

## Hastings Old Town Residents Association

### DECEMBER 2019 PARISH NEWS

Isabel Blackman Centre

At last there is some firm information via the estate agent. The property is now on the market and the estimated price is £500,000. Add to this VAT of £100,000 and legal fees of around £20,000 and we have a target figure for fundraising. The appeal can now be launched. We are seeking pledges and a formal letter or email will be issued soon. The pledges will then give us the way forward. At some point in 2020 supporters will be asked to make their payment. The money will be held by Hastings Voluntary Action who meet all legal requirements to enable this to happen.

*This is truly a momentous step for the whole of Hastings and our Senior citizens*

Looking forward there are several important actions which will follow :-

- a new 'not for profit' company limited by guarantee will be created;
- the Charity Commission will be asked to approve a constitution etc
- a management structure will be created with involvement opportunities for individuals and volunteers.

All of this depends upon East Sussex County Council being willing to enable the purchase to go ahead. So please do not uncross your fingers yet.

Thanks are due to the consortium of groups who have put in a lot of work to get us to this point. Hastings Voluntary Action, Age UK East Sussex, Sussex Community Development Association, Hastings Seniors Forum and HOTRA.

2020 subscriptions

In early January our New Year newsletter will be delivered to every Old Town letterbox. This time it will include a form to urge you pay your subscriptions. These have been increased to £15 per person - the first increase in 10 years.

West Sussex Fire and Rescue

Residents will be aware that HOTRA have been pressing EAST Sussex Fire and Rescue Service to purchase smaller size fire appliances since 2003. It was a surprise to learn that West S.F.R.S. had failed its Home Office inspection in every area. Currently there is a small working group at Bohemia Road looking at our request. HOTRA is convinced that our firefighters should have the best possible range of equipment to help them to do their job.