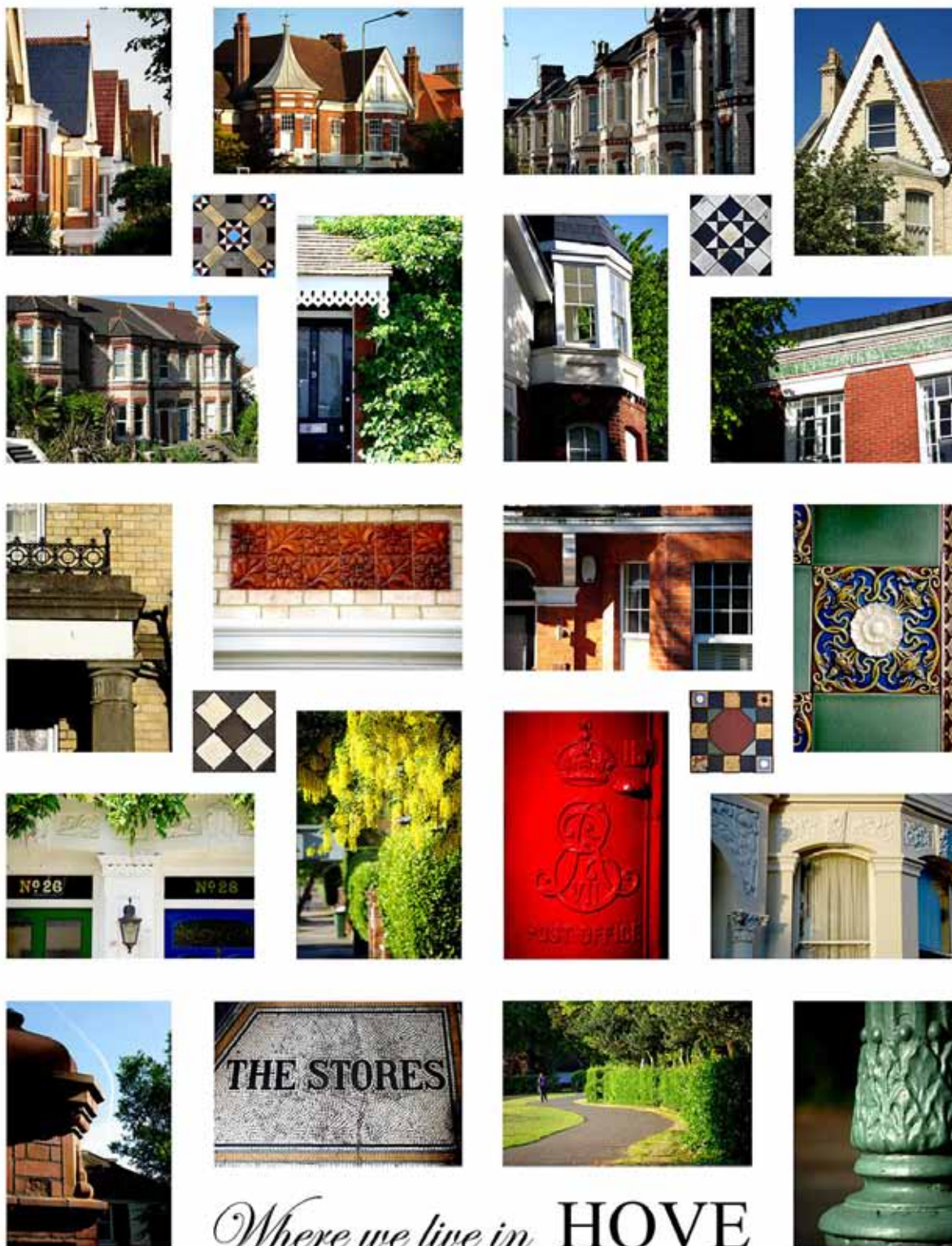


Hove Civic Society

January 2021 Newsletter



Where we live in **HOVE**

'The district of Hove Park – or, as Mr Wilson Tickle called it in the "Hove Gazette" recently, Clarkville – has grown with Chicago-like rapidity, and who can wonder at it either. Situated on high ground and near the Hove Park, it is the healthiest spot in the neighbourhood.'

