

29th
February
Shares
Launch

HIGHLIGHTS

Pioneer Community
Shares Issue!

Chance Comments

Art from Bournville

Lighthouse: Cape

the ChaT magazine

FEBRUARY 2020



CHANCE
HERITAGE
TRUST



Chance Heritage Trust

www.chanceht.org

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the CHaT magazine

... is a free and occasional publication aimed primarily at subscribers of the Chance Heritage Trust (CHT). Your contributions are welcome: please send articles, letters, thoughts, anecdotes to editor@chanceht.org

Photos are especially helpful! Please ensure these are photoed or scanned at high resolution for optimum result.

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Are you skilled in handling social media content? Please see page 11.



Editorial CHaT

On 29th February at 11:00am the most significant event regarding the regeneration of the Chance Brothers' site will take place. The Chance Heritage Trust is offering Pioneer Community Shares to enable the regeneration of the Spon Lane site.

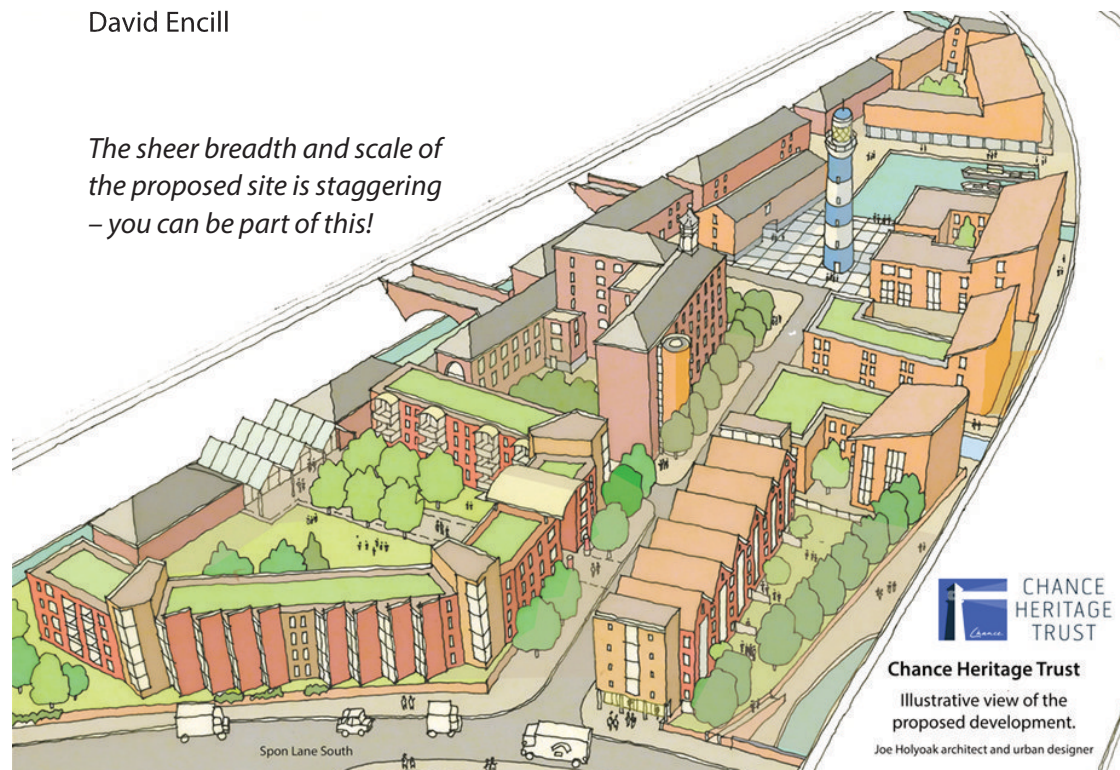
Do not be put off by the jargon – put simply, if you have £20 to spare then you will have an equal say in how the site develops.

As you may know, Chance Brothers has a long and highly distinguished past that covered 157 years (1824–1981). Within 20 years of its formation, it became the largest producer of flat glass in Britain. During Victorian times it was one of the major powerhouses for Victorian England, employing over 3,000 people. The company introduced a new method of producing flat glass (sheet glass), revolutionised optical glass manufacture and became the largest lighthouse manufacturer in the world – not bad for a land-locked company!

