



Battle Heritage Trails (BHT) project report update - April 2017

Project start date 1 April 2017

Project end date 31 March 2018

The BHT Project is now in its final evaluation stage, having engaged in excess of 1000 volunteers during the period.

All targeted outcomes have been commissioned and will be fully delivered and in place by the end of May 2018 (Majority mid April).

The research phase of the project was considerably more complex and time consuming than originally envisaged, however the outcomes have been excellent, with a significant amount of new information (heritage assets) being uncovered and preserved/saved for future generations to experience and enjoy.

Community engagement with the project has actually increased in momentum over the life of the project and new heritage assets continue to be revealed everyday. For example, as a consequence of filming in the town in February, a past resident of the Almonry contacted us with old photographs and personal memories. Also, as a consequence of the sculptures now starting to be installed around the town, members of the church community were motivated to contact us regarding previously forgotten documents and artefacts.

Battle District Historical Society (BDHS), Battle Museum and Battle Photographic Society have provided considerable and on going support for the project and have themselves benefited from some of the assets uncovered. For example, BDHS have become aware of some significant inaccuracies in their records relating to Beauport Park and that there remains a significant lack of information relating to past industry in Battle, despite its impact on growth. Battle Museum and Photographic Society have both become aware of the extreme lack of photographic record relating to the town and it's past residents and are actively seeking to address this.

Cash sponsorship in support of the project proved difficult to secure, however discounts and in kind sponsorship in the form of time were much easier and this has resulted in the project being fully delivered and within budget when utilising contingency.

Marketing has been on going since the project began with considerable support provided by 1066 Country Marketing and Rother District Council marketing team, who have both included it in their advertising schedule for 2018. The Beauport Park/Bannatynes Hotel team have also provided marketing support FOC.

Facebook and instagram accounts have seen active community engagement, which continues to build steadily.

Facebook @battleheritagewalkingtour
Instagram - battletrails

Evaluation

Continuous evaluation has formed the basis of this project. Community and volunteer views have been continually sought and used to drive and refine the project outcomes.

Comments received on the project facebook page have included:

- *"Well done kids. I lived in Battle until I was about 17 (I'm 65 now). I never knew where Powdermill Lane got it's name. Thank you" Bob*
- *"Amazing Photo's" Amanda*
- *"Where can we get the booklet?" Theresa*

BDHS reviewed the Children's Activity book on several occasions prior to it going to print, with the following final comments received:

- *"This is a remarkable and excellent booklet"*

Battle Bonfire Boyes, BDHS and the Dean of St Mary's were all consulted on the designs for the sculpture, with the following indicative comments received:

- *Splendid accessible design*
- *Henry Newbery (sic) deserves it. He did a lot for the town.*
- *I doubt if anyone would argue about any of this at BDHS. Of course the picture of Parliament dates from the rebuilding in the C19... If you want me try to track down any picture before then I would do so but without any real confidence – **Decision was made to remove building image from sculpture to save any confusion***
- *Design over complicated – **Decision was made to remove two lesser elements***

Now the project is nearing its conclusion, in order to complete our evaluation, we plan to request/collect the following feedback, prior to filing our final report:

Feedback plan – April 2018

Volunteer feedback – feedback questionnaires to be sent by email

Childrens Heritage trail and Activity book

Children’s feedback - Observations and short questionnaire.

Teacher’s Feedback – Snapshot Interviews to be audio recorded.

Claverham Community College – 26 April

Battle & Langton School - 27 April

Films – Observation and Interviews with responses to be audio recorded

Preview at Beauport Park - 25th April

Invited audience

Sculptures – Observation and snapshot interviews with responses to be audio recorded

Community Walkabout - 30th April

All project outcomes – visitors book to be held at Town Clerks Office

Lesley Samms – 3rd April 2018