

# the Helenswood reporter



Photograph Alex Brattell

## Come sign our petition!

By **Georgie Stokes, Jemma Hughes, Lily Edwardes, Bethan Willard** (pictured left to right)

As we all know, Hastings does not have a very good variety of activities for teenage girls. This is why we have produced a petition for the younger generation to sign to boost the chances of us having a climbing wall built in our town.

As part of our campaign we spoke to Council Leader Jeremy Birch when he visited Helenswood. He suggested we could present our petition to a meeting of Hastings Borough Council for consideration.

The climbing wall could be located

in the proposed new (or refurbished) leisure centre, on the pier (once it is refurbished) or in a disused building or warehouse in the town. We think this is a great idea; how about you? If you agree, then please join our campaign and sign our petition.



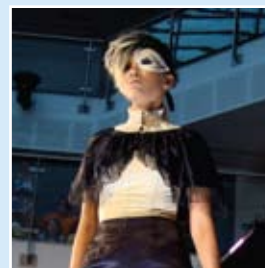
## Helenswood sings for Demelza

By **Becky Reeve and Molly Hugh**

Demelza Hospice Care for Children is a charity which puts every effort into improving the lives of terminally ill young people and their families. The charity cares for more than 600 life-limited children, adding a touch of relief and relaxation to their lives. Demelza's two hospices and nursing home often harbour an abundance of giggles, smiles and fun. Yet they wouldn't have been possible without the support of fundraisers.

Helenswood School recently won an award as School of The Year from Demelza in recognition of student and staff fundraising efforts for the charity since 2007. During the summer term, Year 9 students took part in a project to raise more money for the hospice. Each class created songs and performed lunchtime concerts to the rest of the school. So far, the winning form has raised just over £50! For every copy of *The Helenswood Reporter* sold, £1 is donated to Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

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We quiz Council Leader  
Jeremy Birch



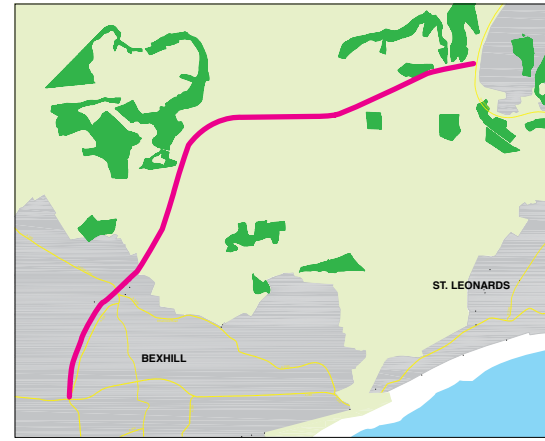
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# Link road ‘heaven’ or ‘hell’?

The proposal for the Bexhill to Hastings link road has caused a lot of debate, with strong feelings on both sides. The idea has been discussed for decades and, still, nobody is sure if it is going ahead. **Jessica Graham** reports.

The plan is that the link road – which would run from Queensway, around Crowhurst, through Sidley and to Bexhill – would ease traffic congestion along Bexhill Road (currently the main road west out of Hastings). At the moment, it takes about half an hour to get down Bexhill Road during rush hour!

In an interview with the Helenswood Reporter, Jeremy Birch, Leader of Hastings Borough Council, said the link road is a fantastic idea because it will take traffic away from Bexhill Road, as well as opening up a large amount of greenfield land to the north of Bexhill. This would provide an opportunity to build 800 – 1000 new houses, as well as creating new businesses and jobs.

However, the link road would have some environmental impact as it would run through environmentally sensitive areas around Combe Haven Valley (though mitigation measures would be put in place). In addition, farmers would lose land and businesses along Bexhill Road could see a decrease in money and popularity. Also, traffic congestion is likely to increase along The Ridge.

Around £15million has already been spent on design and planning and the total cost of the link road is put at around £95million. This is a massive amount of money that Britain might not be able to spare in the current climate, but the new government will make a decision this autumn.

## Case study

Katie Towers is a working mother-of-four living in Hastings. She commutes to work everyday using the A259 Bexhill Road. Here, **Mabel Perry** asks about her views on the link road.

**MP:** Are you FOR or AGAINST the link road being built?  
**KT:** I am for the road being built because it will stop traffic congestion and it would be better for the people currently living on

Bexhill Road because there would be less noise and pollution.

**MP:** Do you think a large sum of money should be spent on building a new road or on other needs?

**KT:** I don't think the money should be spent on the road in our current climate. There are more important problems that need to be solved, such as helping families that have been affected by the recent cuts.

**MP:** How long does it take you to get to work on the Bexhill Road?  
**KT:** It takes me only 20 minutes but this is because I leave at an earlier time to avoid the rush hour congestion.

**MP:** What do you think about the new road destroying surrounding wildlife?

**KT:** I think it's sad to see local wildlife being hurt but in the long term the wildlife should hopefully recover and the road should decrease the pollution levels on the Bexhill Road, which will help the Earth and wildlife in the long run.

**MP:** Do you have any other views?  
**KT:** The road might cause chaos and congestion in other built-up areas but it should create more jobs and make things easier for commuters.

## Vox Pop What do our teachers think?

By Bethan Willard



**Miss Elliot**  
**What is your opinion on the link road?**  
I strongly oppose it because the proposed road is going through farmland, where I keep my horse.

**Miss Nieto**  
**Do you think the link road will have any effect on Helenswood School?**

It might do because it will cause more traffic along The Ridge.  
**What is your overall opinion on the link road?**  
I have mixed feelings; it will be bad for the



environment but good for the economy because it will bring more tourists to Hastings and help businesses.