So the question to ask is whether we *really* want that history to vanish? Food for thought ...

David Encill

The sheer breadth and scale of the proposed site is staggering – you can be part of this!



Chance Heritage Trust
Illustrative view of the
proposed development.
Joe Holyoak architect and urban designer

PIONEER SHARES OFFER

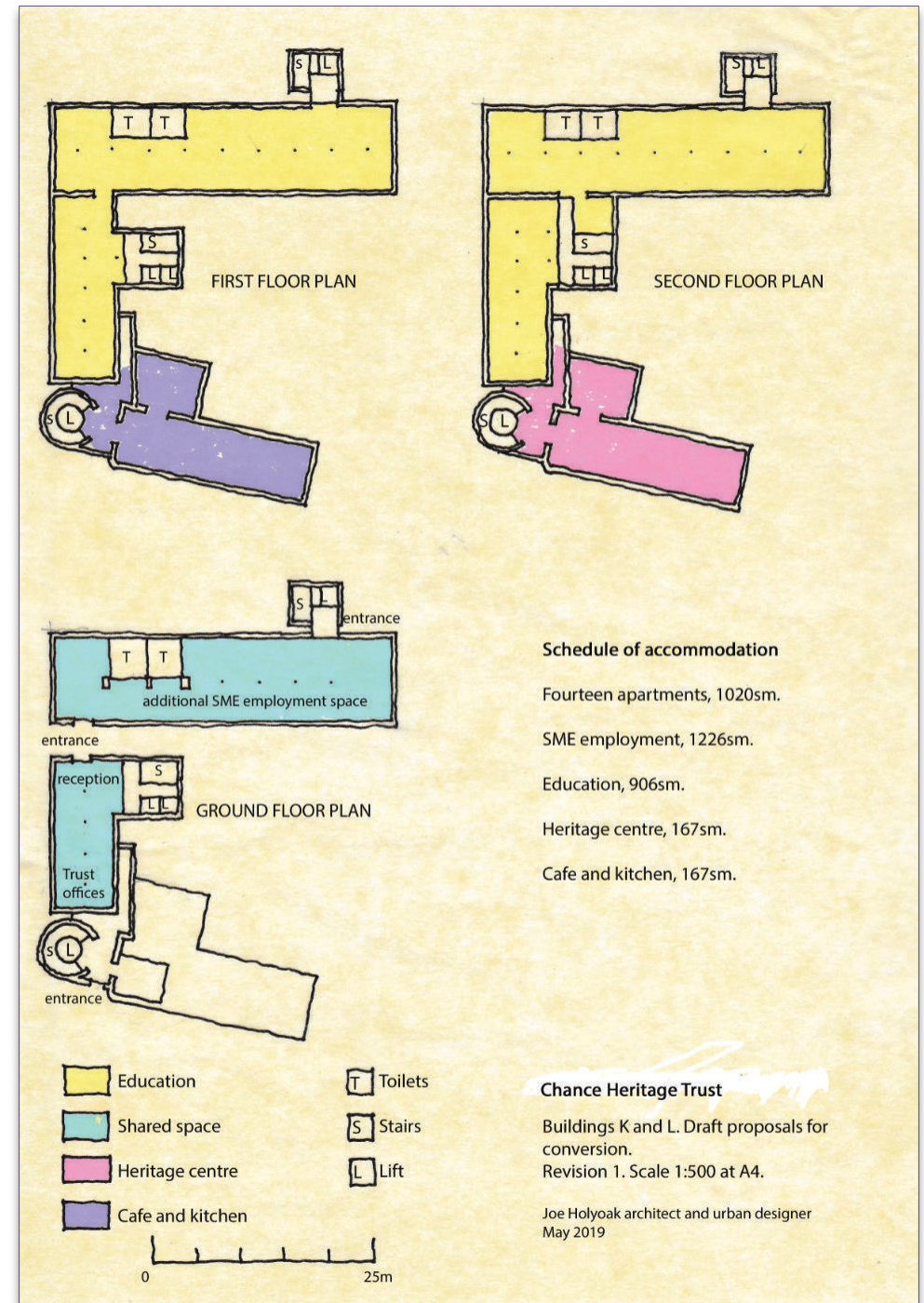
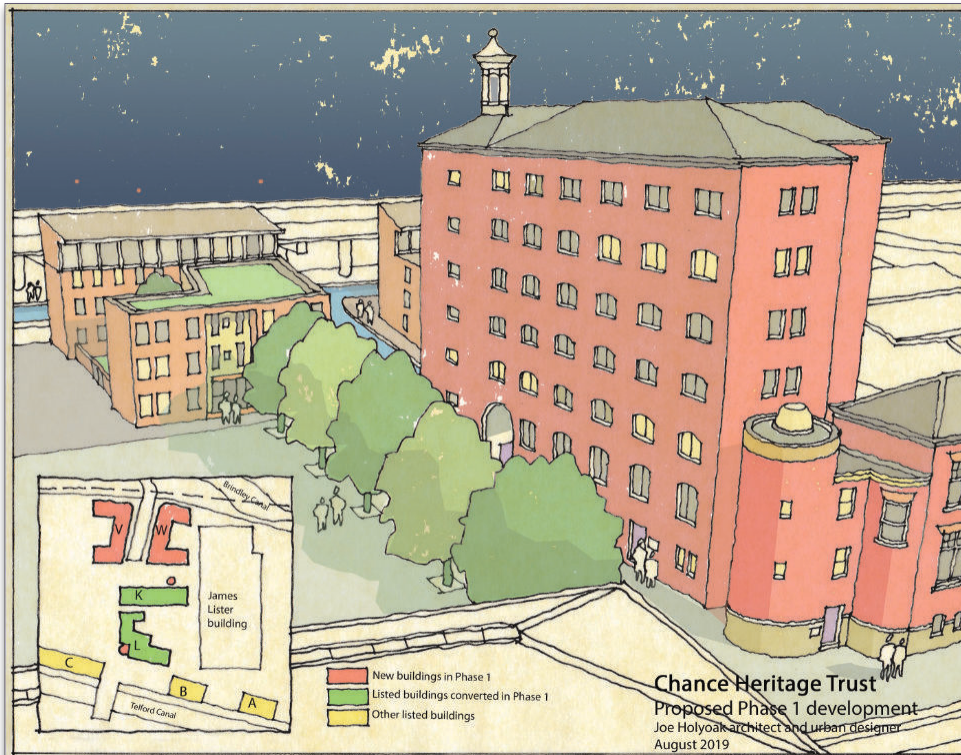
Your Chance to Own a Slice of Local History

