H 9:36pm	6:17	7:41		
WED 9 APR	L 4:35am	H 10:10am	L 5:02pm	H 10:26pm	6:15	7:43		
THURS 10 APR	L 5:24am	H 10:53am	L 5:45pm	H 11:05pm	6:12	7:44		

* L= LOW TIDE H = HIGHTIDE For beach safety advice visit: nli.org/safety/beach-safety



Cllr Julia Hilton, Leader of Hastings BC

The Biggest Change in Local Government in Fifty Years

JULIA HILTON

Last week our council debated the biggest change being proposed for local government in 50 years. According to the Labour government’s plans for “devolution and reorganisation of local government”, a Mayor of Sussex is to be elected in 2026 and the county council and five borough and district councils across East Sussex, including Hastings, are to be dissolved by 2028. They will be replaced by one or more ‘unitary’ councils, bringing

all council services under one roof. While there are differing views across political parties on how we arrive at the footprint and structures of these new councils there is no doubting the passion, commitment and determination of all Hastings councillors to make this an opportunity for our town. Most of the focus has been on local government reorganisation but the first project will be to elect a mayor for Sussex. This is to come with a 30-year funding pot of as-yet unknown size that can be spent on improving transport, housing and skills, and decarbonising our econ-

omy. It’s essential that we start work now on an investment plan for Hastings that we can hand to that new Mayor in May 2026. I will be lobbying hard for any new council to have a major base in Hastings. This would be a powerful symbol of a commitment to putting the needs of our communities at the heart of a new council.

No one denies there are opportunities to improve the way public services are delivered. I am keen to see integrated neighbourhood teams that not only bring together health, adult social care and housing services, but that also act as community hubs, giving local people the power to drive change in their communities. This will be essential to counter the disconnect inherent in larger councils which are more distant from their communities.

TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION

We will be seeking views from Hastings’ residents on the creation of a town council for Hastings. We must secure assets, such as our precious parks, green spaces, leisure centres, museums and community centres, so that they remain under the control of the communities they serve, and a new town council may be the best way to do this.

It is a huge challenge; pursuing our ambitious plans for change whilst simultaneously rearranging ourselves with five other councils, four of which will run out of money in two years’ time. Without significant, mid- to long-term funding, they will sink and combining us into one council won’t change that. There is no additional government funding for this complex reorganisation, we have to self-fund, including if necessary, selling off assets.

FUNDING REFORM

To be successful, this reorganisation must come with major reform of local government finance. We need a serious national strategy to tackle homelessness, and a strong commitment to mend our broken children’s services and adult social care systems. It is, frankly, ludicrous to con-

THE OPTIONS FOR A NEW COUNCIL

Hastings BC established a cross-party working group with the goal of prioritising the interests of residents in the reform agenda, ensuring that Hastings had a strong voice in the reorganisation process, and making sure the new Sussex Mayor effectively represented the town’s concerns. The working group pulled together the following three options for a new council structure:

OPTION 1: EAST SUSSEX UNITARY AUTHORITY

This option, favoured by the Greens and the Conservatives, would see the creation of a new unitary council with the same boundaries as the current East Sussex County Council. It would be a completely new authority with responsibility for resources and statutory provision of services to a population of around 550,000

OPTION 2: COASTAL COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

Labour councillors are supporting the creation of a new coastal authority encompassing Hastings, Eastbourne, Bexhill, and Winchelsea. Serving a population of approximately 350,000, the authority would focus on communities which face similar challenges. It aims to ensure that resources are allocated more effectively to areas of greatest need, giving coastal communities more significant control over their local affairs.

OPTION 3: FEDERATION OF EAST SUSSEX TOGETHER The Hastings Independent Group supports the abolition of East Sussex CC and the retention of the five existing district councils – Hastings, Rother, Wealden, Lewes, and Eastbourne – collaborating on the provision of county-wide services, such as adult social care, highways and education, through a new Federation of East Sussex Together (FEAST) board.

tinue to fund local government through our regressive council tax system, which sees Buckingham Palace pay only £1,824 per year, while the average property in Hastings pays substantially more. The new Mayor should be given the power to levy a tourist tax, for example, to help us fund tourism and improve the public realm.

NEXT STEPS

Based on current government guidance, all six councils have agreed the most likely option is a single unitary council for East Sussex subject to consultation and further research. However, Hastings council has written to MCHLG expressing interest in research on two further options: a Labour proposal for two smaller unitaries (one coastal, one rural), and a federated model proposed by Hastings Independents.

A cross-party working group has

been meeting to oversee the proposed reorganisation, alongside an officer group from across the six councils. The working groups’ results will inform my discussions with the Leaders and Chief Executives group, chaired by Zoe Nicholson, leader of Lewes District Council. We’ve agreed it is important that the borough and district councils, who are closest to residents, drive the design of the new council – not the county council. The full business case must be submitted to government in September.

It’s my belief that we can make this work for Hastings, but we must consult the public. I’ve committed to a full consultation programme with outreach across the borough. We are no cowards when it comes to change: change is exactly what this Green administration is here for. But local people must control the outcome of this change – not Westminster.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION EXPLAINED

The Government’s plans to reorganise local government across Sussex are part of a larger initiative to devolve powers away from Westminster. The goal is to strengthen regional governance by creating more streamlined, cost-effective, and responsive councils that offer better coordination and integration of services, reduce duplication, and provide greater local accountability. The key elements of the plans include:

NEW MAYORAL COMBINED COUNTY AUTHORITY A new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) will be created across the whole of Sussex. This

strategic authority, led by an elected Mayor of Sussex, will oversee on a county-wide basis, key issues such as transport, public safety, health, the environment, housing, economic growth, and skills development. Mayoral elections have been tentatively scheduled for May 2026.

TRANSITION TO UNITARY COUNCILS

The Government also proposes to scrap the current two-tier structure of local government. Under the plans, county councils, which handle more overarching services, and district/borough councils, which address more localised concerns,

will be replaced with a unitary council responsible for the delivery of all local services.

This will result in the abolition of all existing councils across Sussex, including East Sussex CC and Hastings BC, with new unitary authorities set up by May 2028.

It is still unclear at this stage how many new councils will be created and what the precise boundaries of each will be. There is currently a working assumption that there will be three new unitary councils, each with a minimum population of 500,000, and with similar footprints to those of the current East Sussex CC, West Sussex CC and Brighton and Hove

City Council.

Each of the new unitary authorities will be represented on the MCCA, though exactly how is still to be determined. This will be dependent on the number and size of the unitary councils created.

POSTPONED LOCAL ELECTIONS

To facilitate these structural changes, the Government has postponed the county council elections scheduled for May 2025 by one year. The delay is to ensure there is sufficient time for the reorganisation process, including the establishment of the MCCA and the transition to unitary councils.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A public consultation on the proposal for devolution in Sussex is open until 13 April: Sussex and Brighton devolution consultation (gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution/sussex-and-brighton-devolution-consultation)

Councils across Sussex are required to submit interim reorganisation proposals to the Government by 21 March 2025, and to deliver final submissions to ministers by September.

The Government is expected to announce its decision on the future framework of local government in Sussex in the Autumn.



Ali Altmis outside Bella Bar

Bella Bar Loses Alcohol Licence

Hastings BC's Licensing Committee has revoked the alcohol licence of the Bella Bar on George Street. Licensing officers reported that the venue, which had been granted its licence as a cafe/restaurant, had repeatedly violated the conditions by selling alcohol without table service and allowing drinks outside after 10pm.

Stewart Bryant, Hastings BC's Senior Licensing Officer told the hearing that the licence holder, Ali Altmis, had turned the venue into a bar and disregarded the rules.

Mr. Altmis expressed his "deep disappointment" with the Licensing Committee's decision. He said he "accepted" responsibility for the violations and had already implemented measures to prevent them

from happening again. However, he said these had been ignored by the Committee.

He told *HIP* that whilst he had initially decided to appeal the decision, he had "on reflection" decided to sell the lease. He said he was "angry and disappointed" at the lack of support given to hospitality businesses in the town and to those in George Street in particular. "Businesses are really struggling with rising operational costs and unpredictable customer demand to the point that many of them are finding it increasingly difficult to stay afloat." The Licensing Committee's decision, he added, "was indicative of the lack of support given to hospitality businesses from the authorities."

Dog Control Order

Cllr Glenn Haffenden, the Hastings BC deputy leader, has confirmed that dog controls on the beaches in Hastings will switch to the summer restrictions from Tuesday 1 April.

The new controls will remain in place until Tuesday 30 September.

Under the new controls, dogs will not be allowed on the beach from the west of the Harbour Arm to the east side of Hastings Pier and from the west end of Bottle Alley to opposite the Royal Victoria Hotel. Anyone not following the restrictions could face a fine of up to £1,000.

Cllr Haffenden said the restrictions were intended to balance the need for both dog-friendly and dog-free spaces and to ensure that all residents and visitors can enjoy the beach over the busy summer period.

Owens Fall-out Reaches Parliament

HUGH SULLIVAN

Helena Dollimore, MP for Hastings & Rye, secured a 'debate' in the House of Commons on 10 March concerning the financial collapse of Owens, the short-lived entertainment centre that traded in the former Debenhams building in the town centre between November 2022 and September 2023. The building has remained vacant and boarded up since.

Complaining that the main owner of CFEC Ltd, the company trading as Owens, had been a £2.4m donor to the Conservative party with close links to offshore accounts in the British Virgin Islands and whose husband had been a former deputy Finance Minister in Putin's Russia, Ms Dollimore said there were "serious questions to answer" about the £150,000 of taxpayers' money paid out to the company via the Johnson Government's Town Deal levelling up initiative in 2023.