**Mrs Kingswell**  
**Do you want the link road to go ahead?**  
Yes, it will help to reduce the traffic along the seafront on the way to Brighton.

**Will the link road benefit you in anyway?**  
Yes, it will save me time because instead of going along Bexhill Road when I go to Brighton I can use the link road.  
**Do you think the link road will have any effect on Helenswood School?**  
It might make The Ridge busier.

**Mr Armstrong**  
**Do you want the link road to go ahead?**

Yes  
**Will the link road benefit you in anyway?**  
It will take the traffic noise away from where I live.  
**Do you think the link road will have any effect on Helenswood School?**



Yes, it will create wider catchment areas and the transport will be more effectively managed.



Sussex Coast College Hastings Fashion Show 2010 Photograph Adam Piggott

## How to get ahead in fashion

Want a job in fashion? Need the latest looks for a party? **Maddie Crisp** and **Chloe Brock-Everitt** have some top tips.

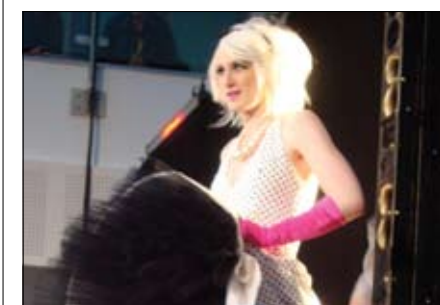


Yes, a fashion career might sound exciting but remember the stakes are high and the job will put lots of pressure on you. However, once you're in it, it could be your ideal job. Individuality and confidence are the key to success. Following the crowd won't get you noticed in this industry; you have to be unique and not afraid to stand out.

Fashion is huge wherever you go, so you need to be aware of the fashions around you and take inspiration from different cultures, as well as fashions from past eras. Everyone needs that statement piece, the thing that makes them who they are. Statement pieces aren't just about clothes – jewellery and accessories make a big impact on the overall look of an outfit.

Don't be upset if you don't make it in one job... there are plenty more in fashion, from photographers to retail buyers. Stylists and fashion journalists, for instance, show people how to feel confident in clothes that suit their shape.

**Sussex Coast College Hastings**  
Is this the place for you? To get a place at Hastings you need at least four GCSEs, from A-C, as well as a portfolio of your work. The college teaches you the fun of fashion, as well as the important business side. You get to put on a catwalk of all your creations. This is to get a feel of how it would be in the real world.



Photograph Adam Piggott

# So much more than the catwalk...

Roland Borzelleca, Head of Fashion at Sussex Coast College Hastings, spoke to Year 9 students about the fashion industry. **Pasha Milburn** and **Milly Chester** report.

Roland Borzelleca walked into a science lab crammed with around 20 eager students, all excited to learn about the world of fashion. He started by talking about his roots: how he studied fine art before realising his real love was textiles. Roland went on to train in tailoring and teach at the London College of Fashion before moving to Hastings to teach.

Fashion is affected by what's happening in society, says Roland. In the 1960s, there was more money around and skirts got shorter. Now, with the lull in the economy, things are more serious. However there are a few exciting things happening. "People are setting up their own labels and producing one-off pieces," he says. "There's also a move towards vintage and uniqueness; people don't want to wear the same as everyone else."

Roland is influenced by designers from the past, especially designers from the 1960s like Ozzie Clark.

Today, he says, the industry has changed: "There are a few frivolous things going on but the industry

is more about selling clothes, everything's become more conservative."

For most fashion designers, ongoing inspiration and a sharp eye are key. Roland tells his students to "look outside of fashion, at art, culture, music and architecture. We encourage our students to be excited by that, and then use it in their designs."

Judging by the amount of organic cotton and 'sustainable' materials around today, he says it's obvious that buying clothes that last is the way to go. Roland's advice is to "add to your wardrobe, not buy a new one".

Sussex Coast College Hastings recently hosted a fashion show, with all pieces made by students and modelled by students and their friends. Roland says: "At the shows, there's a real adrenaline rush and lots of loud music. If you're a designer, it's exciting to finally see your fashion up there. It's a buzz, a real buzz."

To find out more, check out the college website at [www.sussexcoast.ac.uk](http://www.sussexcoast.ac.uk)

## Roland Borzelleca's tips for a career in fashion:

- Be totally aware of what's going on in fashion
- Be confident
- Pretence is half the battle, you need to get the gift of the gab, but also be sincere
- Believe in what you're doing
- You've got to have a hunger for fashion
- You need to live and breathe fashion, and be slightly obsessive about it!



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**The Helenswood Reporter welcomes your feedback. Please write to [newsroom@helenswood.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:newsroom@helenswood.e-sussex.sch.uk) or Mrs V Sheldrake, Helenswood Lower School, The Ridge, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7PS**

# Jerwood Gallery coming to Hastings

The Jerwood Gallery will house the Jerwood collection of 20th and 21st century art in a permanent new venue at The Stade in Hastings Old Town, reports **Elsie Perry**.



Fishermen's huts on the Stade Photograph Pasha Milburn



Jerwood visualisation Courtesy HAT Projects (above and top right)

Developed by the Jerwood Foundation, the Jerwood Gallery aims to become a major new cultural venue of regional and national importance. Supporters say it will contribute to the regeneration of Hastings and build successful partnerships with local organizations. While the Jerwood Foundation is covering the costs of designing, building and running the gallery, Hastings Borough Council and other agencies including the government's Sea Change Fund have provided additional funding.