HOVE GAZETTE - Saturday August 13th 1898.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Members,

A Happy New Year to you all and fingers crossed for a bit more normality in 2021.

As you can see inside this newsletter your committee has been busy at work – all of us sitting in front of our computers surrounded by home paraphernalia and joined by lovely pets. Our AGM represented a brief interlude of meeting up physically – and a lot of those that attended told me how much they enjoyed meeting people in person again. So did I although speaking with a visor with sweat dripping down ones brows is not that an attractive proposition. Anyway we had to switch to online for our first lecture and that was a great success, not least thanks to Chris Horlock's captivating delivery. And there was the bonus of his lecture being on-line for 30 days after he delivered it. There we have a challenge for future years!

During last year we were deeply engaged in commenting on a number of planning policies issued by the council and one recurring concern was the apparent gulf between political aspiration and practical solutions presented to us in the various draft documents. Of course city planning always runs behind developments mainly due to the lengthy preparation processes, but we were particularly disappointed by the urban design guide which presented a wide menu of solutions without being clear about what city design should do in the context of a zero carbon target by 2030.

I happen to believe that in order to make a meaningful contribution to that ambitious target city design and city planning needs to firm up considerably. This applies to urban biomass, which should include an ambitious street

tree replanting programme. It applies to the way we manage cars in our built-up area – just replacing gas and diesel vehicles with electric makes only a limited contribution – and still leaves us with far too much space in the city being used by cars. It applies to the way we heat and light our buildings and many other issues.

Most importantly the changes require a long-term consistent push year in and year out, much of which will have to be outside party politics. So a new cycleway each year and not all at once, gradual phasing out of car parking spaces for diesel and petrol and phasing in of electric. One electric car parking space in – two normal spaces out! Moving from theory to practice re district heating nodes – not least in our designated development areas etc.

Our committee will be thinking on how we as a Civic Society realistically and practically can help influence and progress that change which everybody from Government downwards accepts is necessary, but where views on the practical steps necessary are hazy and ill defined.

Any views from our members on how we can be effective in this journey will be most welcome and please let me know if you would like to be part of a small working party we are setting up to deliberate on the issue.

Best wishes

Helmut Lusser



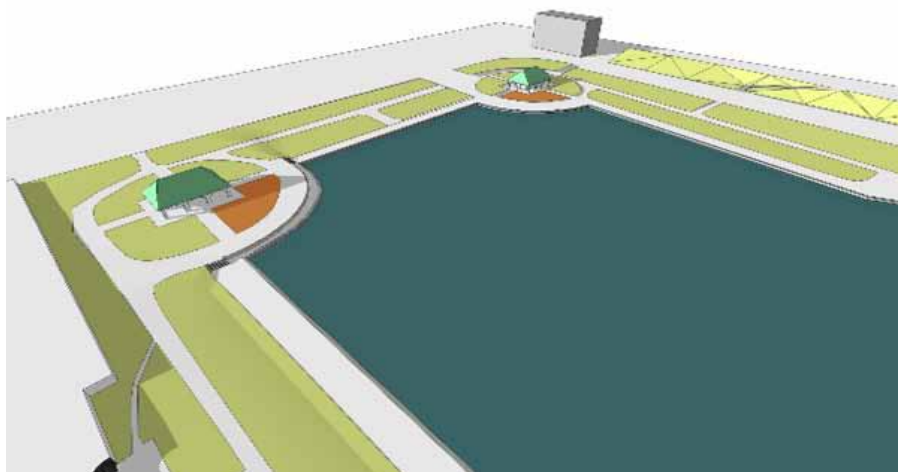
Hove Lagoon Planting Scheme

Friends of Hove Lagoon (FoHL) are delighted and excited to unveil final proposals for the long-awaited planting scheme for the west end of Hove Lagoon.