Responding to the MP's speech, Local Government Minister Jim McMahon thanked her for raising the issue – "leading the charge to ensure that not a single penny of Govern-

ment investment in that town [Hastings] is wasted". He said that a claim has been lodged with the administrators of CFEC (apparently by Hastings Borough Council though he did not explain on what basis) to recover the lost funding. He also questioned whether the Conservative Party, "given what has now come to light", might take steps to return all or part of the donations received.

Mr McMahon acknowledged that the decision to invest in the Owens project had been a local one, taken by the council and the Town Deal Board. However, he sidestepped Ms Dollimore's observations about lack of scrutiny of Town Deal projects arising from the supposed protection of "commercial sensitivities". Instead, he took the opportunity to herald the continued channelling of government funds into the town, in particular "£20m of funding and support through our new Plan for Neighbourhoods [which] will help build a thriving Hastings, strengthen the local community and allow residents to take their own decisions on things that affect them".

This Plan for Neighbourhoods [PfN] appears to be a modification of the Sunak government's Long Term Plan for Towns announced in

2023, comprising the same amount of money for investment in Hastings and likely to be administered by the same board members (save for the substitution of former Conservative MP Sally-Ann Hart by Ms Dollimore as a result of her election in July last year).

But Mr McMahon concluded by taking a swipe at the previous government for tying places up in knots with their short-term initiatives and funding pots, all with very different rules and timetables. "Far from driving growth," he said, "that bogs places down in bureaucracy, complexity and uncertainty".

He promised that the current administration would set out an approach that simplifies funding, with less red tape and more local choice in the imminent multi-year spending review. "This Government's defining mission is growth," he said, "and we are determined that nowhere will be left behind."

Speaking to *HIP* earlier this week, Ms Dollimore pledged a more transparent role within the PfN Board: "Rather than narrow criteria shrouded in mystery as with previous 'Levelling Up' projects, I will be asking people how they think the money should be spent, and I urge the new Board to listen to those views. There are a wide range of things that money can be spent on: it might be on repairs to pavements, fixing broken bus shelters, or even exploring reopening St Mary's in the Castle, or something else! I have opened a consultation form on my website and would encourage local residents to fill it out to let me know what you would like to see in our community."

Developers Seek to Shed Community Centre

HUGH SULLIVAN

The housing estate being built on the site of Ashdown House, the former Department of Work & Pensions office-block off Harrow Lane, is due to accommodate 151 new homes and a fresh Aldi supermarket. The planning permission obtained in January 2022 from Hastings Borough Council also provided for the developers, Chartway Partnerships Group, to build a ground floor community centre below six residential flats within the estate.

But last month, Chartway lodged an application to modify this permission by substituting two more two-bedroom flats for the planned community centre. They claim that there is no "genuine demand" for

the community space.

This claim is based upon the findings of a consultation process undertaken by Chartway. In a glossy brochure styled as a 'Community Engagement Report', which is lodged on the council's planning website, they quoted Steve Manwaring, director of Hastings Voluntary Action, as advising that "asking a community group to take on the lease of the building will be more challenging". He expressed the belief that they should aim for an "anchor tenant model".

They had then enquired of a number of community groups operating in the area, including Education Futures Trust (EFT), to fulfil this role but did not identify any. They concluded that there is no such interest in the space "at this stage".

An outside observer might ques-

tion whether it is rather premature to decide that there is no demand for a community space before the natural community that would use it, namely the 151 households who will shortly be living there, have arrived and taken up occupation. Moreover, there will be another 140 households arriving in due course at the further development on the other side of Harrow Lane.

Manwaring himself commented last week to *HIP*: "My basic position would be that any large-scale housing development should be accompanied by community infrastructure."

He added: "The fact that no charity stepped forward to partner on this initiative may have more to do with the capacity of local charities rather than the need for the space to be provided. It has been an extremely challenging period in the charity sector (in terms of funding and operating costs), and it may be the case that the fact that no partner organisation was identified may speak more to the ability of local organisations to manage this project and the risk it might entail. I don't think it should be inferred that there is any less need for a space."

A council decision on Chartway's modification proposal is awaited.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

#Letter

ARK – A PARENT’S VIEW

Dear HIP
I want to express my thanks to you for actually writing a truthful article on Ark Alexandra Academy (*Why Won't They Behave?* in HIP 270). I did notice the corrections in the following article, noting that the numbers were actually of those who have been deregistered by parents, not suspensions – which in my opinion is even more shocking.
I just wanted to point this out, as I am one of the parents that deregistered my son from school altogether after just two terms at this school in Year 7. I am upset, as now my 12-year-old is in between schools, and has been for a month. The transition from primary to secondary school at Ark Alexandra

was outrageous, and I cannot believe they seem to be still getting away with this treatment of pupils and parents.
I'm glad to see an honest write-up about what is going on there, albeit only the tip of the iceberg!

Samantha Hippel

#Letter

WATER COMPENSATION ‘VICTORY’? DON’T POP THE CHAMPAGNE YET, MS DOLLIMORE

Dear HIP,
In your article *Water Compensation Victory* in HIP 270 you write regarding the ‘victory’ of our MP Helena Dollimore for securing £2.8million in compensation for the May 2024 water outage. There’s a lovely pho-

to of her and supporters with a prop cheque on the seafront.
While this was being taken, a rather different conversation was happening with Southern Water at Hastings Borough Council.
We’d won a commitment from CEO Lawrence Gosden back in November, at our second public meeting with SW, to reconsider paying this compensation. I reminded him just before Christmas and a meeting was set for January to discuss it. There, we were pleased to hear they would offer the full new GSS rate of compensation – £50 for every twelve full hours’ loss of supply. However, they stated the number of households impacted was 22,834. They agreed to check their figures and come back.
I calculated that if every household had been out for the full five

days the compensation would be £11.4m. If just 10% were out fully, and the rest for one day, it would be £3.2m.
My response, therefore, when presented with their £2.8m sum that day, was somewhat less victorious. I made it clear I thought they’d miscalculated and insisted customers should have a means to query the amount. Now, SW admit they have seriously miscalculated – by millions.
Southern Water must get this right. We would all love to move on from the past four years of failings – but we’re not there yet. I am working with them to revisit cases of residents whose lives have been, frankly, ruined by flooding. This, and the enormous reputational and environmental damage that sewage pollution has done to our tourist town, must be repaired

before popping the champagne.
I’m saving my celebration for the day our water is brought back into public hands, where it belongs.

Cllr Becca Horn
Green Cllr for Castle Ward and Clean Water Action member

#Letter

ARK - LET’S SEE THE OUTCOMES

The proof will be in the impact on school results. Big changes in outcomes require big changes in input. It’s a brave person that solicits this level of ire from the public (and seemingly, local journalists) for the goal of better education for children.

Jack Adams

We would love to hear from you.

✉ letters@hastingsindependentpress.co.uk
📘 facebook.com/hastingsindependent
📷 instagram.com/hastingsindependent

Please be aware we may need to edit letters for reasons of space and we will only withhold names if this is necessary for the protection of the writer

321



save

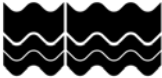
MORE BUS LESS FUSS





Funded by
UK Government

East Sussex
County Council



single fares
for just

£1, £2 or £3

on buses
in East Sussex

find out more:

[eastsussex.gov.uk
/bus-fares](https://eastsussex.gov.uk/bus-fares)

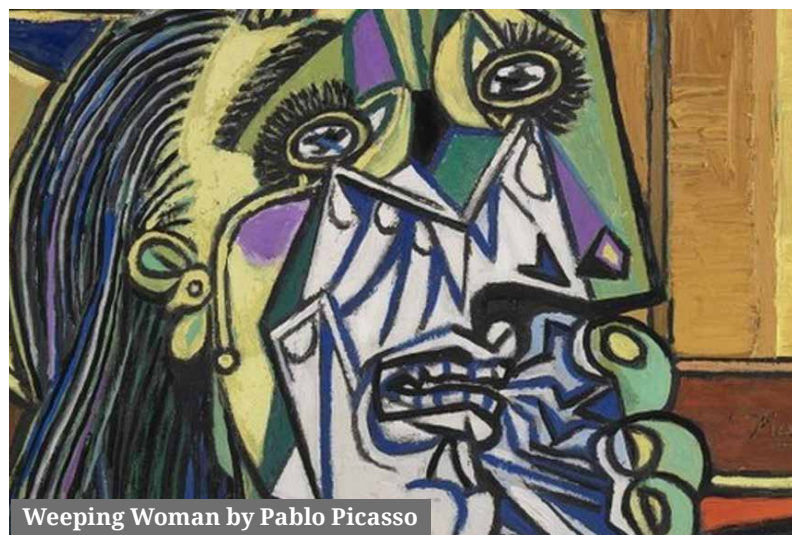


WOH!

womenofhastings@gmail.com

A regular space to bring ideas and reflections. We discuss and write together to create awareness & encourage positive change for women and girls.

Misogyny: Right Here, Right Now



Weeping Woman by Pablo Picasso

You would be hard-pressed to find a woman today who has not encountered fear and trepidation about walking on her own in an isolated place. Or has been flashed at. Or has been assaulted sexually and/or experienced violence. Or has been publicly humiliated. Or has been overlooked for a job opportunity. Or has had doctors dismiss worries about gynaecological health problems because they have been 'imagined'. Or has been stalked. Or has experienced coercive or controlling behaviour. All by men.