The aim of bringing the Jerwood to Hastings is to put the art collection

on public view for the first time, and to bring the work of the UK's best young artists to the Hastings community through the Jerwood Visual Arts programme. The building has been designed to fit in with the Old Town and its history. This will definitely make the gallery more appealing to the public.

It's thought the gallery will increase the number of tourists visiting Hastings, and also help surrounding businesses by drawing more customers in. However, many people are against the gallery being built on The Stade, saying it will ruin the seaside scenery and feel of the Old Town.

## Is the Jerwood Right for Hastings?

By Bethan Willard

After months of consultation and discussion, the Jerwood Gallery is under construction. During a visit to Helenswood, Jeremy Birch, Leader of Hastings Borough Council, gave us the history to the scheme.

The Jerwood proposed that Hastings introduce an art gallery to its many other attractions. Initially the council suggested siting the gallery where the old bathing pool used to be but the Jerwood said this would be too isolated from the main tourists and trade. Other sites were put forward but none were suitable as the Jerwood was keen to have its gallery in the Old Town, with the traditional fishermen's net huts.

While Hastings considered the proposal, Birmingham was also lobbying for the Jerwood. Jeremy said that Hastings Borough Council concluded the opportunity was "too good to miss" and gave the go-ahead for the Old Town site.

Within two years the council will possibly create a cycle route from the Jerwood to the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill. Additionally, where the coaches used to park on The Stade, a new café, set of toilets and open space for markets and performances is going to be constructed. The coaches will now drop off any tourists opposite the Cutter pub, then park in Palaise Road.

We asked two students what they thought:



**Mabel Perry, 14**  
I think the Jerwood is a good thing. It hasn't taken away any of the fishing huts, which are a Hastings highlight. It will also bring in tourists from different areas of the town. It may disrupt the town for a few months but the end result will be fabulous!



**Jemma Hughes, 14**  
I think it's a great opportunity for Hastings but I do not feel that it has been placed in the right position on the seafront, as the space could have created other opportunities for different businesses.

## Improving Hastings?

As well as the Jerwood, Hastings Borough Council has other plans to improve the image of the town. **Amy Searle** finds out more.

According to Council Leader Jeremy Birch, Hastings is a 'Marmite' town: you either love it or hate it. Hastings gets a lot of visitors but most of them only come for the day. Most of the main attractions are in the Old Town and Jeremy says he would like to create more attractions across Hastings.

**The Pier** Hastings Pier has been shut since June 2006, due to its poor condition. The current owner, a holding company registered in Panama, has left it to deteriorate further, ignoring courts judgements for repair work. The council wants to carry out a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) on the pier and pass it on to the 'Hastings Pier and White Rock Trust', who would possibly be able to raise the £5million necessary to restore it to its former glory. If nothing is done to save the pier, it could end up like the ruined West Pier in Brighton.

**The Image of Hastings** Hastings often gets undeserved bad press yet it recently won a 'Safer Town Award', says Jeremy. He would like to increase the amount of things for young people to do. The council has put a bid in to turn St. Mary-in-the-Castle into a youth centre with cultural performances, which would be great! Jeremy also said that the council wanted to get funding for a new leisure centre, or for refurbishing Summerfields to include more activities. He also plans to restart a scheme called 'Grotbusters', which involves the council asking the owners of rundown buildings to carry out repair work.



Hastings Pier Photograph Amy Searle



Hastings fishing boats Photograph Alex Brattell

## Through the eyes of foreign students

People in Hastings often complain about crime, litter and the town being dull yet about 35,000 foreign students visit each year. We ask two students from the Hastings English Language Centre what they think. **Abbie Carter** and **Hannah Dooley** report.



Abbie Carter speaks to Laurine Rastoldo (pictured left), 20, from Geneva, Switzerland.

Laurine says she likes Hastings because of the sea, the beach, all the parks and also because there is not a lot of pollution.

Laurine isn't used to having a shopping centre so she liked having one in Hastings, though she said the prices here are quite expensive. In Switzerland, Laurine said the houses are really expensive so most people live in flats. She found it rather surprising how many more people live in houses here.



Hannah Dooley interviewed Dae Yong Kim (Danny) (pictured left), 24, from Suwon in South Korea.

In Korean, Danny's name means 'big harmony'. He has been living in Hastings for four months and is planning to stay for another four. He chose Hastings as it is a small, quiet town.

He likes the open, green spaces, such as the park, and the views from the West Hill. However he found the seagulls and pigeons pooped too much! He said he prefers Korean food because it is spicier than English food but he loves to eat at Cosmo, the Chinese restaurant. In Korea, a typical breakfast is a bowl of rice and some meat and vegetables. Danny has experienced one incident of racism but said most people were a lot nicer than he'd expected.

**Comment from Abbie Carter:** Danny and Laurine both said they thought the people in Hastings were really friendly, and they would happily recommend it to their friends. This made me see Hastings differently.

**Comment from Hannah Dooley:** What surprised many of us was how much both Laurine and Danny loved our town. Perhaps we should see a better side of Hastings too.

## My opinion of Hastings

**By Rebecca Morris**  
Hastings is a great town and has lots of stores and fascinating seaside shops. However there's not that much for young people to do. The council is spending money on revamping the skateboarding park, replacing the wooden ramps with new

concrete ones, but this kind of hobby will only interest keen skaters, and does not benefit everyone. Instead, the council should develop ideas that cater for more people and help keep young people off the streets. The Jerwood Gallery is a good idea but Hastings is a typical

seaside town and the council is trying to make it a more modern place. There is now a big shopping centre, which is good, but it is causing smaller, family-run businesses to close down. Hastings is changing and people's views are changing too.



