

19th November 2024

FAO: The Clerk, Hassocks Parish Council

Subject: The past Hassocks Traders Association (H.T.A)

In around 1986/87 the then Parish Council called on all traders to attend a meeting at Downlands School for the purpose of forming a trading association. A few of us attended and a then councillor Margaret Rose stood up to say and I quote 'we need a chairman, and I nominate Mr Batchelor'.

So, the HTA was born, more members joined and a new chairman, Mr Eddie Wallace of Westminster Wine was appointed, resulting in myself being elected president. I remained in the post for 20 years, until its demise when any funds, which were members subscriptions, were divided up for worthy causes. On that decision of funds, the sum of £500 was given to the Parish Council for the purpose of anyone willing to restart the association.

To date no one has come forward to do this. A few of our original members have agreed that this sum should now help the HCO in their effort to carry on with the Light Up Hassocks event, as this was formed almost as a continuation of our late night shopping event which transformed into our Christmas Festival event, with attractions and stalls, in addition to shops opening late.

I would hope that some members of your council may remember these events although it was Keymer Parish Council back then. Another suggestion for help could be towards Age Concern, as both this and HCO serve the people of Hassocks very well.

I will always be ready to discuss this issue as necessary.

With kind regards,

Ron Batchelor