I remember as a child growing up in the 1950s, seeing a cartoon in a newspaper depicting a caveman, dressed in animal skins, dragging a woman into his cave by the hair. This was apparently considered amusing, representing the observed normality of men seeing women as possessions. It had a profound effect on me. Now, 70 years later, it seems that little has changed.

Misogyny is said to have developed more than 3,000 years ago

along with the development of agriculture and settled societies. It originates from the Greek word 'miso' meaning hate, and 'gyne' meaning woman – but misogyny also includes an ingrained prejudice.

In today's 'progressive society', this prejudice is often kept hidden even to the extent that some people felt it was no longer a problem – but it's still deep-rooted in our society. It holds feminine qualities in contempt, and men who exhibit 'feminine' behaviours are particularly the target of vilification.

Misogyny is not about individual men. Our experiences in this writing group couldn't be more different, with some of us having loving relationships with fathers, brothers, sons and partners, while others have suffered controlling and coercive relationships with siblings as well as husbands.

In recent years, social media has brought with it a trend to normalise toxic masculinity – with young boys growing up exposed to violence and sexual exploitation against women, especially when it appears to be endorsed by major figures like Trump. Young men who are becoming increasingly isolated are spending too much time gaming, gambling and accessing porn sites which, apart from anything else, objectify women and add to the narrative that women exist to satisfy men's sexual desires, and little else.

The recent Richard Dimbleby Lecture delivered by Gareth Southgate highlighted the need for different role models for young boys – beyond online male influencers, who are "callous, manipulative and

toxic, whose sole drive is for their own gain." He explained how "they willingly trick young men into believing that success is measured by money or dominance, that strength means never showing emotion, and that the world, including women, is against them."

The appalling attacks on women and girls in our country in recent years, across a range of differing scenarios, some domestic violence in the home, some for revenge, some seemingly random crimes are almost certainly fueled by social media. The Tate brothers' part in normalising hatred and exploitation of women and girls should not be underestimated.

I also wonder whether TV dramas which feature misogynist acts unwittingly add to the normalisation of the narrative of violence against women and girls. The Netflix series *Adolescence* has been described in *The Guardian* review as "the drama that will horrify all parents" because "it asks us who and what we are teaching boys and how we expect them to navigate this toxic and increasingly impossible world."

Jess Phillips, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, sums up the situation succinctly: "There is no place where violence against women and girls doesn't happen. I don't think it's becoming less safe, if I'm honest. I think it was never safe."

Every year on International Women's Day, she reads aloud the names of women who have been murdered the previous year. This March it took her over four minutes to read the names of over 95 women.

Safe Havens is Coming to Hastings

The Refugee Buddy Project has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise money for a new community safety project for Hastings. This initiative was sparked by last summer's far-right riots, when women at the Refugee Buddy Project shared their fears with Councillor Julia Hilton, Leader of Hastings Council.

Safe Havens aims to bring small businesses and community spaces together to offer upfront, visible, real-time support to anyone facing racism, threats, or harm. It is a tried and tested approach to crime reduction first developed in London in response to gang-related deaths of young people and one that local resident and Refugee Buddy Project volunteer, Krissie Nicholson, witnessed at first hand when she volunteered with Safe Havens during her Masters degree in Community Organising in 2010.

"This way of uniting local people, the council and police around the common theme of safety reduced crime and created a greater sense of local pride and togetherness. In many cities, Safe Havens reduced crime by up to 34 percent."

"In the present context, by looking out for the most vulnerable to abuse and attack, and when we bring people together across divides, the community as a whole can become safer, more connected and resilient as a result," Krissie explained.

Small businesses and organisations already signed up as Safe Havens so far include Goat Ledge, Wonderfill, Dandelion Cafe, Hastings Mosque, Mamma Putts, the Dove Cafe, Bullet Cafe, Barefoot Herbs, Nazar Turkish Restaurant, RockOptika and Hiit Box Gym.

Hannah Robbins from Wonderfill, on Kings Road, commented: "I



Refugee Buddy Project members meet with Council leader Julia Hilton (centre)

think Safe Havens gives a sign to people so that they don't even have to ask, they can visibly see that we are a community that looks out for each other. I also think it prompts conversations about why some people feel less safe and less able to enjoy our town."

Councillor Yunis Smith, Migrant Champion for Hastings, added: "It's essential that we support the crowdfunder in any way we can. If you

are part of any organisation, please sign up and become a Safe Haven. If not, please donate to the crowdfunder and get this great scheme off the ground.

Popular local Artist Euan Roberts is also on board and will be designing a window sticker for Safe Haven locations so people who need help can see which businesses and organisations are part of the project.

The crowdfunder runs until 11 April and aims to raise £3,000 for the initial start-up costs. Krissie had also planned to run in the Hastings half Marathon in support of the cause.



To Support the Refugee Buddy crowdfunder visit Instagram @therefugeebuddyproject

EXPERIENCE THE TIMELESS MAGIC OF THE BEATLES
80 LOCAL BANDS
ONE INCREDIBLE DAY OF ICONIC COVERS



HASTINGS BEATLES DAY

WHITE ROCK THEATRE SUNDAY 6TH APRIL 2025 11.30 AM - 10.30 PM

MAIN TICKET £18 UNDER 16s £10 UNDER 11s FREE



SCAN ME

Unscripted: Liv Long on Teaching Locals the Art of Improv Comedy

HANNAH FOULDS

Tucked away in the back room of the Horse & Groom, a small group of adults are doing something unexpected — and a bit brave. They're trying out comedy improvisation for the first time, putting their nerves aside and taking a leap into the unknown. This new programme of classes, Improv-on-Sea, has arrived in Hastings and St Leonards-on-Sea thanks to Liv Long, an experienced performer and comedy improviser.

"Those who say 'I could never do that' are usually the people who

need it the most," Liv tells me as we sip coffee on a sunny Sunday morning on the beach pebbles outside The Selkie. "I really nerd-out about this. Comedy improvisation forces you to stop judging yourself. It's about leaning into making mistakes."

Liv moved to St Leonards-on-Sea from London in 2020. She's currently part of a duo-prov called We Are President and has performed with multiple troupes in both London and Hastings.

She's a strong proponent of the



holistic benefits of comedy improvisation. "It makes you a better listener, and therefore a better conversationalist. You can pretty much land in any social situation when you have the tools of improv. We enter a childlike state of play, which as adults we tend to destroy for ourselves — and that's kind of devastating. Creativity is play — you can't make art without making mistakes."

Comedy improvisation (or improv comedy) is a form of unscripted performance where actors create scenes, dialogue, and comedic scenarios on the spot. The art form's roots go way back — Commedia dell'Arte, for instance, in 16th Century Italy featured travelling troupes performing unscripted scenes based on stock characters and loose storylines.

But improvisation's history stretches even further, with Shakespearean actors improvising during performances in the 16th and early 17th century, and some early traces were found in Ancient Greece. More recently, improv comedy has become associated with TV shows like *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and live performances from The Comedy Store Players featuring veterans like Paul Merton and Josie Lawrence.

For Liv, stepping into comedy improvisation was a natural fit. "It's an extraordinary social tool because it allows you to slow down your own processing." She feels lucky to have first encountered improv during her drama classes in school: "I had lots of exposure to it and I always liked performing. I was part of a drama group at Hampstead Theatre called Heat and Light and performed in a show with Daniel Kaluuya, who's phenomenally successful now. I feel sad thinking there's so little like that for young people now, especially teenagers. Theatre and community projects like that don't seem as available anymore."

After completing a drama degree in Liverpool, Liv became critical of the traditional, sometimes restrictive, approach to drama training in higher education. "There's this 'drama school' mentality, where you get whittled down, your character is torn apart, and then rebuilt. But that's traumatic," she explains. "Improv is about having fun, trying things out, and being silly. It's about being yourself. I'm a total 'corpser' — I laugh during shows, and loudly. I'll crack up mid-



CHLOE HARDWICK

Liv Long

scene at what I'm doing, and that's what makes it fun for the audience. I used to try to fight that, but now

I've embraced it. When you watch established groups like the Comedy Store Players, you can tell they're just having fun."

While Hastings has a vibrant music and visual arts scene, Liv feels there's a gap in the town's access to theatre and comedy. She has big plans for the future, aiming to bring more of both to the local

area. For now, she's working with a charity to provide workshops with elderly residents in a care home, and is hoping to launch a children's programme this summer. "I'd love to be able to offer workshops for free to locals in the future — that's the dream."

Liv seems to really invest in the participants of her Hastings Improv-on-Sea drop-in sessions. "A collective shift happens. People of

all ages enter the space carrying their anxieties about what's about to happen. They're in their own heads, unsure what to expect, and not talking to the other people. Then you see the shift at the end of the class — people are interacting, chatting, and open. You can see something's changed."

Liv's drop-in sessions focus on a different element of comedy improvisation each time — from listening to making mistakes. Each session is supportive, fun, and playful. "I quite often have to chuck my students out after the workshop because they're lingering and chatting — they want to stay in that space. The impact seems small, but it really makes a difference in how someone views themselves. Just practising play, finding joy, and lifting each other up — what could be better than that?"