The Chance Glassworks in Spon Lane was a beacon in Smethwick – in more ways than one – for 157 years. Now it is possible for anyone to literally own a slice of this fabulous historical site and have a say in how it is managed and operated.

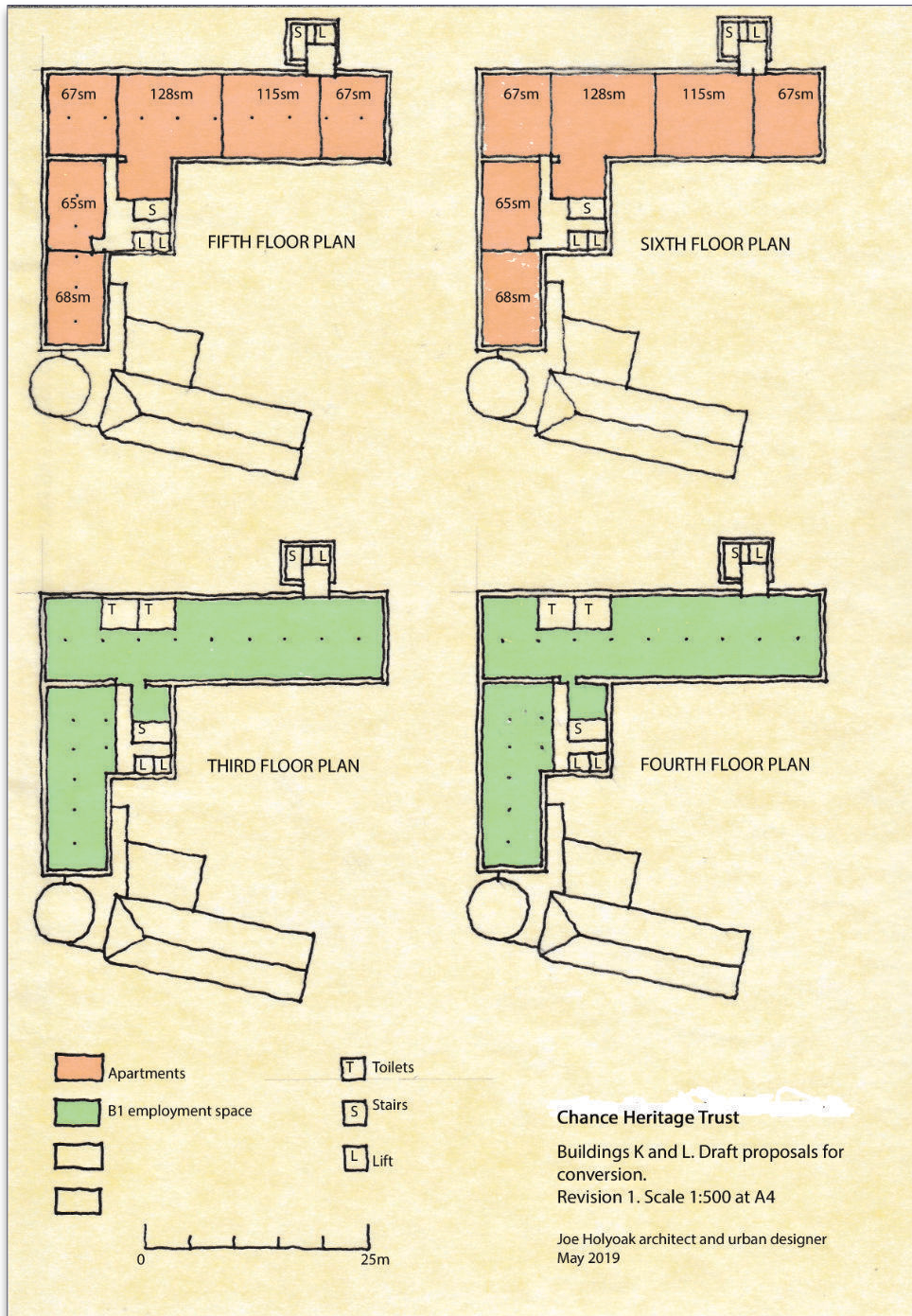
With its conversion to a Community Benefit Society (CBS), the Chance Heritage Trust can now offer these shares at a price of **£1 each**, with a minimum holding of 20 shares (£20 in total). Of course, you may wish to invest more.

The aim is to raise a minimum of £110,000 up to £250,000 that will allow the first part of the regeneration, which includes the fabled Seven-Storey building that itself dates back to 1847.

This is a fundamentally important part of the Chance Glassworks regeneration.



See over for 3rd to 6th floor plans



PHASE ONE PROGRESSION

The Chance Glassworks Heritage Trust (CGWHT) has converted from a charity to a Community Benefit Society (CBS) with charitable status. Simultaneously, whilst converting to a CBS, CGWHT has changed its name to Chance Heritage Trust. The reason for the name change is the continued intent of the Trust to be a vehicle for regenerating heritage assets in the Sandwell locality. The Trust are keen to retain the name Chance in recognition of its importance in the area and Chance Brothers historic philanthropic contribution to the local community.

On conversion to a CBS the Trust can issue shares for the overall regeneration scheme. During the development of the site, the Trust intends to make a number of share offers. The first is a Pioneer Shares issue to be launched on 29th February 2020. Achieving the minimum target is critical, failure to achieve it under community share rules, require the Trust to return investors' money.

Please contact info@chanceht.org for more details.

HOW DO I BUY SHARES?

Website:

To find everything you want to know about the community share offer, please visit our website at www.chanceht.org/shares

Buying Shares On-Line:

The shares can be purchased online through the Crowdfunding Platform – see the link above.

By Post:

Download and print the Application Form on our website at www.chanceht.org/shares and post it to the address in the form or alternatively request the forms by email from info@chanceht.org



CHANCE COMMENTS - NOW ONLINE!



In a joint initiative with [Smethwick Heritage Centre](http://SmethwickHeritageCentre), every available issue of Chance Comments is now available to view online! Go to www.chancecomments.co.uk for more details.



But as there's over 14 years worth to wade through, here's a couple of tasters.