A Planting Scheme for Hove Lagoon was first mooted at a well-attended FoHL public meeting in 2017. Brighton-based landscape architect Nicholas Dexter (www.nicholasdexter.com) presented his initial designs at that meeting and has continued to provide a pro bono service to us since.

Some initial tweaking took place in response to feedback from FoHL supporters and Lagoon users and we later amended the plans again to take account of the vehicle and human traffic created by LagoonFest events.

While the designs were developing and changing, the FoHL committee raised funds with the help of many generous local companies and LagoonFest sponsors, including the businesses at and around the Lagoon. West Hove Forum also made a donation from its allocation of the Healthy Neighbourhoods Fund. Finally, our recent and successful funding application to the Rampion Wind Farm means that the planting scheme can now go ahead.



Nick's updated designs can be seen [here](#). One quadrant around each of the two art deco pavilions will be transformed into an incredibly colourful and vibrant area to create visual interest and improve biodiversity. The two quadrants in question are those situated closest to the water so that the scheme may be viewed from all around the Lagoon, including from the water and as far away as the Big Beach Café.

Plants have been carefully selected to withstand the harsh coastal conditions, and a maintenance fund prepared so

that our hard work is not wasted. There will be plenty of opportunity to volunteer in addition to our regular clean-ups, litter picks and weeding sessions.

We are now seeking the final thoughts of local residents on the scheme and would welcome comments from Hove Civic Society members. We are keen to receive as many views as possible and will be continuing our consultation across various forms of media. Once we have a good number of comments back, we'll finalise our designs and get to work in time for planting in the spring.

Huge thanks go to everybody who has helped to date, particularly planting scheme volunteers Tom and Chris, communications volunteer Abi and the FoHL committee for their ideas and support.

Please do get in touch with any thoughts or questions.

Robert Nemeth, Chairman & Sue Johnson, Secretary



Friendsofhovelagoon@gmail.com (email)

@LagoonHove (Twitter)

@friendsofhovelagoonandfest (Instagram)

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsHoveLagoon/>

HOVE STORIES - DEVIL'S DYKE PHOTO ESSAY

When we go up from Hove onto the Downs, it is usually to Devils Dyke – for exercise, to walk our dogs, to enjoy the views and the fresh air, and to watch the skydivers. It's great to get away from town and relax in the peace and quiet.



Celia Britton

Update - ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The first tranche of repairs to All Saints that I have written about before is now complete. The main work this year was to repair the two towers on the NE & SE corners. These were quite badly eroded and formed an objective danger to people below. You may well have seen the scaffolding up the towers from Jan to Oct last year, with Universal Stone surveying the work required, procuring the Sussex sandstone (from the sole remaining open quarry) and then replacing quite a bit of stone to a very high standard of work throughout.

Once we had the scaffolding up we could look at the pinnacles more closely, and to our horror discovered that on one of them the top 3 feet were held in place only by the lightning conductor tied to it by copper wire! The Victorian steel centre reinforcing rod had fractured right through – probably a fatigue fracture from 130 years of Hove winds! More scaffolding, more stone and more cost. Luckily Covid19 did not delay the work too much, and the repairs were completed in early September, ahead of schedule. These pictures show some before and after aspects, plus our celebration of the work - £250,000 worth. We are most grateful for the Grants we received towards the costs from the Headley Trust (one of the Sainsbury Family Trusts, £35k), the National Churches Trust (£40k), the Garfield Weston Foundation (£15k) and the Sussex Historic Churches Trust (£5k).



Pre & Post repairs – NE Tower



Re-pointing and the SE Tower

Our next steps are to get funds for the Café we are planning inside the west end of All Saints, which will be entered through the new glass doors we have recently installed in the SW entrance. These bring more light into the church as well as making a much more welcoming entrance. Beyond the Café project we are working on our major re-development to the East of the church that I mentioned in my previous article.

Peter Millar



New pinnacle on NE tower + The Vicar, The Architect, The Surveyor and the Universal Stone Site Manager.