Hannah Foulds lives in Hastings and has written a range of features for *The Londonist* over the years, including live comedy and theatre reviews. Follow Improv-on-Sea on Instagram to find out when the next class is taking place: [instagram.com/improvonsea](https://www.instagram.com/improvonsea)

SUNDAY
APRIL
6TH

raising funds for
st michael's hospice

5.30PM
-
11PM

guaranteed win
100% GUARANTEE

Ye Olde Sunnhouse

ROCK 'N' RAISE

George St Hastings

HOSTED BY
SAM WILLETT

PERFORMANCES BY

BEN MAIER
ELISHA EDWARDS
VICTORIA MCDONNELL
AND FRIENDS
OUR ROYAL DISPLEASURE

MARLIN MOON
BEN BEETHAM
+ JACK WILSON

When Objects Start to Speak

NICK PELLING previews an up-coming exhibition at a new art space in St Leonards

Picture this: Samuel Beckett hobbling about painfully in Phoenix Park in boots that don't fit. Why was he doing it? Because the boots had belonged to his deceased mentor James Joyce. They were sacred boots to him. Magical shoes. Boots containing some ectoplasmic essence of Joyce's genius.

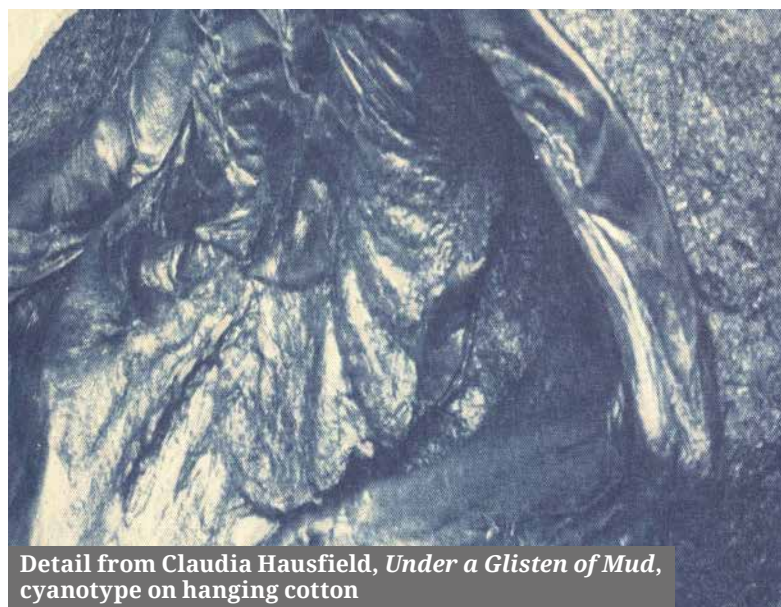
THE ST LEONARDS-REYKJAVIK AXIS

This realm of ancient totemic thinking is, to an extent, at the heart of the exhibition at the new gallery in St Leonards, known oddly as 'Mercatoria Fishing Club.' The exhibition borrows its title from one of Beckett's plays: *On Acts Without*

Words. The art-space is the creation of the extraordinary artrepreneur Daniel Demarre Meththananda. In its current mode, the gallery seeks to bring together pairs of divergent artists, deliberately both local and global, with the aim of fermenting alchemic visual conversations.

The two artists in the forthcoming show are Colin Booth, of local Electro Studio fame, and Claudia Hausfeld, a German-born photographic artist who works mainly in Reykjavik (a place, according to Daniel, very much akin to St Leonards, which is a surprising thought).

Both artists are concerned with appearance and perception and the slipperiness of the meanings we try



Detail from Claudia Hausfeld, *Under a Glisten of Mud*, cyanotype on hanging cotton

to attach to things. Claudia's key work is entitled *Under a Glisten of Mud*, a phrase taken from Seamus Heaney's poem *The Grauballe Man*, about the blackened, but preserved, iron-age body found in a Danish bog in 1952. Hausfeld has created a large cyanotype on hanging cotton (about nine feet tall) that could perhaps present the ancient corpse like a strange promotional banner for the defiance of decay and time. However,

a closer look at the twisted blue image suggests a grimmer truth: the human body as victim of humanity: a sacrifice to long-forgotten Germanic gods, perhaps. It is, as Heaney put it, a collision of "beauty and atrocity".

SINGING THE BLUEPRINTS

Colin Booth's work, *Singing Mechanic*, has a similar sense of an object struggling to tell a life story. The

art-object is essentially a dirty, but clearly lived-in, workman's jacket. The creases and oily grime speak directly of a life of hard work. The jacket was apparently owned by Jim, a friendly man with a penchant for singing old hits such as *Starry, Starry Night*. Jim was eventually forced to stop working in order to become the main carer for his ill wife. But he carried on singing.

Colin also provides us with one of his trademark pieces of ambiguously comedic furniture: a rusting metal chair, so uncomfortable-looking that it is almost as if it has been made by a shipyard welder, just to mock the idea of an arty chair. The title, *I Gave You the Blueprint*, suggests either a bewildered customer or perhaps a claim to take credit for such a preposterous rejection of all things IKEA. The objects, it seems, can't help but suggest stories.

The exhibition is likely to be intriguing, silly and profound in differing measures. Also, the gallery space itself is worth checking out. And, if you can only take art in small doses, the Horse and Groom pub is only a hundred yards away.

The exhibition opens on 11 April at 6pm until 10 May. The gallery is to be found at 12a Mercatoria.



Still image from *Shouting at the Sea* Joe (Harry Michell) and Katherine (Maddie Rice) look out to sea from Bottle Alley

Hastings Rocks—life as we know it

JAMES ROWLINS

The 4th Annual *Hastings Rocks International Film Festival* will run from 11-12 April at the Printworks this year, and will showcase 60 films made in this region.

This year's festival puts documentaries firmly in the spotlight with a series of films charting aspects of life in Hastings. *King Putt* is an entertaining account of the 2024 World Crazy Golf Championships held in Hastings, in which reigning champion Marc Chapman's no-holds-barred approach to the sport is no laughing matter. A documentary by Adam Clements digs deep into the

legend of Hastings' *America Ground*—a story that, whether it be truth or myth, cuts to the core of the town's idiosyncratic nature. It is followed by a fly-on-the-wall portrait of local thespian Patrick Kealey and the travails of keeping the Arts alive during a pandemic.

Hastings also provides the backdrop to much of the festival's fiction. *Shouting at the Sea* sets scenes in Bottle Alley, the funicular railway, the pier, West Hill, and the FILO pub. It tells the ultimate 'should-I-leave-or-should-I-stay' story. Director Benjamin Verrall describes the film as a "love letter to the town" and, after its premiere at a Hollywood film festival, he is delighted to be screening it in his birthplace.

The Saturday feature film, *The Devil Makes Work for Idle Hands*, directed by Folkestone-based Colin O'Reilly, is a hard-hitting drama that highlights social ills facing today's underprivileged. The Saturday programme segues from realist dramas—the majority directed and performed by women this year—to experimental and esoteric film. Late evening audiences can expect zany comedy and dark horror.

Attendees will have the chance to engage with the festival's special guest, acclaimed local director Andrew Kötting, who will discuss the challenges facing independent filmmakers and the evolution of his own work towards new media.



Dates: 11-12 April
Programme: [hastingsrocks.com/festivals.com/screening](https://www.hastingsrocks.com/festivals.com/screening)
Tickets: [filmfreeway.com/HastingsRocks/](https://www.filmfreeway.com/HastingsRocks/)
tickets Venue: The Printworks: 14 Claremont, Hastings, TN34 1HA

ST. LEONARDS CHURCH WEEKEND MARKET



Arts, Crafts, Antiques & Collectibles
Vintage Chic, Clothes & Jewellery
Coffee, Food Court & Licensed Bar!

EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10 to 4
London Road (corner of Pevensey Rd)
Saint Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6AS
stall hire + info - stleoschurch.co.uk



Pietro Perugino, *Mary at the Cross*, 1482

Hastings Philharmonic to perform Dvořák's Stabat Mater

VERA BELL

It's difficult to describe the depth, complexity, and intensity of this work, comprised of ten phases, of which only the first and last are

melodically related. It's lush, late Victorian, unapologetically dramatic. The sorrowful mother stands at the cross, who is this man? What person would not weep? Oh mother, fountain of love, make my heart blaze, let me share with you the pain you feel for your son, who died so

needlessly. Chosen virgin among virgins, allow me to weep with you. Grant that I may also bear the fate of his passion, his death. Defend me from burning in the flames on the day of Judgment, and while my body decays, give my soul to Paradise.

Whatever your deistic, or atheistic, belief, there's something about majestic choral works that makes them infinitely more than just oh-what-a-lovely-tune. Certainly numerous people have had Roman Catholic conversions in church whilst hearing a mass or an oratorio. They're the ultimate reminder of the power of song. In addition, there's something very seductive about the identification of human mourning with that of the Eternal Feminine, Goethe's *Ewig-Weibliche*, the Platonic Form of the mother. This personification of grief can be traced much further back in human history, at least to Greek and Celtic mythology. Thirteenth century scholars of the Church produced this Latin text, communicated by various means to

the population at large.

The discovery of antibiotics in 1928 has arguably made the experience of death and its subsequent grief less immediate to many during the last few decades. But Dvořák completed his towering work in 1877; its anguish is intimately bound up with his own on the deaths of his three very young children, deaths made bearable by their transmutation into a universal appeal to a form of eternal life. The *Stabat Mater* lets us glimpse the ultimate purpose of religion.



Place: Christ Church, Silchester Road, St Leonards
Date and time: Saturday 5 April 7 p.m. Tickets via the choir's website (hastingsphilchoir.org.uk) or The Bookkeeper, 1A Kings Road, St Leonards, £22.50/£18/£13.50. Students, under 18s, jobseekers and universal credit £5, or pay what you can.