Julius Caesar performed by Helenswood Drama Club at Helenswood Upper School Photograph by Donna Howell

## Helenswood hits Stratford

Girls from our school were selected to perform their own adaptation of Julius Caesar at the home of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford. **Jemma Watkins** has the story and includes some tips for budding actors below.

A group of Helenswood girls in Years 9 and 10, including myself, entered a drama festival at Helenswood Upper against five other schools. After spending a good few months rehearsing, we put together a 20-minute excerpt from Julius Caesar. The pupils performed on a vibrant, thrilling performance in front of an audience and a panel of judges. However, these girls didn't let their nerves get the better of them and were selected to go to Stratford to take part in a national festival with schools from all over the country.

Julius Caesar is a play about a very strong-willed Roman. Caesar is warned about the Ides of March but he doesn't listen and, due to this, he

is killed. Brutus, a well known senator, is the driving force behind the killing of Caesar. Brutus plans many other killings and sends his country into a civil war.

On July 4, the Helenswood girls headed off to Stratford, Shakespeare's birthplace and home of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Many Shakespeare plays have been shown here on the breathtaking stage. Well done girls for making us all proud!

Helenswood actor Georgie Stokes comments: "I thought it would be plain and boring, but once I got into character I enjoyed myself because I hadn't done this type of play before. This play involves friendship and also a bit of horror."

- |  |   |                                  |   |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Director Rebecca Gould's Stratford tips</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place your head up high</li> <li>▪ Make all your movements sharp</li> <li>▪ Exaggerate all your movements</li> <li>▪ Mean everything you say</li> <li>▪ Empathise with your character</li> <li>▪ Learn your script so you know the meaning of your words.</li> </ul> | <b>Mr Whitehead's drama tips</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep focused at all times</li> <li>▪ Project your voice</li> <li>▪ Become your character</li> <li>▪ Work as an ensemble</li> <li>▪ Explore physical theatre</li> <li>▪ Take risks</li> </ul> |
|--|---|----------------------------------|---|

## Along the blue plaque trail

Spread across the town is history in the form of blue plaques, but many go unnoticed by the public and tourists. On the plaques are the names of successful and famous individuals who have either lived in or visited Hastings. **Grace Cudmore** and **Rosie Street-Jeakings** investigate.



One of the many blue plaques in Hastings Photograph Alex Brattell

The Old Town is home to 50 impressive plaques, mostly situated on the walls of houses, restaurants and gates. We came across our first plaque in Wellington Square. It was devoted to Arthur Haygarth, an amateur Sussex cricketer who was born in Hastings in 1825 and became successful as a cricket historian. The second plaque was just along the road, dedicated to Lewis Carroll, author and poet. Carroll's most popular stories were 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and its sequel 'Through the Looking-Glass'.

The next plaque was located near St Mary-in-the-Castle. It was dedicated to Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, an educationalist, artist and activist for women's rights, born in 1827. Another plaque, just above this one, was for George Devey. He was born in 1820 and became famous for designing large farmhouses in the Arts & Crafts style.

Strolling along George Street, we came across Samuel Prout's plaque. Prout was a watercolour painter who lived in Hastings from 1837 to 1844. We were very excited when we came across an extra plaque – until we discovered it was fake! It was on a house painted to look like a cube of cheese and it said Mr and Mrs Michael Mouse spent their holidays here.

We enjoyed searching for blue plaques as we learnt a lot about the people who had lived in or visited Hastings. We hadn't realised our town held so much history and were surprised by the results of our hunt.



Helenswood dance at De La Warr Pavilion Photograph Donna Howell

## A-level dancers portray the perfect statue!

By Lea Goddard

The Helenswood A-level dancers have been working on two pieces inspired by artist Antony Gormley. The fire dancers\* performed 'Cycocubism', a piece choreographed by former Helenswood pupil Jordan Townsend, at the De La Warr Pavilion in June. The dance was part of 'Random Friday' and linked to the Antony Gormley exhibition 'Critical Mass' at the venue. The exhibition includes

some of Gormley's most famous sculptures on the De La Warr's roof!

Also doing an Antony Gormley inspired piece, Ailsa Scott, Mell Sexton, Amilia Jolley and Tom Blything ran a workshop for younger children at Guestling Primary School. The workshop was for Year 3 pupils (aged seven and eight) who had seen the Gormley exhibition. Amelia said: "They are quite young, so we made easy shapes to imitate." The dancers

told us their inspiration was simply a picture of Gormley's work.

"Sometimes we just use a piece of music," Ailsa said! The dancers' technique to teach young children is to do a warm-up and let the children develop it into a motif, using improvisation. The way to make a good piece is improvisation, good research and an inspiration, they say.

\*Lisa Twist, Ellie Booth, Matt Hunt, Eve Booth and Kerry Pearce

## Face: Is that all we see?

By Jess Bartlett

During the last term of drama, Year 9 were introduced to a script called 'Face'. A young teenager, Martin Turner, narrates events which have happened to him. Martin was having a brilliant time: it was the start of the school holidays, he had a popular, pretty girlfriend and everyone reckoned he was the best dancer around. But his world changes when a stolen car is crashed and he is left with a serious injury.

Benjamin Zephaniah and Richard Conlon focus on prejudice, drugs and disfigurement in this interesting adaptation of the best-selling novel. In drama, we focused on the obstacles in life and portraying them through 'Face'.

Our Opinions:

"It's different to anything we have done before."

"It is a different side of drama that's not usually explored in lessons."



