



1066 Anniversary Grants Scheme

Rother District Council awarded a total of £9,770 in grants throughout 2016 towards a number of community and school projects to celebrate the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings on 14 October 2016.

Members of the Council and Officers were invited to the events and Rother District Council's contribution was recognised by the applicants in publicity and promotional materials.

The list of projects and events funded from the Scheme were hosted by the following organisations:

1. **Battle and Langton CofE Primary School**

A "Living History Workshop" enabled children to learn about the period using authentic clothing, weapons, and other paraphernalia of the era. Children learned to re-create the Battle itself, having studied and prepared for over a week.



2. **Battle Festival of Music and Arts**

A specially commissioned community based opera to mark the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in partnership with Glyndebourne Opera. The project offered a unique opportunity of professionalism and prestige of a Glyndebourne Opera to older residents, youth groups and marginalised groups in Battle by working directly with schools and relevant community organisations.

3. **Battle Community Singers**

Funding contributed towards preparation and practice sessions to enable participation in the 1066 Community Opera and other related musical events

including: an informal concert for Friends of the Singers and Emmanuel Centre, participation in Sedlescombe's Got Talent, a performance in support of the Battle Fete on 25 June, a performance for the staff and residents of Saxonwood Residential Care Home.

4. **Battle Museum of Local History**

A display of a 3 metre tapestry about the birth of Battle in 1066 was held at the Almonry throughout May to October 2016. A total of 56 embroidery sessions were organised to enable 730 registered stitchers from the local community in Battle to participate and contribute to the tapestry, which will be displayed in 2017. The project will help the community, including children to understand their 950th heritage and bring different parts of the community together in a common project of historical timeliness.



5. **Battle Town Council**

Environmental improvements of new quality designed planters, litter bins, and directional fingerposts were provided for the event and regeneration of the Abbey Green area and High Street.



6. **Battle Town Council**

One of three trophies was presented to the winner of the inaugural writing competition to commemorate the 950th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. The adult category was open to residents of the community of Battle to write exactly 1066 words on the subject of "Battle 2066". The winning trophy was an engraved salver and presented at the Battle Festival concert. The salver will be presented to the Adult winner each year on or near to 14 October.

7. **Beckley School Association**

A "Living History Workshop" became a reality when children donned appropriate costumes and painted on tattoos for a variety of activities that would have been part of the everyday life for an Anglo Saxon. Children also grinded corn to make flour, prepared herbal medicines, experienced spinning

and weaving to make their clothes, used quills on parchment to write the Anglo Saxon Rune alphabet, and made their own rings and amulets by beating metal into shape. Battle training was also described by the children as “amazing”, “interesting”, and “awesome”.



8. **Concorde 1066**

Around 600 children aged between 6 and 7 from 12 local schools took part in a parade where they wore multi-coloured tabards and carried shields which had all been made and decorated by the children themselves. The children’s parade fitted in with both the other elements of the Concorde 1066 programme and school time. Prior to the parade, the children assembled inside the gates of Battle Abbey from where they were led out through the Abbey Gatehouse and along the High Street by the band of the Royal Engineers.



9. **ROAR (Residents of All Rother)**

A medieval lunch held at Netherfield Village Hall for members of ROAR and local residents included music, quiz, raffle, and transport. Staff from AmicusHorizon dressed in period costume and were joined by a juggling jester. Those who attended were given an opportunity to meet new people and exchange contact details.



10. Rother Voluntary Action (RVA)

Astronomical event supported by the East Sussex Astronomical Society (ESAS) to highlight the sighting of Halley's Comet was held at Bexhill Athletic Club on 23 October 2016 for approximately 40 families and individuals living in Bexhill aged from 2-60yrs+. Supported by volunteers from RVA, TeamUP, and ESAS, the event offered a virtual reality look at how the sky in 1066 appeared, talks about the Halley's Comet and a chance to make your own comet/planetary system, solar viewing, rocket making, art/craft table, and interactive science table.



11. The Catsfield Triangle Association

Charity event around the triangle of The Green, Church Lane, and Church Road including, the Playing Field in Catsfield to help fund inaugural Catsfield Triangle Races and raise funds for the village. Events included a Race, Best Boat competition, Best Flat Boat competition, Children's Race, and Best Children's Boat competition.



Further information about the Council's Community Grants Scheme can be provided by emailing: communitygrants@rother.gov.uk or via the website: <http://www.rother.gov.uk/communitygrantscheme>