Feast of Fiddles 2024

Feast of Fiddles 30th Tour

2025, and Feast of Fiddles set out on their Spring Tour once again. Two storming performances at the New Forest Folk Festival and Fairport's Cropredy Convention in 2024 promoted what has become their eighth recording and another live offering. Born in Nettlebed on Valentine's Day 1994 as a one-off special concert, Feast of Fiddles is a band of friends that puts on a show of huge dynamic range performed with passion, joy and a liberal dose of fun. This year fiddlers Garry Blakeley (*Band of Two*), Ian Cutler (*Bully Wee*), Marion Fleetwood

(*Sandy Denny Project*), Tom Leary (*Joe Brown*), Brian McNeill (*Battlefield Band*) and Simon Swarbrick (*Merry Hell*) bring a large range of fiddle-playing styles to the rock back-line – all held together by legendary drummer Dave Mattacks. It's not unheard of for past alumni to make guest appearances along the way, so keep an eye open for tour news on the website. This is a live music entertainment like no other on the circuit which is guaranteed to be enjoyed by even the most doubting of friends dragged along!

"Well here we are again!" I said to my bandmates as we gathered for our first rehearsal in January. It was like coming back to a familiar place with a feeling of pleasure, recognition and joy. 1994 is such a long time ago – I had no idea we'd still be doing this lovely thing all these years later. The explanation: the people, the music and the folk who buy the tickets. Simples!" – Hugh Crabtree



Feast of Fiddles will play at Phoenix Arts Centre, Parkstone Road, on 12 April. Phone 07970 010002 or go to wegottickets.com/event/635275 You tube: youtu.be/Eu2rCv6KGsU Facebook facebook.com/feastoffiddles Contact: Maxine Soars: max@jameshsoars.com 07871 181641



Garry Blakeley (left) and Bear Lucas

Folk at Fairlight Cove

STEVE GREEN

Last year saw two revival folk evenings at the Cove in Fairlight, commemorating the Hayloft Folk Club during the 70s and 80s. We brought back two original performers, Martin Wyndham-Read and Paul Downs, and the evenings were a great success. Building on this success, we have brought back another original local performer, fiddle player Garry Blakeley, who will be playing with guitarist Bear Lucas. They both can be seen regularly around Hastings

and Garry is also a permanent member of Feast of Fiddles.

Blakeley is a virtuoso, performed at the original Hayloft Folk Club with a number of house bands, and in the group Brian Boru and Burgess & Blakeley. On the Irish pub circuit for many years with his great mate Pete Fyfe in the popular duo Band of Two, more recently he has worked with his son Edd. Garry is also a full time member of the celebrated supergroup Feast of Fiddles.

He will join up with his good friend Bear Lucas, an exceptional guitarist and singer. Bear's influences include the likes of Rory Gallagher, Andy Summers and John Martyn. Together they produce an eclectic range of songs and sounds.

They are stylish, exciting and highly entertaining. Expect a range of well known songs and plenty of lively tunes.

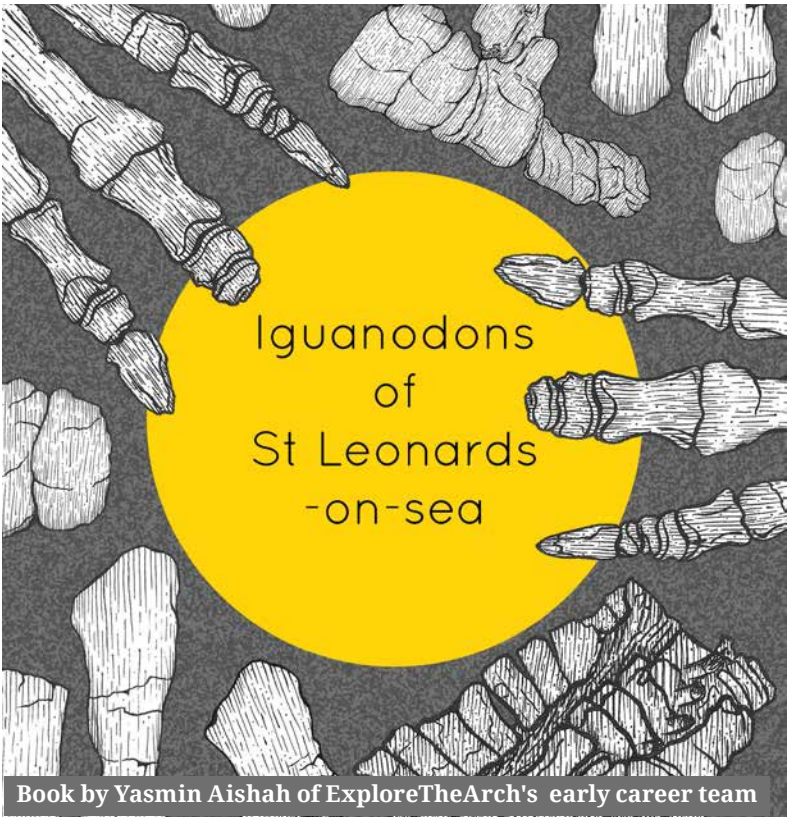
Garry Blakeley and Bear Lucas play at The Cove, Fairlight, on Sunday 11 May at 6 pm. thecovefairlight.co.uk/events/

A Town Explores a Book

GAIL BORROW

The *A Town Explores a Book* festival (ATEAB) will connect people to the heritage of the Cretaceous period when the place was a riverbed rather than a coastal area, and where herds of Iguanodon munched on horsetails and ferns. Enthusiast Ken Brooks calls St Leonards and Hastings ‘Iguanodon metropolis’.

On a cold Autumn morning in 2024, Professor Susannah Maidment led selected Festival team members through a door marked ‘staff only’ at London’s Natural History Museum and through a warren of narrow corridors that form a private part of the building. Drawers upon drawers were then opened, to reveal hundreds of fossils found in St Leonards-



on-Sea and Hastings. *Iguanodon* fossils, labelled Hollington, St Leonards, Hastings, West Marina, Old Road Quarry, Little Ridge Quarry ...

The *A Town Explores A Book* festival 2025 have named Gideon Mantell’s scientific paper, classifying the *Iguanodon* species, as their book for

this year. It is the bicentenary of the presentation of his paper at the Royal Society, which was a major scientific breakthrough.

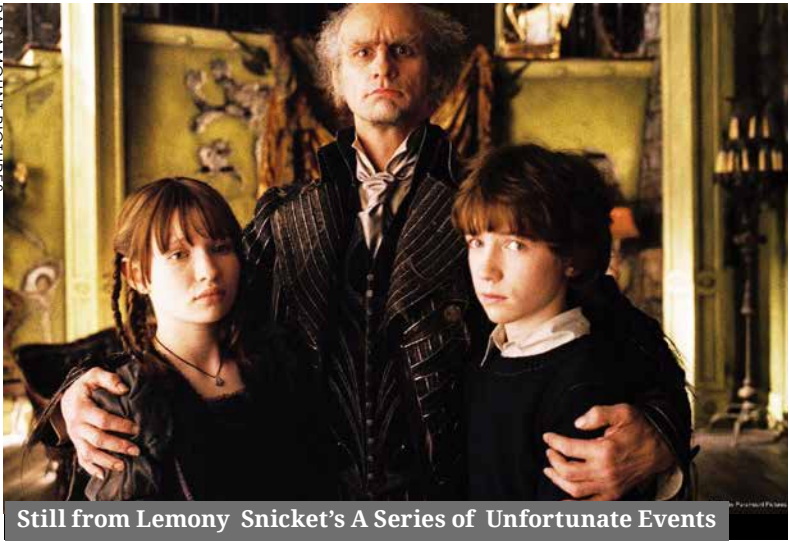
ATEAB festival groups in St Leonards have also been exploring the scientific paper illustrated by Mantell’s wife Mary Ann, who is credited with finding, in Cuckfield, the fossilised teeth that catalysed her husband’s discovery. Community group Four Courts Connect have been keen to highlight this herstory, and also to democratise the narrative by crediting the overlooked finders: the workforces of local brickworks and quarries. With them, palaeontologists forged personal relationships, so that they would be favoured over other fossil collectors to buy iguanodon fossils.

Money changed hands when the fossils were found. Further money changed hands when amateur and professional collectors identified them and sold them on to what is now the Natural History Museum. The story illustrates how Hastings and St Leonards lost a sizeable collection that might otherwise have populated a local specialist fossil museum.

ExploreTheArch’s early career artist team have been visiting schools throughout the spring term,

working with up to 3,000 children. In a creative exploration of heritage inspired by the festival book, the children’s drawings will feature in the outdoor art trail. You can find the children’s art on the railings of Christ Church CE Primary Academy on Tower Road. Printed responses to the book by Hastings and Bexhill Mencap’s Active Arts group will feature in two promenade bench shelters. Zoom Arts artists’ mixed media group exhibition will be open at their gallery at St Leonards Warrior Square Station. Transition Town Hastings’ creative response on the station path will also highlight *Iguanodon* characteristics. Traders’ window displays can be enjoyed in Kings Road and the intersection with Tower Road and London Road. Lulie of Sugarpie Honeybuns café says: “*Iguanodons? What a fantastic idea!*”

The Festival runs 3-21 April 2025 in St Leonards-on-Sea. An Art Trail map is downloadable at atownexploresabook.com/outdoor-art-trail-2. Paper copies are also available at the opening event at Christ Church, Silchester Road, on Thursday 3 April, 6pm.



Neurodiversity in Focus

ANNIE WAITE

The Electric Palace Cinema is proud to present its first ever Neurodiversity Film Festival, a weekend dedicated to showcasing autistic and neurodiverse film characters, actors and narratives. Running from Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March 2025, this festival is curated and presented by local autistic and neurodivergent creatives. This new event aims to highlight and amplify the voices and experiences of neurodiverse indi-

viduals in the film industry.