Benjamin Zephaniah

## What's in it for us? Hastings Museum is a fantastic place, discovers Jennie Crouch

Hastings Museum has a variety of exhibitions, including paintings, local and natural history and world art. Durbar Hall was built for the 1886 Indian and colonial exhibition and is the most spectacular part of the museum.

There is also a permanent collection of portraits, collected since 1892, with close links to the Hastings art school.

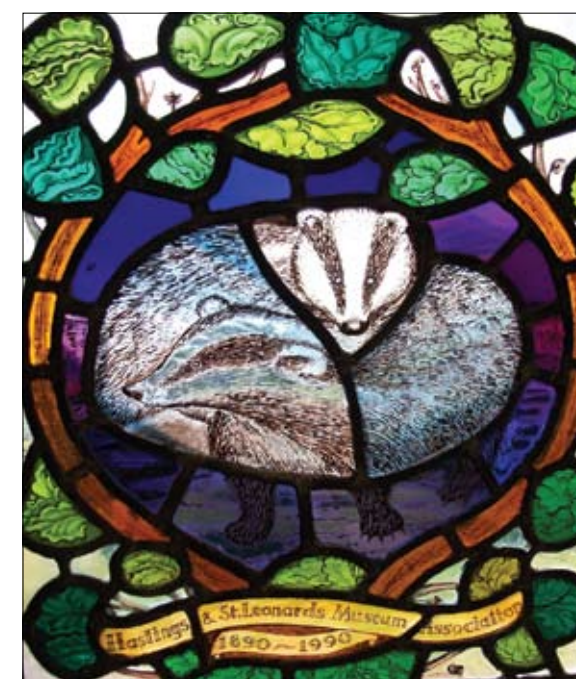
Running until September 12 is a groundbreaking project called 'Outside In', which invites debate on Outside Art. The exhibition includes work from artists who have received little training or formal recognition despite producing art of a high quality. From September 24, the Hastings Rarities

Affair exhibition will be shown. This is a lottery-funded project about a rare bird scandal that was discovered in the 1960s.

The museum holds several events during the year, including a walk with musician and sound recordist Saffron Summerfield to identify garden bird song and calls. You can also join artist Lorna Crabbe to make beautiful birds, using a range of art techniques and materials to go on the giant tree drawn onto the museum window.



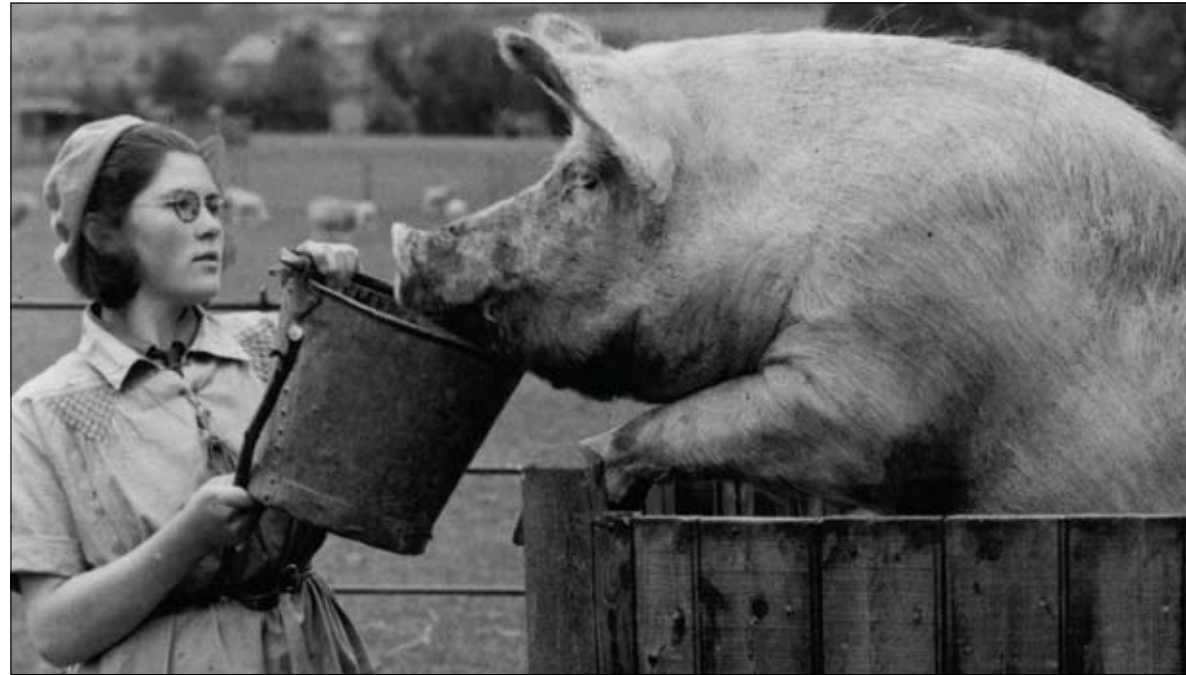
Hastings Museum and Art Gallery Photograph Alex Brattell



Stained glass window at Hastings Museum Photograph 9SW

# Spades at the ready

Heather Pascoe and Carla Flack interview Ann Kramer, author of 'Land Girls & Their Impact'. The author writes non-fiction, specialising in life during wartime and the history of women.



1)



2)



3)

Clockwise from opposite left; 1) Women's Land Army volunteer Jan Irving feeds Domino the pig, photograph courtesy Jeremy Lynton. 2) Land girl Peggy Pearce (centre) and other Land Girls in uniform, photograph courtesy Ann Kramer. 3) Land Girl Hazel King, Romney Marsh, photograph courtesy Ann Kramer



Ann Kramer Photograph Bethan Willard

Local author Ann Kramer was born in London and moved to Hastings in the mid 1970s. She is a freelance book writer and has had around 50 books published. At home, she has a collection of roughly 2000 books!

