

## HIGHLIGHTS

Lighthouse Competition

Australian Lighthouses

New Website Forum

Meet: Olivia Hewkin



## Lighthouse Art Competition

Open for all age groups

Use any medium: photos, paint, chalk, pastels, quilting, knitting, poetry, music etc.

Entries close on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Win a £25 Amazon voucher

For full details visit [www.chanceht.org](http://www.chanceht.org)



# the CHaT magazine

JUNE 2020



CHANCE  
HERITAGE  
TRUST

## Chance Heritage Trust

[www.chanceht.org](http://www.chanceht.org)

CBS Registered No: 8180

### Ambassadors

Sir Sebastian Chance  
Toby Chance  
David Encill

### Directors

Mark Davies (Chairman)  
Henry Chance (Vice-Chairman)  
Kieran Dyde  
Tonia Flanagan  
Tom Haydon  
Olivia Hewkin  
Joshua Lowe  
Dr Ellen McAdam  
Marianne Monro  
John Montague  
John Pye  
Madelene Schofield-Whittingham

### Front Cover:

Heceta Lighthouse optic,  
Oregon, USA. Built  
between 1892 and 1893.

Photo © Paul Rentz

## 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](mailto:editor@chanceht.org)

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

Photos are best sent as JPG or PNG, and without cropping if possible.

Editor: David Encill

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Chance Heritage Trust

Find us on: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest & Instagram.



## Editorial CHaT

I am delighted to announce that Sir Sebastian Chance and David Encill are joining Toby Chance as Ambassadors for the Trust.

Sir Sebastian is the 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet and has a background in education and the arts. He is a descendant of both the founder Robert Lucas Chance and Sir James Timmins Chance.

David is an expert in Chance domestic glassware, having published two books on the subject. He is currently working on a book about the complete history of Chance Brothers.

Mark Davies, Chairman

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE DIRECTORS: Olivia Hewkin



Olivia joined the Trust in 2019. She currently works at The National Lottery Heritage Fund as an Investment Manager, a job which enables her to support organisations to access funding and deliver exciting community projects. She graduated in 2012 with an MA in Cultural Heritage Management and has worked across the sector ever since. She is now based in Cambridgeshire but travels back to the West Midlands regularly to attend board meetings and visit her family.

*I grew up in the Black Country and being a Director at the Chance Heritage Trust means that I have the opportunity to give back to the places that raised me.*

*I believe in the power of community, and that that looking after our heritage is key to transforming where we live. Since working with the Trust I have seen how much people respect and treasure the Chance Glassworks and the influence they had on Smethwick. The Glassworks was more than a workplace – it was like a family for so many people. It's this feeling that we want to bring back to the site, so people can feel proud of it again.*



## LIGHTHOUSE COMPETITION

We are on the lookout for creative individuals to join our first Lighthouse Art Competition.

The competition is open for all age groups and any medium of art can be used: from painting to drawing, poetry to music.

### Competition guidelines:

1. Theme of the competition: Lighthouse

2. You can design your art using any medium: photos, paint, chalk, pastels, quilting, knitting, poetry, music etc.

3. Age groups are as follows:

- ▷ Under 5 years old with help
- ▷ 5–10 years old with help
- ▷ 5–10 years old independent
- ▷ 11–16 years old
- ▷ Over 16 years



4. Email your art to [info@chanceht.org](mailto:info@chanceht.org) including the following details:

- ▷ Subject line: Lighthouse Art Competition
- ▷ Name of the participant, location and age group
- ▷ Your artwork attached

5. The last date of submission is 6th July.

Entries will be judged based on the participants originality, creativity and relevance to the theme.

**Prizes:** The winner of each age group will receive a £25 Amazon gift voucher.

**Winners** will be announced on 25th July.

All entries will be uploaded on Chance Heritage Trust's Facebook page. Get the support of your friends by sharing your artwork on social media with the hashtag

**#LighthouseArtCompetition**

## AUSTRALIAN LIGHTHOUSES

An interesting website was discovered by Brendan Jackson, author of *Keeper of the Light*, who kindly shared it for us. Click this link for more details:

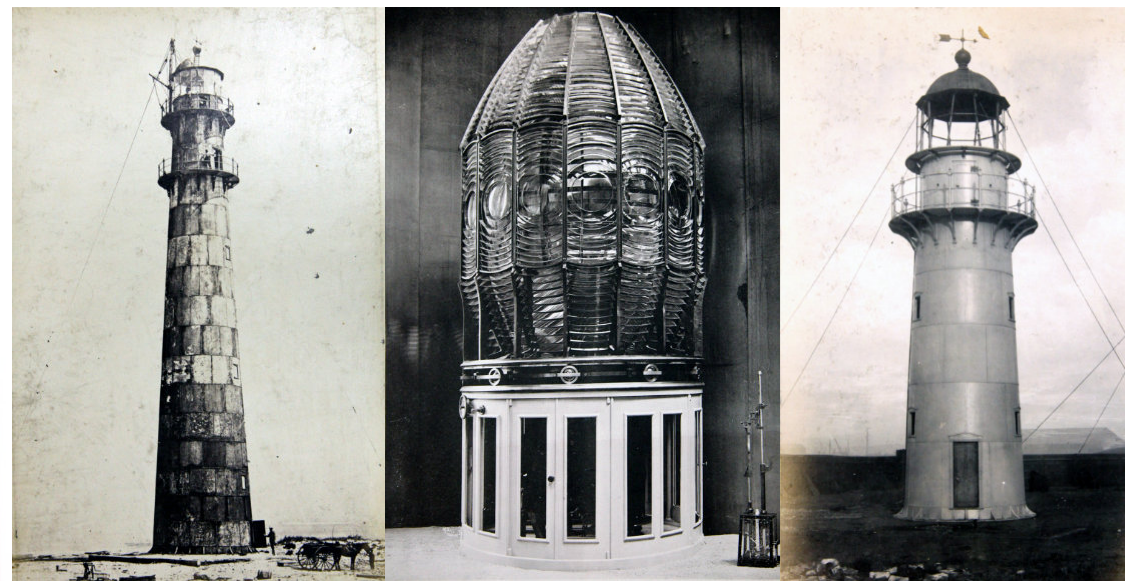
[https://www.operations.amsa.gov.au/lighthouses/?\\_ga=2.96914399.1142680350.1592809379-1273970177.1592809379](https://www.operations.amsa.gov.au/lighthouses/?_ga=2.96914399.1142680350.1592809379-1273970177.1592809379)

This shows all the major lighthouse installations around the Australian coast and, of course, most were built by Chance Brothers. According to *Mirror for Chance*, The total number of Chance-built lighthouses in Australia numbers 319, although this does not include minor installations.

Brendan also forwarded three original photos of Australian lighthouses that he had discovered in the mines of Sandwell Library (all photos provided courtesy of).



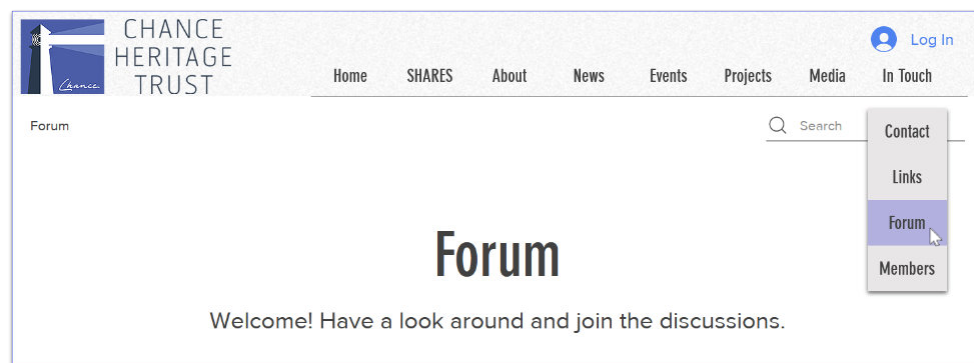
From left: Point Moore, Macquarie Head, Jarman Island



## NEW PUBLIC FORUM

As readers can probably appreciate, we do receive many requests for ancestry tracing, although at present we simply do not have the facilities to help other than to put the word out.

The Trust has now decided that having its own forum will help people to get in touch with other members who either worked at Chances, or had relatives employed there. This also helps those who do not have an account with Facebook.



### Please Keep “In Touch”

Apart from ancestry, this forum will also provide a means for people to discuss any manner of subjects about the glassworks, the history, the people, the products it produced, and so on.