From the November 1953 issue, an amazing photo showing Edna Halpin cutting optical glass as photographed through a massive optical glass disc that would eventually be exported to the USA. It demonstrates just how clear optical glass was.

Although the Optical Glass Department had moved to St. Helens, ostensibly under the ownership of Pilkington Brothers (the site was on their grounds), it is just possible to see the Chance logo on Edna's jacket pocket.



The January 1957 issue reveals the clock faces of the Tower of Westminster being filmed (aka Big Ben), prior to the glass being replaced with, of course, Chance opal-flashed glass.

LIGHTHOUSE FEATURE: Cape Forchu

Our thanks for this issue's feature goes out to Eric J. Ruff, the Curator Emeritus at Yarmouth County Museum in Canada on the Cape Forchu lighthouse in Nova Scotia.

Eric writes:

You may have heard of the recently released film "The Lighthouse" starring Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson. It was filmed here in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia and is, apparently, a bit of a "horror" film.

The company which made the film approached the Yarmouth County Museum and offered several thousand dollars to borrow our 2nd Order lighthouse lens. The Board, wisely, refused this offer as it would have had to be dismantled to get it out of our building, etc., etc. So they had a replication made.

A few months ago an article appeared in our local paper, The Vanguard, telling the story of the reproduction. I thought you might be interested in seeing the article which is attached.

Many thanks, Eric and here's a photo of the replica optics, courtesy of the *Tri-County Vanguard* newspaper, 23rd October 2019.

According to the article, the replica was built in eight weeks by Dan Spinella and measured six-feet tall by four-feet diameter (approx. 1.83x1.22m). The complete assembly weighed in at a hefty 1,500lbs (680kg) and cost the production company \$135,000 (Canadian), which is about £79,000.



Do you have an interesting lighthouse story? Mail me at editor@chanceht.org and we will see if it can become a regular feature of this magazine.

ART

Continuing the theme of lighthouses, the young students at Bournville College of Art once again used these as inspiration for their artwork.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

29th February – A Chance Day Out

The launch of the Pioneer Community Shares Issue will be held at Sandwell Library, High Street, Smethwick, B66 1AA. Many other attractions will be held at the same time, so please come along (see last page).



VOLUNTEER SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Do you have the skills to handle the various social media outlets of the Chance Heritage Trust?



If so, we would be interested in talking to you. Skills should include the ability to handle the Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter and YouTube accounts - but don't worry if you are not familiar with some of them. Being able to communicate and engage with the public is also important.

WEBSITE

Our website also needs maintaining and kept up-to-date. This does involve a certain amount of technical skills, but this should not prove too tasking for anyone with a modicum of computer skills (honestly). The web development platform is [Wix.com](https://www.wix.com), which has plenty of features and offers a very user-friendly interface. A certain amount of training can be given to a suitable candidate.



Both posts are voluntary at present.

Please contact info@chanceht.org for more details

Come to our

Smethwick
Heritage Centre



CHANCE
HERITAGE
TRUST

CHANCE DAY OUT!

11am

29th
February
2020

Smethwick Library, High Street, Smethwick B66 3AP



Chance valuation *Antiques roadshow style event*

Have you got a piece of Chance Brothers' Glass squirrelled away at the back of a cupboard or some other Chance memorabilia? This is your chance to talk to our 'experts' and find out more about it... and what it is worth!!

Bring your glassware or memorabilia along to learn more about it. Our Chance 'experts' will be on hand to tell you more about your prized Chance possession and they should be able to provide an approximate value too!

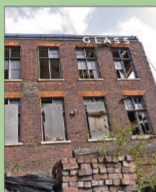


Shares Launch - Be a Pioneer!

Launching our Pioneer Community Shares Offer

This is your opportunity to find out more about this exciting and worthwhile chance to own a piece of history and the future.

As a shareholder you own and control the Trust. Every shareholder has a vote and therefore a voice in determining the future direction of the Trust.



Tell Your Story!

We really want to hear your stories about Chance Brothers', perhaps you worked for them, or had relatives that did?

It's a great opportunity to make sure your stories are heard by future generations.



What is your vision for the glassworks ?

We have our ideas for the regeneration of the glassworks, but your views as members of the local community are more important.

Come and tell us what facilities, and amenities we could include in the development.

FOR FULL DETAILS GO TO OUR WEBSITE HERE WWW.CHANCEHT.ORG