Ann has to be careful how she chooses the information for her books. She doesn't use the internet as a primary source because it is not always reliable. During research for her land girls' book, she interviewed former land girls she contacted through an ad in the Hastings Observer.

She also used the Imperial War Museum, as well the 'Land Girls' magazine which was published in the war.

'Land Girls & Their Impact' was published in 2008. Ann said it was one of the nicest books she had written. Her publisher, Pen and Sword, is named after the saying 'the pen is mightier than the sword'. Six months – that was all Ann had to write the 60,000-word book, including the research and planning! To add to that, she would get her payment only after the first edition sold out.

## The Land Girls

The Women's Land Army was set up in 1939 to grow food whilst men were away fighting in the war. **Jemma Hughes** asks **Ann Kramer** about the lives of land girls.

**JH:** What did the land girls do?

**AK:** The land girls worked on farms. In the Second World War, there were 80,000 land girls. They did every job, including milking, harvesting and planting but they were paid only half as much as the men on the farms.

**JH:** How old were the land girls?

**AK:** You had to be 18 or over; however many young girls lied about their ages.

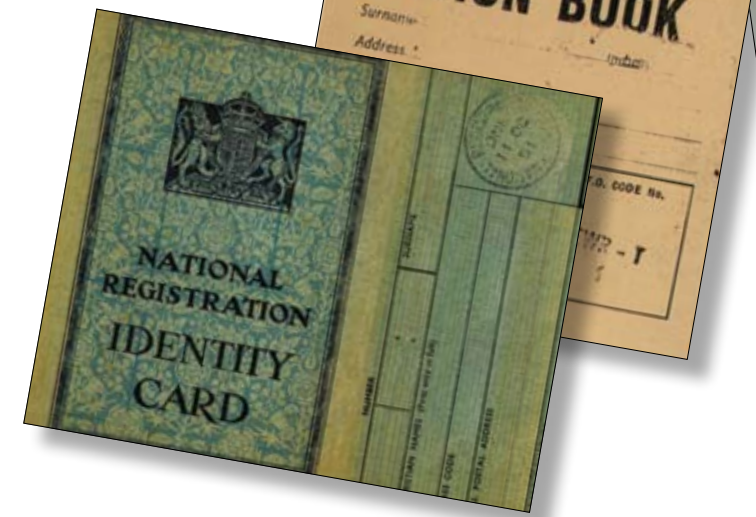
**JH:** Did the women work if they had young children?

**AK:** The land girls often had to work a long way from home so mostly single women worked on the farms. If you were married or had children, it was voluntary. **JH:** Were British people thin due to a lack of food? **AK:** British people actually ate really well as there was very little sugar and most of the food was organically grown on farms. Carrots were used in things such as carrot cake, as they were sweet. There was no waste and no one threw things away.

It was hard being a land girl, add **Shannon Eastman** and **Becci Driver**. The women had to get up at six every morning and be working by seven or eight and may not have eaten breakfast. They got a half-hour break for lunch, when they often ate beetroot sandwiches. These would turn red and soggy in the rain, as the

women had to work in all weathers. After lunch, they had to work till five or six in the evening – therefore working for about 12 hours a day. Land girls wore dungarees (which they cut to make shorts in the summer), shirts, jumpers, headscarves and boots. They also had a special uniform of jodhpurs, jumper and hat, which they kept for best. Some, like other women, would stain their legs with tea, draw a line up the back of their legs to make it look as if they had stockings on, and stain their lips with beetroot to look like lipstick.

The land girls were very important during the war because they grew food for the nation and stopped the nation's people starving. They proved they could do the men's jobs and this changed the way women were seen by men.



## The Hastings Homefront



**By Maddie Crisp and Chloe Brock-Everitt** Exerpts from an interview with Catherine Harvey, of Hastings Museum (pictured left)

### The Fashion

Just as now, most wartime teenagers liked fashion. Having a dress for three years sounds forever to us but, they had to have theirs for even longer – sewing up holes and lengthening them when they got too short. Clothes were tight and simple so that materials were not wasted. The women stitched up ladders in their stockings instead of throwing them away.

**The Entertainment** People had to make their own entertainment as there were no TVs and no internet. The children used to play on the remains of bombed houses, picking up shrapnel and making dens. For the adults, there were dances and cinemas. Hastings used to have many cinemas, where people watched the weekly news and a film.

**The Rationing** Hastings was rationed, just like everywhere else. This started before the war, so it wasn't a shock when the war started. People went to the shops with a rationing book and would exchange coupons for food such as eggs, milk and butter.

## The Bombing

**By Amy Wibberley**

Hastings suffered heavy bomb damage during World War Two, partly because it is on the coast. When the German pilots returned from their raids, they dropped their remaining bombs on the town. More than 15,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged.

Hastings' first air raid was on 26 July 1940, when one plane dropped 11 bombs. Some of these fell onto the cricket ground, where the Priory Meadow shopping centre is now situated. On September 30, a bomb destroyed the Plaza Cinema, which is now Yates bar in the town centre.

Along the seafront, barbed wire, guns, tank traps and oil pipes for a flame defence system were put in place. The beach was cut off to everyone except fishermen, who were given a special permit. Due to the bombing raids and the chance of the Germans landing, children were evacuated to the countryside. By September 1940, Hastings' population had dropped from 65,000 to 22,000 and many troops were placed in the Old Town.