All screenings during the Neurodiversity Film Festival will be relaxed, creating a comfortable and inclusive environment. Relaxed screenings feature lights up, sound down, and the freedom for audience members to move around as needed. Additionally, a £10 double-ticket option is available, allowing attendees to bring a trusted friend for free.

Adding to the festival’s vibrant atmosphere, an art show, featuring works from neurodiverse creatives, will be on display in the cinema auditorium. Each screening will

also include a short film from the Oska Bright Film Festival, the world’s leading festival for films made by or featuring people with learning disabilities or autism.

Films on show during the weekend include the Hastings Gala Red Carpet Premiere of *The Stimming Pool*, featuring the Electric Palace’s B Movie Fan Club curator, Robin Elliott-Knowles. A wheelchair accessible screening of the film will also take place at Project Art Works. Other events include family screenings of *Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events* plus fun treasure hunt, and Tim Burton’s *Alice in Wonderland*, plus the acclaimed *The Reason I Jump* with a Q&A from its director, Jerry Rothwell.

Electric Palace Director, Annie Mannion, says: “The Neurodiversity Film Festival in Hastings is a celebration of autism and neurodiversity on screen, making visible the characters, actors, and stories that are often invisible in contemporary mainstream cinema.”

The festival has been developed in partnership with several local organisations and charities, including Autism Spectrum, Eggtooth, AMAZE, Project Art Works, Autism in Translation, Aspens, The Roebuck Centre, and Oska Bright Film Festival. Funding for the festival has been provided by the BFI and National Lottery.

Neurodiversity Film Festival:
Friday 28 to Sunday 30 March
electricpalacecinema.com/latest/neurodiversity-film-festival

£15 off Your First Treatment when you bring this Ad!

New from
Essential Massage
The Gua Sha & Facial
Cupping Lymphatic
Drainage Facial

A Deeply Soothing Restorative Treatment. Sculpt, Lift, Nourish & De-Puff skin, giving you a naturally more glowing youthful look



Mothers Day 30th
March Gift Vouchers
Available

Two stylish studios to choose from Sea Breeze Pilates in St Leonards & Edmund Road near the Old Town



To book this highly effective age management treatment, or a choice of other pampering therapies, just scan here



SCAN TO BOOK



essentialmassagehastings.com
Enquiries and bookings Text 07713 743205

BOOKBUSTER REVIEW

The War Below

By Ernest Scheyder

Published by Ithaka, 2025, rrp £12.99

REVIEW BY TIM BARTON

As the war in Ukraine gets ‘interesting’, And with Trump making bizarre attempts to ‘buy’ Greenland, with threats and menaces, in another plug for rare earth minerals, this excellent new book is very timely.

The subtitle is ‘Lithium, Copper, and the Global Battle to Power Our Lives’. The author, who works for Reuters with a special interest in the ‘green transition’, has a wide-ranging and well-researched yet chatty and readable approach to a complex subject. He gives a lot of space to industry boosters, and also to Native Americans protecting sacred spaces, and environmentalists. He bookends his work with a story about an imperilled newly discovered buckwheat that thrives in the lithium-rich clays of Nevada’s ‘Rhyolite Ridge’.

The book gives a frankly concerning glimpse of the regulatory and financial fetters of developing new mines in the US, as well as to developments in Chile and Congo where human rights and pollution issues dominate. The global aspect of the supply and manufacturing chain is another absurd and decidedly un-Green aspect the current model of ‘sustainable’ ‘green’ ‘tran-

sition’. Scheyder gives us a glimpse of the issues here, but I suggest researching it in more depth. It is not a pretty tale, but it is necessary that we understand what we are up against.

THIS WARMING IS PUSHING TIPPING POINTS

His focus is on the US, which has vast mineral resources, possibly 25% of global lithium, and huge untapped copper reserves, though there are many other rare earth minerals needed in your SUV batteries. Getting these resources is harder than it sounds, though Trump’s ‘bonfire of regulations’ will help in this endeavour. Nevertheless, it is true that the infrastructure is nowhere near available, much of the processing etc being completed in China, amongst other places. The UK’s position is far worse. We’ve less access to minerals, and no infrastructure, even having closed our last steel mill. Try not to laugh / cry.

The role of Trump in signing off on a few projects on leaving office at the end of his first term, plus his interest in Greenland, may confuse some readers. Surely, he has been quite the climate change denialist? And very vocally anti-green transition policies? Well, that’s just his cake-hole yapping to get the incel voters out in his favour. Because, clearly, signing off on developing lithium mines for EV batteries, and angling for an in up in the Arctic Circle to fence off resources for the good ol’ boys down South, is a tacit acknowledgement that he knows full well those resources are becoming more accessible due to, you guessed, global warming, and that this warming is pushing tipping points thus making a ‘green transition’ imperative. One wonders what his voters might make of that if they

could add two and two.

Though it is more complicated than that, of course. Gary McKinney, of the People of Red Mountain tribe, is adamant that ‘the green transition is just all about money’, said in the context of a battle to protect indigenous peoples and their sacred spaces. And, anyway, hugely expensive lithium mines will ‘by 2050’ be running down as lithium is readily recyclable (guess what: few countries are doing this efficiently yet, adding yet more carbon-miles to the process). Meanwhile, a company in Vancouver has started ‘vacuuming’, or more accurately, bulldozing, lithium nodules off the Pacific sea-bed, much to the ire of Greenpeace and other environmental groups, and the rather less ‘green’ whaling industry.

EASY. STOP INDUSTRIAL CAPITALISM

Here’s Brian Menell, of mining investment company Techmet: “We need government to say, ‘Sure, we love wildflowers [...]’ But, at some point, we’ve got to say, ‘Mister wildflower group, you had your say, now go and shut up. We are going to develop this mine, even if we destroy the habitat of a wildflower, which everybody would regret. It’s better than destroying the world with climate change.’” One ‘Warren’ of North Carolina points out “we don’t need to destroy the United States to address climate change [...], this mine would create an environmental issue in an attempt to address an environmental issue”.

Amplifying this issue, Marco Lambertini of the World Wildlife Fund points out that “it is the very gravity of our current circumstances that requires us to act with utmost care for our planet’s life-support system: nature.” An application of the ‘precautionary principle’ puts us in the uncomfortable position of desperately needing to curb fossil-fuel culture, but at the same time desperately needing to replace it with a genuinely ‘green’ and ‘sustainable’ alternative. The capitalist model that currently runs the

‘Takes readers on an extraordinary journey from the bottom of the world’s deepest mines to the commanding heights of the world’s energy system ... essential reading’ Chris Miller, author of *Chip War: The Fight for the World’s Most Critical Technology*

THE WAR BELOW

Lithium, Copper, and the Global Battle to Power Our Lives



ERNEST SCHEYDER

world may accept a transition from one mega-energy culture to another, but they say ‘there is no alternative’ to some form of ‘business as usual’. Of course, that is not true, but the alternatives are not attractive to most of those living in ‘the West’, as they require swingeing changes. Here, to give a flavour of where we’re at, is Derrick Jensen & Aric McBay, who, in their book *Deep Green Resistance: Strategy to Save the Planet*, say:

“How do you stop or at least curb global warming? Easy. Stop pumping carbon dioxide, methane, and so on into the atmosphere. How do

you do that? Easy. Stop burning oil, natural gas, coal, and so on. How do you do that? Easy. Stop industrial capitalism. When most people in this culture ask, ‘How can we stop global warming?’ that’s not really what they’re asking. They’re asking, ‘How can we stop global warming, without significantly changing this lifestyle that is causing global warming in the first place?’. The answer is you can’t.”

The War Below is available from Bookbuster, 39 Queens Road, Hastings TN34 1RE

POETRY CORNER

THE LOW SEASON

VERNON KEITH FOWLER

The tourists have gone but the sea is still here.
At the Goat Ledge Café you can still find some cheer:
A cup of hot choc with whipped cream and marshmallows
Will save any soul from the doldrums and shallows.
The gulls are still here, and the rain is sporadic
So in between showers you can still be nomadic.
It’s a wonderful season – you don’t have to queue
For the bar or the café, or even the loo.
Even the day-trippers no longer come
On weekends when homelife is making them glum.
They no longer throng the amusement arcades
Where a hush has now fallen and silence pervades.
The golf that was crazy has now become tame
As just a few locals indulge in the game.
The miniature train and the funfair as well
Have likewise succumbed to the off-season spell.
A few German students are still to be seen
In huddles and gaggles invading the scene,
But these are the tail-end and soon we’ll be sayin’
‘Guten Tag meine Kinder’ and ‘auf Wiedersehen.’
But when they’re all gone, let me make it quite clear:
The sea and the seagulls, and WE, are still here!

CROSSWORD CORNER

Across

1. Jump this water source (6)

3. Begin to negotiate somewhat in a monotonous voice (6)

4. Noises made by good small pigs (6)

Down

1. ----- along, bean or instrument (6)

2. Eat these minority council leaders (6)

Crossword Solution: Answers on page 5 of The HIP List

1					2
3					
4					

Eat, Write, Love

Creative Concoctions, a local social enterprise, boosts creative health with a fusion of journaling, recipes and nutritional information. Brought to you from the journals of NICKY TORODE and the kitchen of SONJA COLMAN.

Find out nutritional facts and storage tips about this versatile friend, wild garlic

NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS

Wild garlic is a fantastic spring seasonal ingredient that offers a milder flavour to our more common regular garlic, but is also another fabulous source of multiple nutritional benefits.