See new videos of sculpting in action on our website

Few people are aware of the complex and painstaking work that lie behind the creation of a large-scale sculpture. Pierre Diamantopoulos has had a camera running in his studio while working on *Flight of the Langoustine* and has produced a series of short videos that give an amazing insight into the different stages of creating a sculpture. Starting from a small scale model, he proceeds by building full scale armatures in steel and hardboard, suspended on a set of 'scaffolding trolleys'. Once the armatures are padded out with polystyrene, the work of sculpting the figures in a clay like material can begin. He shapes muscles, joints and sinews with his hands and simple hand tools and then smooths them over to appear as if they were covered by skin. Hands and feet are sculpted separately with amazing attention to detail. Watch and wonder on this link:

<http://www.hoveplinth.org.uk/flightofthelangoustine>



George Street : The Heart Of Hove Update : January 2021

As high streets across the country have suffered in the past due to austerity, low footfall or crippled by huge business rates, and now the arrival of the pandemic C19 in 2020 that has hit everyone here in the UK like a huge hammer blow, but George Street continues to survive whatever it has thrown at it. In fact the street has reversed this downward trend over the last three years and even C19 could not keep the street down. George Street reopened after Lockdown #1 in early July 2020, and the people and the buzz also returned.



It was difficult for people to imagine what George Street would be like after the 'Lockdown', and what the 'new normal' would be for our community using the street. Once the businesses reopened in early July and settled down with their new implemented PPE and safety procedures, business confidence and employee confidence made it very comfortable for the public in returning to use the various shop in George Street.

Visitor confidence increased and as a result so did the visitor numbers, and all have settled into the 'new normal'. Each individual business does have a different set of safety procedures that suit their particular circumstances, and all staff and visitors have been patient and respected those procedures, which have kept everybody safe.

LSG work closely with the Brighton & Hove City Council during Lockdown #1, and again worked with the council to link with the community as the new second wave arrived and triggered off Lockdown #2 in November. If you or a family member have access to a computer and visit our Facebook page 'Love George Street', emergency community messages have been posted to help people contact those official departments that may be needed, and will also include help lines for a whole range of important services.



In fact this community service that LGS initiated on-line led to the creation of the information leaflet that BHCC recently printed and had delivered to all households across the city.

This community service was considered hugely successful, very helpful, rightfully applauded and really appreciated by the community and council through Lockdown #1 and #2. As per the Lockdown #1 and #2 we will again supply any vital and important information that could be of help to the community, especially as we moved into Tier 4 on Boxing Day, and the move to Tier 4 is Lockdown #3 in all but words.

George Street Improvements: The 'LGS' team have restarted the improvement project in George Street. Meetings with our Ward Councillors, council officers have taken place. We saw no need to rush the project through, while we are all concentrating on more serious matters within the community, but we plan to pick up the loose thread and slowly have the project in George Street completed by the arrival of Spring 2021.

As you read this issue we are technically now in Lockdown #3 and no information has been given as to when the shops can reopen, but again George Street will ride this third wave, and we will return again once we get the green light, and just in time for the Spring and hopefully a good Summer to look forward to, and the C19 crisis behind us.

George Street is not only the heart, but also heartbeat of Hove.

Love George Street



A Spectacular Victorian Boomtown

120 years ago, on January 22nd 1901, Queen Victoria's death signalled the end of an era in which few British subjects could remember another monarch. During her 63-year reign, Hove had experienced a remarkable expansion from miniscule village - infamous for its grisly pursuits of bullfighting, the gibbetting of highwaymen, smuggling and brutal Napoleonic War army camps - into a genteel, flourishing Victorian new town.



In 1801, only 101 persons lived in Hove; by the time of Queen Victoria's funeral, a hundred years later, this had rocketed to an astounding 30,000. A spectacular rate of growth matching that of the northern industrial towns (such as Bradford) during the industrial revolution.