So rather than use Facebook, which has a relatively linear approach to posting thoughts and questions, why not give our new Forum a whirl?

The Forum can be accessed via the Chance Heritage Trust website at this web address: [www.chanceht.org/forum](http://www.chanceht.org/forum), or go to the new ‘In Touch’ tab and then choose ‘Forum’.

During the early stages it will be a little quiet until more people join in and submit posts, but we are hoping that it will become a thriving part of our mutual interest in Chance Brothers.

## The “Festival” Rolled Plate Texture, 1951

For the Festival of Britain a number of companies were tasked with producing patterns that emulated crystallography. This initiative was first mooted by Dr Helen Megaw back in 1946 for the Festival Pattern Group.

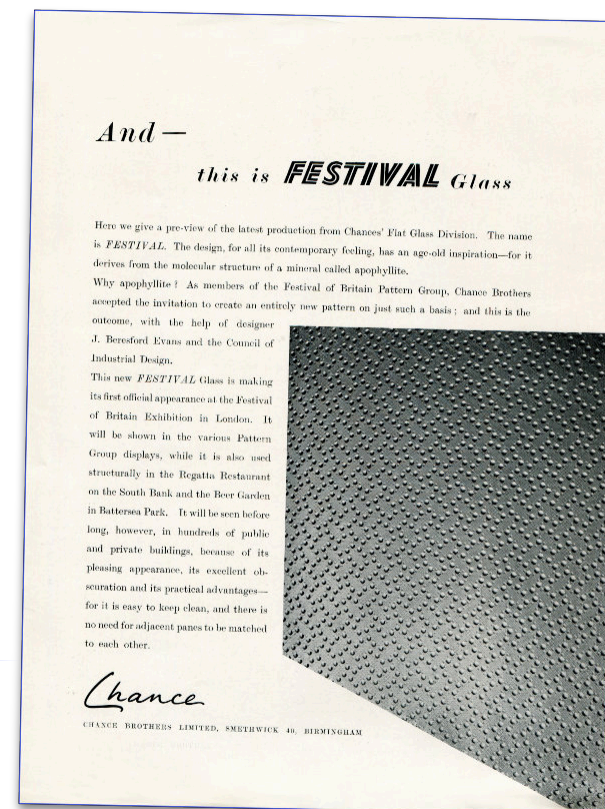
The idea was that the crystalline shapes as seen under a microscope would produce patterns that could be used on all manner of items, although textiles and fabrics were the most popular choice. This would start a move towards the free-flowing designs of the early 1950s.

Just Wood Bros. and Chance tackled designs in glass and Chance’s contribution was a new rolled plate texture, based on the molecular structure *apophyllite* and appropriately named Festival. The designer is shown on the leaflet (below) as Dr Beresford-Evans, a Chance employee. However, as noted in the January 1952 issue of Chance Comments, “*Sadie Speight’s pimple pattern*” was much admired at the Building Trades Exhibition of the previous year.

So is this the same pattern? Quite possibly. The leaflet is not clear, but it quotes the pattern as arriving, “*with the help of J. Beresford Evans and the Council of Industrial Design*”, the latter of which Sadie was involved with through its Design Research Unit. Sadie was also the wife of Leslie Martin who worked with Sir Hugh Casson who was the architect of the Festival of Britain.

Leslie Martin would eventually be knighted and Sadie became Lady Martin – not the first time that a titled designer would become associated with Chance Brothers!

See next issue for details about Lady Margaret Casson’s contribution to Chance Brothers



# NEWS

## Social Media

Plenty of activity on our Facebook page! However, we now have our own ...

## New Chance Forum

Go to our website at [www.chanceht.org/forum](http://www.chanceht.org/forum) and browse the topics.

Anyone can join and we look forward to meeting you there! See page 6.

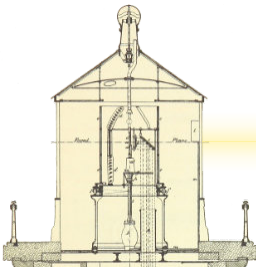
Contact [info@chanceht.org](mailto:info@chanceht.org) for more details.



## Coronavirus Update

A Powerpoint presentation of *A Brief History of Chance Brothers* is still scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> November for the Friends of Dudley Archive, so expect some fireworks! As it can be appreciated this, and any future event, could be affected due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation.

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



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

## the CHaT magazine

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