Some of the benefits of wild garlic include:

- Supporting our heart health through its anti-hypertensive properties and as a source of calcium
- Its antioxidant properties – Vitamins A and C can help reduce the risk of cancer
- Vitamin A is also essential for eye health, especially our night vision
- Vitamin C supports our immune system and fights infections
- Calcium supports our bone and muscle health
- Copper also supports our bones and our skin health

STORAGE AND SAVING

Hey pesto!

Make a pesto which lasts for two weeks. Pick up to half a carrier bag of leaves to make plenty of pesto. Swap your usual basil for wild garlic and blitz with oil, pine nuts and sea salt. You can add in the traditional parmesan, or for a vegan version add a tablespoon of nutritional yeast. Store in the fridge for two weeks in an airtight jar with a small drizzle of oil on the top to seal in the colour and flavour.

Butter wouldn't melt!

Make wild garlic butter: Blitz up your wild garlic, soften some butter using a wooden spoon and then mix – if using unsalted butter, you may want to add a little sea salt to make the flavour pop. Once mixed in, form patties, or make butter sausages, wrap each one in baking paper and freeze – can be used straight from the freezer to add onto new potatoes, or a tray of roasted vegies, add to mash, use to make garlic bread, or use to make your cauliflower cheese – yum!



Wild garlic flowers

Foraging for Wild Garlic

STEVEN SHORT

Ever wondered why the rats in Alexandra Park are so chill? It's probably all that wild garlic they've been munching on. Wild garlic has been

scientifically proven to lower the blood pressure of our furry friends. Yes, really. The plant also has medicinal benefits for humans – more of which later.

Allium ursinum is most commonly known as wild garlic, though some call it ramps, ramsons or bear's garlic. The wild plant grows in woodlands, meadows and damp places in Europe and parts of North America and Asia.

The 'ursinum' bit of wild garlic's botanical name translates as 'bear' in many Eurasian languages. Folk tales suggest the name comes from bears' predilection for the lush green leaves and its white flowers, which they would eat after hibernation to remove toxins from their sluggish

bodies and regain strength. Others argue that it got its bear nickname because the plant emerged at the same time as the bears did.

It's believed that we have used the plant in cooking and in our medicine cabinets as far back as the Stone Age. Wild garlic was known to early Celts and ancient Romans who referred to it as Herba Salutaris, the healing plant. Recent research has shown that the plant has antioxidant, antimicrobial, cytotoxic, and cardio-protective effects on humans. A 17th-century proverb praises wild garlic's qualities thus: "Eat leeks in Lide [March] and ramsons in May, and all the year the physicians may play."

Wild garlic has one of the longest seasons of wild plants and can be found from mid-February to April. It's at its most lush and pungent around mid-March, which is when you'll find me in Alexandra Park, picking it (for pesto) from a couple of my favourite spots – both of them by the stream that runs along the side of St Helen's Road.

Wild garlic grows in fairly large patches and is easy to spot once you know what you're looking for – its bright green leaves are long and pointed, and its flowers look like bulky dandelions. Be careful though, as wild garlic looks similar to some toxic plants like autumn crocus or lily of the valley. A key distinguishing feature is a strong garlic odour.

Be sure only to pick the leaves though – you can't really do much with the flowers apart from sprinkling them on salad to look pretty – and be sure not to pull up its bulb root as this is illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981.

Spots to find wild garlic in and around Hastings include Alexandra Park near Roar Gill, the East Hill and Gillsmans Hill woods.

RECIPE FOR COLEY FILLETS WITH DAUPHINE POTATOES, KALE AND WILD GARLIC SAUCE

Serves: 4
Cooking time: 1 hour
(Allow an extra hour for the dauphine to rest in the fridge)

INGREDIENTS

Fish:

- 4 x 180g skinned coley loin fillets (or any other sustainable cod family fish)
- 250g x unsalted butter
- Pinch of sea salt
- Dauphine potatoes:
- 450g warm mashed potatoes, with 75g butter, salt and fresh nutmeg
- 75g milk
- 75g water
- 60g butter
- 90g plain flour
- 3 eggs
- Wild garlic sauce:
- 90g wild garlic leaves
- 250g vegetable oil
- 6 egg yolks
- 4g salt
- 10g Dijon mustard
- 10g lemon juice
- 180g double cream

PREPARATION

Dauphine potatoes

Prepare mashed potatoes. In a pan, melt butter, add water and milk. Then add flour, stir into a dough, take off the heat, continue stirring, beat in the eggs one at a time, beat in the mash, stir well, refrigerate for one hour.

Heat oil in a deep saucepan until 180c. Carefully drop the dauphine potato mix into the hot oil with a tablespoon, creating small oblong servings, cook for 4 minutes, drain and season with a little salt and pepper.

Garlic sauce

To make the wild garlic oil, blanch the leaves for 10 seconds in plenty of boiling salted water, drain well, and blend with the vegetable oil.

In a food mixer, whip the egg yolks, mustard, salt and lemon juice

for one minute. Trickle in the oil to make a mayonnaise, then trickle in the cream, then the fish stock.

Fish

Place the butter in a warm pan, salt the coley, then add to the pan when the butter starts to foam. Cook gently for 6-8 minutes, then rest for 6 minutes.

Boil kale for 3 minutes, drain, and season with a little salt and pepper.

CHEF TIP

The sauce is great with meat or vegetables; just change the stock accordingly.

Use salt in layers rather than just at the end of cooking. By doing this you'll end up with dishes that aren't over-salty, but have a better depth of flavour.

Lloyd Williams is head chef at the Plough, Rye. If you like the sound of this recipe Lloyd is serving it at the moment, so why not pop by to try it. Instagram: @chef_lloydwilliams Plough Instagram: @theploughrye



5 alive: Old Town Trader Celebrates Setting Up Shop

CHRIS CONNELLEY

Opening a new retail business is always challenging, but doing so today, in an age of online dominance, never having run one before and with only a basic handle on social media, is a brave gamble indeed.

Yet that's what Nicola Amies did in February 2019 when she opened Sea Whistle, a children's shop selling shoes, books, clothes and wooden toys on Courthouse Street in the Old Town, fulfilling a lifetime dream to be her own boss and share her love of good design.

Five years on, she's still there, having survived the pandemic, four lockdowns and the cost-of-living crisis. She's even managed to expand her business, scaling up from

renting half the shop to take on all of it, before finally going the whole hog and buying it in 2023.

Nicola had wanted to design and make her own children's clothes from her school days, but was persuaded to opt for a safer career path, training as a teacher and spending over three decades in early years' education instead. The trigger for her new career came in 2019, when she designed a range of children's clothes that sold at a limited range of outlets, including Charleston at Lewes and the Pop Up Emporium, a creative fair here in Hastings.

"A throwaway comment, 'You should think about opening a shop', got me thinking; then I began to literally pull a plan together on the back of an envelope," she said.

"The shop ethos was to be sustainable and ethical and fill a gap

in the market for a more personal shopping experience. "I also knew that I wanted to sell children's shoes and that I wanted to fit them properly, so I enrolled on a six-month training with The Society of Shoe Fitters."

This £5k training was a wise investment that keeps professional shoe fitting alive on the high street now that brands like Clarks have largely disappeared.

And it is no surprise that her bestselling line is the footwear-related cult brand, Barefoot shoes, which come with flexible soles and wide toes, and are "the way to go for comfort, improved balance and healthier feet."

"It has been the greatest privilege to serve so many wonderful loyal customers over the past five years and to see so many young children grow up with the shop. I have the best job ever and here's to the next five years."

Happy Birthday, Sea Whistle. A career change business with attitude that has had a baptism of fire and survived, and proof that you should never give up on your dreams.

Sea Whistle is at 23a Courthouse Street, Hastings TN34 3AU



Owner Nicola Amies outside Sea Whistle

New Team at Queens Road Wine Shop

CHRIS CONNELLEY

Queens Road has seen a number of new businesses spring up over recent months, the most recent of which is a reopening, as Hastings Wine and Coffee takes over the former Bottle of Hastings shop opposite Morrisons. Its new owner Darren Tickner has expanded the offer to take in coffee, drawing on his experience as the owner of the Bean Smitten Coffee Roasters in Flimwell.

Opening hours have been extended, with six day opening and an early 8am weekday start. To tempt commuters on their route to work, there's a breakfast special offer of a coffee and a pastry for a fiver. Evening opening kicks in later in the week, with 8 pm closures on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Darren, who originally trained as an accountant, is also planning a range of tastings, special events and a bar food offer as the business establishes itself, and is already reaching out to local clubs and organisations to offer space for meetings and events.

He's busy refreshing the wine stock too, and strongly recommends Bedoba, an organic orange wine from Georgia. On the coffee side of the house, he has beans and ground coffee from Malawi, Columbia and East Timor, to complement his house blend, Revive.

New name, new look, and new energy on Queens Road. Reasons to be cheerful indeed.

Hastings Wine and Coffee is at 91 Queens Road, Hastings.



Owner Darren Tickner in his new shop

Round table conversations

Presentations

Workshops

Display & Demonstrations

Market Stalls

THE GOOD FUTURE EVENT 2025

Bringing business, organisations and community groups into one space to talk about public realm & biodiversity, the future for housing and a plan for active travel.

East Sussex College, Hastings Campus

Thursday 3rd April, 9-4pm
East Sussex College Students

Saturday 5th April, 10.30-3.30pm
Hastings Residents

EAST SUSSEX COLLEGE

RUGBY

Sixth Successive Win for H & B

Hastings & Bexhill recorded their sixth successive win in the Kent 3 League when they travelled to Whitstable last Saturday and won 23-10. Those victories have included four away from home - no mean feat in a league where sides tend to assemble much stronger line-ups when they're playing at home.

