

## Hastings Old Town Parish News

February 2019

Isabel Blackman Centre

**East Sussex County Council** need to save money by cutting costs like provision for Adult Social care. Their consultation in Spring 2018 was flawed and many people felt that it was misleading. It is becoming more and more apparent that the closure of the Isabel Blackman Centre on 31<sup>st</sup> March will not actually save money without affecting the individuals who currently go there. For these vulnerable people the amount of support has to be cut if savings are to be made. Yet these individuals have personal statements setting out what they need.

For instance those attending the IBC have to be taken there by specialist buses. These employ both a driver and an assistant. A minicab will not adequately meet the task. With so few places offering alternative provision the minibuses would have to serve several different destinations. This will cost more. So the only way for ESCC to meet the stated needs is to cut the number of sessions provided.

All of this is very unsettling for the individuals involved and their families.

Margaret Wells Congratulations

The house at the top of Croft Road always has a busy front garden. Over many years many people have gone there to buy good quality plants. All money raised goes to support the work of the Crohn's and Colitis Society UK. The total that Margaret has raised is over £100,000. This is a wonderful effort that has been recognised in the New Years Honours list.

Well done Margaret you deserve this recognition.

Subscriptions

One of the joys of each New year is to be reminded that your subs are needed to help fund the work of HOTRA. There are no paid officials and we receive no grant from Hastings Council. All work is done by a team of volunteers.

The subscription rate is £10 per individual. [This has not been increased for 10 years but will probably be put up for 2020.

Please make your cheque payable to HOTRA. Kindly place it in an envelope and either drop it into Nelson House Antiques in the High Street, opposite the Electric Palace OR through Phil Whites letterbox at Eight and a Half Exmouth Place. Please mark your envelope HOTRA subs.

A membership card will be issued.