At the start of her reign, the village of Hove consisted of just one single street (Hove Street) with its "mean and insignificant assemblage of huts" and manor house; a sprinkling of grander houses; the Ship Inn; the desolate ruins of the church; and the Coastguard Station (to combat the smugglers). Eastwards across

open fields, the labourers and fisherfolk of the village gazed up in awe as the elegant cream façades of Brunswick Town rose from a gargantuan building site to magnificently dominate the distant skyline. However, the wealthy aristocratic elite overflowing across the border from Brighton, not wishing to be associated with such vulgar hoi polloi, never deigned to put the name of humble Hove on their calling cards, preferring the prestigious designation of West Brighton instead.



In 1893, this boomtown had amalgamated with Aldrington, a parish which at the start of the Victorian age had not one single inhabitant. By the end of Victoria's reign, great swathes of Hove's fields lay buried beneath streets of Victorian estates inhabited by an influx of new affluent Hovarians and those who had followed in their wake to serve them.

Hove Actually Walking Tours are fun, informal guided historical walking tours, ideally suited to the incurably curious. Whether it's your first visit or you have dwelt here your entire life, the tours are a superb way to discover, uncover and experience our neighbourhood. Sadly, due to Covid, I presently feel unable to lead tours. Email hoveactuallywalks@gmail.com to join the mailing list & receive the programme of walks once available. Facebook: Hove Actually Walking Tours.

By Rachel Bridgeman - local historian & tour guide

Check out our websites

The Hove Civic Society website www.hovecivicsociety.org was redesigned about a year ago and contains a wealth of information about the work of the Society and about Hove. Here you can read about our campaigns, our responses to planning applications and city planning issues as well as getting fascinating insights into history, heritage, people and places of Hove. The website also holds our newsletters and information on lectures and events.

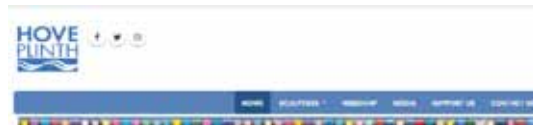
A new addition to the website is our digital membership form, where people interested in supporting the Society can register and pay for membership online and/or subscribe to specifically support our tree planting and sculpture related work.



Our separate website for Hove Plinth features detailed information about the project and about current and future Hove Plinth sculpture. If you haven't done so already, check out the interesting back stories to each of the Constellation icons and the amazing videos of the making of Flight of the Langoustine.

www.hoveplinth.org.uk

And finally, don't forget having a look at our webshop where you can browse and buy beautiful art and design by local artists, with all profits going to Hove Plinth. <https://hove-plinth-webshop.myshopify.com/>





Hove Civic Society Committee busy at work



From top left: John Kapp, Karin Janzon, Helmut Lusser, Elaine Evans, Andrew Nichols, Bob Ryder, Patrick Lowe, Andrew Haicalis, Sophie Law-Smith. Not shown: Heather James, Nicole Urbanski.

Hove Junior - Hedge Planting



Before the hedge



Trench Dug



Hedge planted



Birnam wood comes to Hove

Winter HCS Lecture Programme - *Mainly on Zoom*

20th January 2021, 7 pm

The Magic of Pantomimes by Ian Gledhill

The "Magic of Pantomimes" is not only interesting from the history of how pantos started and evolved but will include Ian's own experience of his appearances at the Theatre Royal.



We had intended to hold our lectures at Ralli Hall this year and will do so again as soon as practicable. Please check our website for updates.

24th February 2021, 7pm

Sussex Industrial History by Geoffrey Mead

Geoffrey is an expert on Sussex's industrial history and a lecturer at Sussex University and we are delighted that he is speaking to us with his extensive knowledge.



24th March 2021, 7pm

Folkestone Triennial by Jo Cowdrey

Jo is an assistant curator at Folkestone Artworks and Triennial and she will be speaking about the amazing things that the Folkestone Triennial are doing.

Please note January and February events will definitely be on zoom, March may be. We are hoping that the event in April can be live.

28th April 2021, 7pm Annual Forum

The Spaces in between

We argue that it is necessary to pay attention not just to new buildings but also to the spaces in between. Not least to create a comfortable environment as the city fills up with new development. A number of speakers will demonstrate how we can improve the city with special reference to Hove.



Hove Civic Society Gift Aid Declaration

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I want the charity to treat all donations I make from the date on this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

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