The worst raid on the Old Town was on 23 May 1943. The Swan Hotel, Swan Terrace and Reeve's shops were completely destroyed and 16 people were killed. The Old Town had two air raid shelters, one in St Clements Caves and another one in the hill at Torfield. St Clements Caves also provided housing for 300 to 400 people, a hospital and a school.



From left to right: World War Two identity card and ration book, courtesy of Ann Kramer. World War Two Women's Land Army recruiting poster and Dig For Victory poster courtesy Imperial War Museum.

## Eyewitness

**By Chloe Brock-Everitt**

Imagine being evacuated from your house at the age of three and not seeing your Dad for five years. Well, this is what happened to a young boy named Mike Vidler. Mike is my uncle and now lives with his family in America. I emailed him about his memories of Hastings during World War Two. This is an excerpt from his story:

"When war broke out, I was too young to understand. The grown-ups were very excited and were talking about it everywhere. The blackout regulations started in September 1939 and I remember there were no street lights and buildings were not allowed to let ANY light escape. The air raid wardens would bang loudly at the door instructing you to 'get that light out'.

"At first it felt like a sort of adventure. We soon saw, from scared adults, planes coming and bombs falling, that it wasn't like that. The message really arrived when we were all in a cupboard under the stairs and bombs fell just down the road. We could hear, see and smell the actual destruction, and we knew that people had been killed. The warning sirens were a rising and falling wail that could be heard all over town. There were public shelters in strategic places around town. There was a period that St Clements Caves was open as an air raid shelter and we slept there on camp beds. We were not allowed to take any possessions, expect nappies and bottles."



Wildlife in the grounds of Helenswood Lower School

A Fox Photograph Annette Barton

# The world over your doorstep

Have you ever thought about what lies over the step of your back door; no matter how big or small your garden is? Have you thought about the abundance of wildlife below your window ledge? Local photographer **Annette Barton** has...

**By Molly Hugh**

After retiring three years ago, Annette embarked on a mission to photograph as many species as possible in her petite Hastings back garden – from ants to tadpoles and toads to badgers. “Badgers started me off on all of this,” enthuses Annette. “Some of them even allow me to stroke them now.” Annette’s photographs give a different perspective on the insects and animals that we normally encounter in everyday life as distant background noises or fearful creepy-crawlies. The combination of her enchanting imagination and a high-definition camera convert these seemingly normal creatures into mesmerising beings. Moreover, her captivating work allows us to glimpse the facial features of the most minuscule of insects – and discover that even moths can be endearing! Annette discovered her back garden properly three years ago, while recovering from an illness. “I’ve never really been a good gardener,” she says, “but I began to encourage more wildlife into the garden. “After about three months of leaving food out for the badgers and foxes, I managed to build up a trust with them ... to the extent that the badgers now tap on my back door with their noses and a fox scratches for food!” However, amidst the excitements of befriending foxes and badgers,

Annette says she is careful not to humanise them too much.

Annette estimates there are about 350 different species of moth in this area – and she has captured a jaw-dropping total of about 30! Yet even though her photographs are profuse with quality and creativity, Annette doesn’t sell her masterpieces. Her work is purely for her own interests. After all, she says, “I love recording the world around me!”

**Annette’s tips for encouraging wildlife in your garden:**

- By Claire Barham and Katie Ensell**  
Annette’s biggest worries are litter and pollution and she doesn’t believe in killing harmless creatures or insects.
1. Do not over garden, keep things natural.
  2. Stay away from pesticides and sprays.
  3. Always stay calm around bigger animals and do not show fear.
  4. Woodpiles attract small creatures and insects.

If you are interested in biodiversity and wildlife, there is a course at Sussex Coast College Hastings.

## Harry Potter star visits Helenswood

**By Becky Reeve and Molly Hugh**

Early in July, in a flutter of feathers, Helenswood was lucky enough to be in the presence of *Harry Potter* and the *Deathly Hallows* star, Shady. The European eagle owl – who is known to love snacking on frozen guinea pigs – is part of the Pigeon Patrol Squad, brought to Helenswood to scare away the meddlesome seagulls that recently invaded the school grounds.

“She’s as good as gold!” insists Shady’s owner, Jackie Cullen, who is very proud of Shady’s flighty appearance in the final *Harry Potter* film (to be released in November). Jackie has loved birds since she was a toddler, and became a bird warden in the wild. “My experience gave me the love... to such extent that I wanted some of my own!” she enthuses.

Shady is the only one of Jackie’s ten owls to have been rescued from a previous home. “She was very badly treated,” frowns Jackie, “and, as a result, she is quite small for her age”. Currently, Shady is ten years old (her expected lifespan is about 40) and living the ideal life for an eagle owl; as daily she thrives on ridding Priory Meadow Shopping Centre of its intrusive seagulls and invasive pigeons.

If you would like to see Shady, then go to visit her at Priory Meadow – or simply watch the film in November and see if *you* can spot her!



Shady, a European Eagle Owl Photograph Alex Brattell



Wildlife in the grounds of Helenswood Lower School Photograph Lea Goddard

# Under the canopy

For the last two years, members of the Forest Schools have been coming to Helenswood to help Year 6 pupils from neighbouring schools make the transition to secondary school. **Rosie Street Jeakings** and **Grace Cudmore** report.

In the light that slowly filtered through the leafy canopy, stood a cluster of makeshift houses and wigwams. They were surrounded by young people, each busy doing something.