However, 2nd-placed Beckenham also won convincingly away last Saturday, against Tunbridge Wells 2nd XV, so that their final match with H & B on 5 April will not now decide the runners-up spot. The best H & B can hope for is a victory over them on the day to challenge for third place behind them and champions Tonbridge Juddians. Even then, a bonus point win for Sittingbourne over Brockleians would elevate them above the Hastings team in the final league table.

Nevertheless it's been a superb run of form for H & B that bodes well for the cup fixtures which are still to be played.

HOCKEY

Saxon Men Clinch Title, Women on the Brink

The South Saxons men's team have stormed to the Martlets league title for 2024-25 with two matches to spare. Defeating their closest challengers East Grinstead 3rds 3-1 away last Saturday, they put themselves ten points clear.

In what could be their last season at Horntye before the intended relocation to a new ground being built at Hastings Academy in Ore, the team has flourished, with many of its players promoted from the second team of the year before. Next year they'll be back in Division 1 proper of the South East League – whether in the east or west section will depend on other promotion and relegation issues.

The second team is still fighting hard to stay in the top Martlets division with two home games left to play.

South Saxons women are also poised to win their own Martlets championship. After improving their goal difference by winning 6-0 away against bottom team Horsham 4ths last weekend, they are three points ahead of 2nd-placed East Grinstead 3rds, so a win and a draw from their last two matches would secure the title. However, neither fixture looks easy. Tomorrow (Saturday) they host third-placed Brighton & Hove 3rds; on the final day, 5 April, they have to travel to play another challenging team, Lewes 2nds.

If they do get promoted, they too will have to wait to find out whether they'll be travelling east or west for away games in the higher league come the autumn.

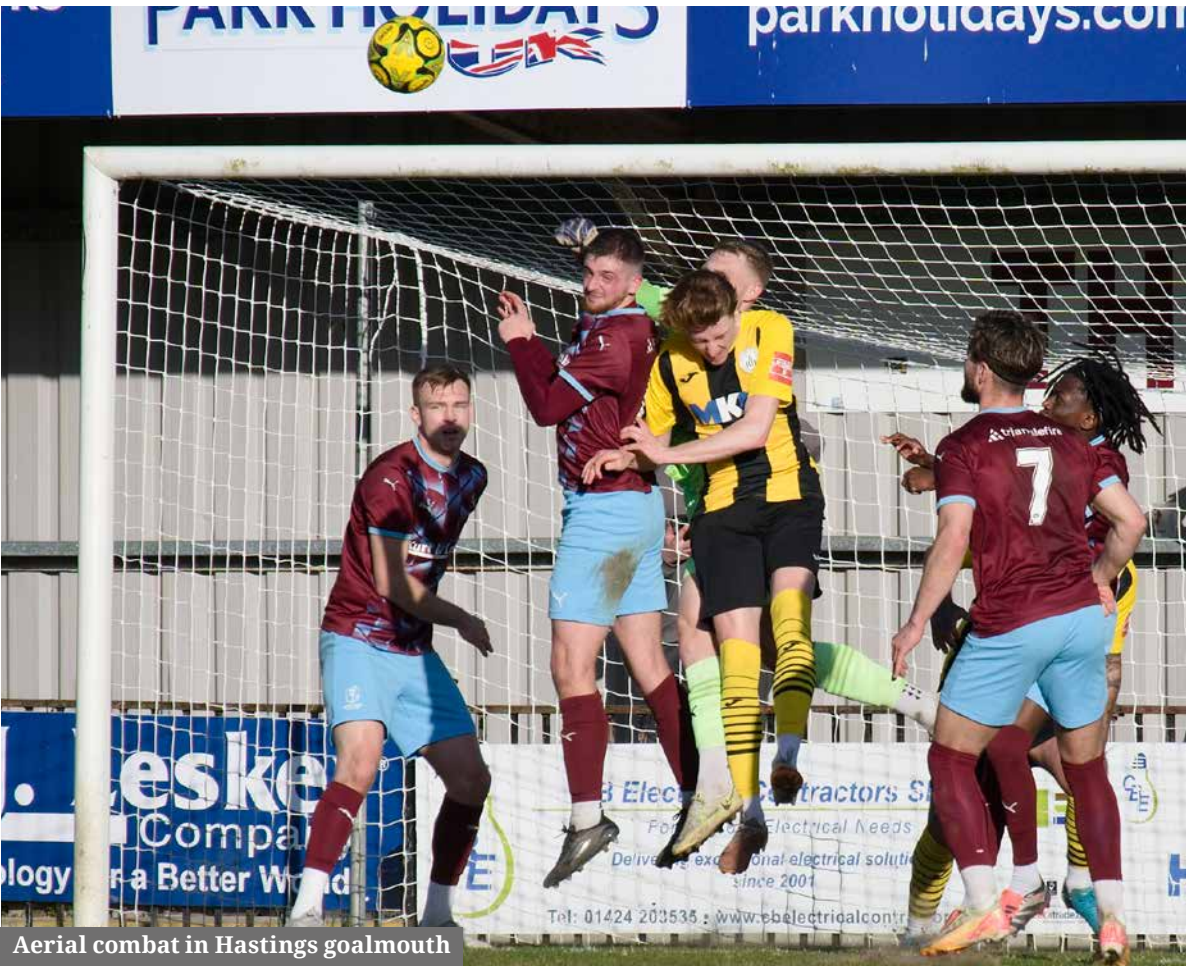
SOUTH EAST HOCKEY LEAGUE DIV 1 MARTLETS (MEN) - TOP THREE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SOUTH SAXONS	20	17	2	1	84	19	65	53
SOUTHWICK	20	14	1	5	68	36	32	43
EAST GRINSTEAD 3	20	13	3	4	65	34	31	42

SOUTH EAST HOCKEY LEAGUE DIV1 MARTLETS (WOMEN) - TOP FOUR

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
SOUTH SAXONS	20	13	4	3	49	18	31	43
EAST GRINSTEAD 3	20	12	4	4	49	21	28	40
BRIGHTON & HOVE 2	20	11	5	4	56	20	36	38
LEWES 2	20	11	5	4	49	18	21	38

FOOTBALL



Aerial combat in Hastings goalmouth

Hopes Fade For Goal Shy United

11 March

Hastings Utd 0
Wingate & Finchley 2

15 March

Dartford 2
Hastings Utd 0

22 March

Hastings Utd 0
Chichester City 2

HUGH SULLIVAN

Three further defeats have been suffered by Hastings United in the past fortnight, two of them at home and without a single goal scored.

As of last Saturday evening, Danny Searle's men have managed to put the ball in the net just nine times altogether in 15 consecutive Isthmian League matches since Christmas, only once (the 2-0 victory over Hendon on 8 March) scoring more than one in a game.

All six teams at the bottom of the league table also lost last Saturday, but with Hastings remaining ten points adrift of Canvey Island in 18th place (and with a much inferior goal difference), that's little relief. A team that can't score has no chance of retrieving such a deficit.

Searle has argued in past weeks that his first priority in taking on the managerial reins in early December was to shore up a dysfunctional defence. The team which had, a couple of weeks before, conceded nine goals at Hendon was clearly in need of some defensive restructuring, and Searle's central pairing of Teddy Perkins with Ollie Black at the back has proved generally effective. Ben Wells has been providing extra protection in a deep midfield role ahead of them, allowing George Walker and Alex Kopke to push forward at times as wing-backs.

However, the long ball game, which seems to have been introduced for the purpose of lessening the risk of loss of possession at the back, has also left the United forwards bereft of sustained support. Against a well-marshalled defence, none has proved consistently capable of holding the ball even when they are in a position to compete for it, which means that it just keeps coming back.

Against Chichester, the 'U's played at times with three – Davide Rodat, Si Ligendza and Reece Grant – up front, competing for the high balls lobbed up to them against tall

er and physically imposing defenders. The main avenue of attack was a series of long throws launched by Black, whose projectiles regularly reached the middle of a crowded penalty area, but also invariably it was a defender's head that would knock them away.

Chichester countered through their own long throw exponent, Isaac Bello. 'U's keeper Louis Rogers gobbled up two or three of his throws from the right without mishap, but then a shorter delivery from the left side to the near post found a tall defender, Curtis Da Costa, rising highest to back-head the opening goal.

In the second half, another long throw from the visitors' left was recycled across goal, and a sharp low cross back from the right wing was turned in by their centre forward Lewis Rustell to double the lead.

Searle replaced Ligendza and midfielder Kian Moynes with Fin Chapman and Jamal Lubanga, and the 'U's pressed fitfully: Perkins flicked a shot narrowly wide, and Rodari drew a flying save from the Chichester keeper. But in truth his goal was rarely threatened, and the game petered to a predictable conclusion.

Hastings were due to play Canvey Island at the Pilot Field on Tuesday of this week, and will also play them away in Essex on 12 April. If the 'U's could somehow win both matches, that would reduce the gap between the two sides to four points – a great escape could then still, in theory, be on the cards. Anything less, and relegation is surely inevitable.

Made possible with



Heritage
Fund

THE SUN FEEDS THE WIND

29 March –
14 September 2025

Experience the sights,
sounds and stories of the
Hastings fishing community

In partnership with the Hastings
Fishermen's Protection Society

UNDER 18s
FREE

LOCALS
HALF PRICE

HASTINGS
CONTEMPORARY

Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm
hastingscontemporary.org



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Beachy Head to Dungeness Chart (detail).
Courtesy of the Hastings Fishermen's Protection Society



HASTINGS FISHERMEN'S
PROTECTION SOCIETY

