



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2023. To 31st March 2024

Charity name: Bexhill Heritage

Charity registration number: 1196525

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The conservation, protection and improvement of the Bexhill-on-Sea built environment
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The main activities of the Charity during this period included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The full restoration of the town's Victorian Bandstand which opened on 1st April 2023. £2,012 of the Bandstand's restoration and equipment costs were paid during the early part of this accounting period.- Repainting Shelter 3 on the town's promenade. (This shelter was fully renovated in 2020 as part of a joint project with Rother District Council but requires a repaint every three years.) Most of the cost of materials was met by Rother District Council. There was additional expenditure of £625 by Bexhill Heritage on replacement glazing, fastenings, equipment, and protective items for volunteers.- Commencing the restoration of Shelter 4 on Bexhill's seafront. Rother District Council had carried out most repairs and removed paint. Most of the cost of materials was met by Rother District Council. There was additional expenditure of £557 by Bexhill Heritage to cover personal protective equipment, additional tools and some specialist items.- Restoration of the RNLI collection box. Cost £747

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning and preparation for projects to restore the Collins and Pallott mural on Town Hall Square, and the K6 phone kiosk at Normans Bay. No cost. - Replacing the Egerton Park plaque commemorating the opening of Bexhill's scented garden for the blind in 1952. The cost to Bexhill Heritage was £133. Bexhill in Bloom paid the remaining costs via a grant of £600. - Comments made on planning applications or development proposals with heritage implications No cost. - Organising and presenting the 2024 Civic Pride Awards. This incurred just over £100 printing and certificate costs. - Hosting guest speakers on a variety of topics designed to increase public knowledge and understanding of the town's history and heritage. Also, attending and organising town events to reach a wider public, and giving talks to local groups. We also organised two three educational trips for our members. The cost of members' meetings including guest speakers and trips was £550 over the accounting period. This was largely offset by income from catering, raffles, and trip income.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have taken full account of the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are confident that all the Charity's activities are consistent with this guidance.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant-making	Para 1.38	The Charity does not currently award grants.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Through this accounting period the Charity operated a business current account and an instant-access, interest-bearing account from October 2023 with the Nat West Bank. There were no additional investments.

Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>All the Charity's officers are volunteers as are those members engaged on restoration work. A core group of nine volunteers was responsible for the planning, management, and implementation of work on Shelter 3 and 4. Three volunteers contributed to the restoration of the RNLI collection box. Volunteers have been supported from time to time by professional tradespeople and local authority officers.</p> <p>Our volunteer historian and support officer continued to make a very significant contribution to the development of our website and to the maintenance of the Bandstand booking system.</p> <p>Our volunteer planning officers continued to assess all planning applications with heritage implications. Our interventions helped to preserve the tower of a local church and led to the replacement of a set of sliding sash windows with windows of a similar design.</p>
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>1. A successful first year of operation for the town's restored Victorian Bandstand which opened on 1st April 2023.</p> <p>The restored Bandstand hosted a series of 'free' concerts including our opening concert, an additional Celebration Concert and concerts on both Sussex Day and Bexhill Day. A wide variety of entertainers used the facility for public benefit. A full summer programme of free concerts has been planned for 2024, three of which have been featured as part of the Bexhill Festival of Music. Bexhill Museum, and a wide range of local organisations and clubs also booked the Bandstand. Local charities and faith groups have used the Bandstand successfully to inform and engage. During the winter, Bexhill Heritage organised a series of free workshops and events for local people with an emphasis on encouraging social engagement. By popular demand, two of these workshops have become year-round fixtures. We also organised a non-profit Santa's Grotto to benefit local families of limited means. A full summer programme of free concerts has been planned for 2024, three of which have been featured as part of the Bexhill Festival of Music.</p> <p>2. Completing two further restoration projects and starting a third.</p> <p>Volunteers completed a full repaint of a listed sea-front shelter (Shelter 3), restored the town's RNLI seafront collecting box and began work on the restoration of another listed seafront shelter.</p>

		<p>3. Organising and presenting the 2024 Civic Pride Awards. These awards continue to raise awareness of the town's rich heritage and of those individuals, groups and organisations that have made significant contributions to the conservation, protection, and improvement of the built environment.</p> <p>4. Continuing to promote the importance of heritage and highlight the town's heritage assets. Presentations to local groups and organisations, and to groups of elected members brought Bexhill's rich heritage to a wider and often influential audience. This helped to influence local authority decision-making. Permanent interpretation boards and temporary seafront displays brought the Charity's message to a wider public. This helped in the recruitment of active members and meant that local fundraising was effective.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set.	Para 1.41	<p>We completed the repainting of Shelter 3 in autumn 2023 as anticipated. It was not possible to fully repaint the shelter's benches due to inclement weather. Completion of the RNLI collection box was delayed due to continued wet weather from October to March. The box was finished in April 2024.</p> <p>We started the restoration of Shelter 4 on time in November 2023 and aim to complete in autumn 2024.</p> <p>The replacement plaque for Bexhill's scented garden was delayed by six months due to the negligence of a supplier. The plaque was installed in February 2024.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set.	Para 1.41	<p>The Charity was successful in raising funds to meet our maintenance obligations for the Bandstand. Bandstand users contributed £692 during the accounting period.</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable

Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The Charity's finances continued to be robust at the end of this accounting period. Despite expenditure of £4,931 on projects and equipment, we recorded a small but significant surplus of just over £2918. This was boosted by a Gift Aid refund in arrears of £2021.</p> <p>Just over £15,190 was carried forward into financial year 2024/5.</p> <p>This is sufficient to cover general expenditure and provide for a contribution of £7,000 to projects planned for 2024/5.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity's policy on reserves is to retain the equivalent of six months average expenditure, not including spending on projects. This is to enable the Charity to meet its regular commitments and running costs should there be an unexpected collapse in membership subscriptions and donations.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2000 was available as a reserve at the end of the accounting period – March 31 st , 2024. This is based on the equivalent of six months of average expenditure, not including spending on projects or equipment.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There are no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The Charity's principal source of funds is through membership subscriptions and donations.</p> <p>The Charity sold cards, badges and souvenirs, organised raffles and ran an annual tombola.</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	During this accounting period, the Charity ran a current account but opened an interest-bearing account with the same bank in October 2023. This account provided £130 of interest
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>During this accounting period, the Charity faced the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient active volunteers to meet its commitments.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - over-commitment of some committee members especially the Chairman who also acted as treasurer. - possible reputational damage following the resignation of the Charity's previous Chairman. <p>The Charity has gone some way to mitigate these risks through the recruitment of additional active volunteers. Trustees have carried out a full risk-assessment to identify further mitigation measures and are keen to recruit a treasurer. The successful opening of the restored Bandstand has gone a long way to consolidate the Charity's good reputation.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Charity Commission scheme. Our constitution specifies how the Charity is governed.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	The charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are elected for one, two, or three-year terms at the Charity's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June. Each member of the charity has one vote. They may vote in person, by proxy or by post / email. Trustees may co-opt additional trustees between AGMs, but any co-opted trustee serves only until the next AGM at which point they must be elected by members should they wish to continue.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.	Para 1.51	All trustees are made aware of their legal responsibilities. Induction is through conversation with the Chairman. Formal policies and procedures have yet to be adopted but the trustee board intends to do this prior to any expansion of the trustee board.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works.	Para 1.51	The Charity's trustee board are responsible for strategy, oversight, and evaluation. They are elected by members and report to members. The elected committee acts as the Charity's executive, making operational decisions consistent with the policies and plans set by the trustees. The committee is elected by members, and report to trustees and members.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Bexhill Heritage cooperates with Rother District Council and Bexhill Town Council in pursuit of its charitable objectives. We enjoy cordial links with Rother Voluntary Action, Bexhill 100 Motoring Club, the local Men's Shed. Bexhill in Bloom, the Footbridge Project and St Barnabas Church.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Bexhill Heritage
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1196525
Charity's principal address	c/o St Barnabas Church, Cantelupe Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1JG

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Stephen Johnson	Chairman and Treasurer		
2	Simon Allen	Vice Chairman Projects' Officer		
3	Alexis Markwick	Support Officer Vice Chairman		
4	Samantha Barber	Ex-officio	October 2023 to March 2024	
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
Not applicable		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Not applicable		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity.	Not applicable
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects.	Not applicable
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets.	Not applicable

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
None		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable

Exemptions from disclosure**Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details**

Not applicable




Other optional information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures			
Full Names	Simon Allen	Samantha Barber	Alexis Markwick
Position	Projects officer	Ex-officio	Vice-chairman

Date:

07/06/2024

Bexhill Heritage - Financial Summary – from April 1st 2023 to March 31st, 2024

Income	April 1 2023 – March 31st 2024
Annual membership fees	3385
Life membership fees	400
Grants	1018
Donations	1937
Bandstand Booking donations	692
Sales	928
Events, catering and raffles	772
Gift Aid refunds	2021
Other	549
Interest	130
TOTAL	£11,832

Expenditure	April 1 2023 – March 31 st 2024
Projects	4931
Equipment	443
Pay Pal fees	89
Stationery, printing, etc.	436
Marketing	468
Venue hire, event costs	1340
Phone and internet	189
Insurance	253
Refunds	200
Storage charges	550
Other	15
TOTAL	£8,914

Totals are affected by rounding.

Income minus expenditure for 2023/24	£2,918
Carried forward from last year	£12,272
TOTAL FUNDS as at 31.03.24	£15,190

Nat West Interest account	£10,130
Current account balance on 31st March 2024	£4,985
Cash in hand	£60.00
Unpresented cheque	£15.00
TOTAL	£15,190

(These accounts have been examined by the charity's auditors)