Some were cutting, others were fixing and a few were foraging for spare parts. Yet we hadn’t found a lost tribe of primeval people, we had found the site of the Forest Schools.

Over six weeks, the participants of this groundbreaking project have been doing everything from building wigwams to making hot chocolate over a fire. The idea is to help children assess risks and learn about the natural environment. They were working on dens, wigwams and houses, as well as making ornamental pencils and cosmetics. So what did they make of the experience?

One group we talked to were standing by a tall wigwam.

**What was your favourite part?**

I liked how to make a fire and making hot chocolate on it.

**Did you make the whole wigwam?**

No, it was already here but we weaved the leaves.

**Do you prefer this way of learning?**

Yes. It’s a better way of learning because in the classroom the teacher just goes on and on.

Forest Schools teaches new skills outside the classroom in an environment everyone can enjoy. What do we think was the best part? The skills they learn, the things they make, the time they get to spend outside the classroom? No, we think it’s that we get to have a go next year!



A Mint Moth Photograph Annette Barton

**Bring on the Bugs 2010** is the International Year of Biodiversity. The biodiversity found on the Earth today consists of many millions of different biological species yet even in a garden you can find a host of different wildlife **by Bethan Willard**

Despite the name, **centipedes** can have varying number of legs from under twenty to over one hundred!

The average life expectancy of an **ant** is 45-60 days, also they can lift 100 times their own body weight.

Did you know that **daisy** leaves are edible and can be used in salads?

**Flies** vomit on food before eating it. They can consume only liquids so their vomit is a tool to liquefy their food.

Did you know that a **snail** can slide over a razor blade without being hurt? In addition, snails have only one foot!

## Litter – need I say more?



Photo Emma Apps

**By Heather Pascoe**

Litter. I’m sure that some time in your life you’ve had someone moaning or complaining about it. The best way to describe litter is as waste in the wrong place. Everywhere you go, you see it littering around: cities; schools and workplaces.

Not only do the pupils and teachers of Helenswood suffer from litter, so does the biodiversity of the school grounds. Seagulls belong at sea or at least very close to it. Instead, they are scavenging our site and eating the remains of our litter. This is unnatural. Food chains can be affected by litter too, causing some pesky animals and bugs to thrive and some useful animals and bugs to dwindle. Litter is extremely harmful to animals; it can suffocate, strangle and poison.

I’m sure you didn’t know that the usual Hastings Borough Council fine for littering is around £95, but you could be fined up to £2,500. I ask you now, put your rubbish in the BIN! Nobody wants litter all over the place, blowing everywhere and spreading filth. All it does is make a dirty school and a dirty planet!

# Random word poem

We went to Alexandra Park and listened to people talking. Here is a poem made up out of their words.

By Izzy Mills & Hannah Dooley

*Train Everyday  
On that Motorway*

**Popple  
Woggle**

**True  
Blue**

*Yeah that  
**Borat***

**Ice cream  
GREEN**

**Gizmo sing  
Go to Italy**

**COOK**  
My note book

**TURN UPS**  
*Up chuck*

**That's fake  
CAKE**

*Lets get  
some waffles* **ROFL**

*Bon Bons  
Nom Noms*

*Don't moan*  
**PHONE**

*In the garden*  
**PARDON**

**College  
LOLage**

*Pretty Butterfly*  
**See ya Bye!**

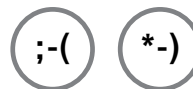


How to make a pencil  
A Forestry Skill Illustration Molly Hugh

## What annoys you? What makes you smile?

We did a vox pop about pet peeves and simple pleasures.

By Alice Evans



### Pet peeves

- ;-) Nail biting
- ;-) Cracking knuckles
- ;-) Nails against a chalkboard
- ;-) People talking at the cinema
- ;-) People eating loudly
- ;-) Broken nails
- ;-) Liars
- ;-) Insects
- ;-) People that don't clean up after their dogs
- ;-) Litter

### Simple pleasures

- ;-) Popping bubble wrap
- ;-) Eating Galaxy
- ;-) The first sip of Cola
- ;-) Smelling flowers
- ;-) Lying on fresh grass
- ;-) Sitting by a camp fire
- ;-) Inset days
- ;-) Doing your nails
- ;-) The smell of a BBQ

## Film Wordsearch

By Mabel Perry

H	A	R	R	Y	P	O	T	T	E	R	S
A	V	A	T	B	C	A	E	G	H	J	S
D	C	I	N	D	E	R	E	L	L	A	E
M	T	W	I	L	D	C	H	I	L	D	L
E	T	W	F	M	N	B	L	I	C	K	E
A	Y	Q	I	A	L	A	D	D	I	N	U
N	C	Z	X	L	A	J	H	R	E	V	L
G	P	L	F	G	I	U	N	B	V	M	C
I	D	E	I	A	Q	G	W	Q	G	G	A
R	Y	O	P	C	C	V	H	K	L	B	G
L	J	N	E	F	K	W	X	T	O	E	E
S	F	H	E	O	L	A	V	A	T	A	R

- Twilight
- Clueless
- Mean Girls
- Harry Potter
- Click
- Wild Child
- Avatar
- Cinderella
- Aladdin

## Facts about fisherman

By Jemma Watkins

- Each fisherman wore a very expensive earring, which would pay for the funeral of the lost fishermen.
- Fishermen's wives had to embroider the name of their husbands in their clothes so if a fisherman was lost at sea and his clothes washed up on shore, the families would know he had died.
- At William Parker, no boys were allowed to wear earrings except fishermen's sons.
- Fishing season was autumn and winter through to April.
- The women were expected to gut 40 herrings per minute.