

## Letters to the editor

### BEXHILL ON SEA Observer Comment

## The close of a very eventful year for Bexhill

WHAT an eventful year 2009 has been.

On a national level, we're all very pleased to be seeing the back of the last 12 months, what with the doom and gloom surrounding the recession, MPs' expenses and the swine flu pandemic.

As a nation we seem to be increasingly heading down a continuing spiral of apathy and indecision.

But on a local level, in Bexhill at least, the story is very different.

Residents don't sit back on whatever concerns them - instead they are more than willing to stand up and have their say.

This year's hot potatoes have been the Next Wave seafront regeneration scheme, the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road, the county council's landfill proposal for Ashdown Brickworks, MP Greg Barker's expenses, the Herbrand Walk saga, Bexhill High School's opening hours, the Town Forum and the seafront shelters design competition.

There was also the grand opening of Bexhill Museum. And internationally, but with a strong local core of support, has been the issue of tackling climate change, culminating in December's conference at Copenhagen.

Bexhill is currently in flux. It is going through a deep process of change, which along with the views of those affected, has been reflected (we hope faithfully) in the pages of this newspaper.

As we move into 2010, we wonder how these issues will progress and will continue to keep you up to date on what is going on.

On the business side, there have been an unfortunate number of shops shutting down thanks to the recession this year. Yet there

## Thanks from museum

It was very gratifying to read Lesley Abdela's generous comments praising Bexhill Museum for its "variety of interesting displays and the friendly and helpful staff".

Also gratifying her comments regarding our Quest for Equality exhibition, as being "a world-class display".

It is particularly gratifying reading her letter as the displays and the exhibition were all designed and assembled by volunteers, albeit under the watchful eye of our curator, Julian Porter.

In fact, apart from Julian and our administrator, Don Phillips, all of the museum staff are volunteers, who willingly donate countless hours of their time to ensure that Bexhill Museum gives pleasure to every visitor.

I would add that the museum's visitors' book also contains many similar comments.

Readers will have noticed that Lesley writes from Burwash and is presumably not a resident of Bexhill. The thought that strikes me is, why do we not read such letters from the town's residents?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have given of their time and financial contributions toward the museum's fundraising and promotion during the past year.

Too many have helped to list here, but I must mention just three. The Bexhill Classic Cycle Group and particularly Raymond Konyn who have worked tirelessly to raise funds and to promote Bexhill Museum.

Also to Rother District Council, which has fully supported the museum redevelopment project through the good and the not so good days.

And there has been quite a few of the latter during 2009! And the third? Well, we must not forget Eddie Izzard, for long a museum supporter, who gave us a huge amount of publicity by officially opening the museum on November 26.

One final plea to all residents of our town. Since July 31 you have had another Bexhill attraction for which you should be rightly proud, the second most popular with the town's visitors. So please, give us a visit when the museum reopens on February 2 2010. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

**JOHN BETTS**  
Trustee/head of fundraising

## Cabinet surrenders

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