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Your Editors: **Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley**

LAST DATE FOR COPY for the November 2022 ISSUE is 1st October 2022

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(answerphone out of hours) Website: www.hassockspc.net. Parish Clerk - **Ian Cumberworth**

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HURSTPIERPOINT AND ADASTRA BOWLING clubs fought out their Annual Millennium Plate match, this time at Hurstpierpoint an encounter between the two clubs. As usual the match was hard fought throughout with Hurst always in front on all five rinks finally coming out on top by 119 – 73 shots.

The engraved plate being presented to the Hurst President Keith Jackson by Adastra President Barbara Hornby with the Hurst Captain Jenny Goodman in attendance. *Keith Jackson*


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THE LATE ANISAH COOPER After a night of noisy storm the sun came out to say a warm but sad goodbye to the lady we all knew as 'Anisah'.

Sha was a very popular lady in our Communities, a friendly and kind lady who gave a lot of her time and effort to helping others less fortunate than herself.

She had lived an interesting life albeit hard and dangerous in her early years in Germany as her book tells. An amazing book entitled 'Someone who cares' - how very apt is that for a special person.

Anisah loved singing and could sing various songs in her own German language - fascinating to hear.

Anisah has left us with some priceless memories among them being the Christmas concerts when Friends and Neighbours were thrilled to have her sitting on stage with them at the Adastra Hall. Everyone's favourite carol 'Silent Night' was dear to her heart for obvious reasons and she always sang the first verse alone in her German language - you could hear a pin drop in the hall as she sang - it was such an emotional moment. Everyone joined her for the remainder of the carol - She loved it and so did

our audiences - special moments!

We all send our sincere sympathies to her family and friends. Sleep tight Anisah. We shall never forget you.

Dorrie and F&N members

CHILDHELP HAS SOCKS SILVER ANNIVERSARY - 20th October. We have now been open and trading for 25 years, quite a milestone!

We would like to say a sincere thank you to all our customers and to all who continue to support us with donations.

As a locally based charity we are independent and operate with volunteers only. This has enabled us to help and support even more local children and families in East and West Sussex with varying needs and we will continue to do during these challenging times.

We are thrilled that our small shop continues to be a real "destination point" within the Hassocks community and for all the wonderful compliments we receive from our valued customers.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the near future.

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FAMILY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS on Sunday **30th October** at Danny Park, Hurstpierpoint. Get your tickets in advance for the best value.

Hurst Family Bonfire & Fireworks returns for its 25th evening. It will be celebrated with a spectacular display of fireworks from our regular firework maestros.

Families are again welcome to share the event to be held in Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. The event is organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club with assistance from Oldland Mill Trust and Friends of Hassocks Infant School and St. Lawrence PTA.

The Oldland Mill & the Gym Club, together with local schools in Albourne, Hassocks & three in Burgess Hill will benefit from your support.

The Hassocks will be running their ever-popular BBQ, so come and enjoy the evening.

In the event of bad weather please check **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk** for the up-to-date news on parking or postponement.

Take a 'Guy' to the Best Guy Competition before ten to six and one child will be given free admission.

For safety reasons - No private fireworks or sparklers etc.

Free parking on site (ground conditions permitting) Please allow extra time if you intend on parking in Danny. Food available on site. 5.30 pm Gates open. 6 pm Best Guy Competition Judging. Approx 6.30 pm Fireworks Display. Approx 6.50 pm. Bonfire lit with all

the Guys and the Best Guy on top.

Advance tickets prices are by far the best value - still unchanged at 2003 prices.

Children Under 3 or with a Guy are free (one Guy gives admittance to one child)

Children or adults (Advance ticket saves you £2)

Family ticket for up to two adults and three children (Advance ticket saves you £6)

Advance tickets will be available in Hurstpierpoint from Pierpoint Pets or Mishon Mackay and in Hassocks from QD Stationery.

Andrew Hair

NEWS FROM ADASTRA HALL - Adastra Hall is Hassocks' very own Community Centre and has this year celebrated being open 35 years. We have a new website - **adastrahall.com** and in the past couple of months we've done quite a lot to improve the hall: we've had Mascot Roofing refurbish the roof, we've had the floor sanded and varnished, and replaced all the lights for power-saving LED. Adastra Hall is a hive of activity, and we are now taking bookings in to 2023 - No matter what your occasion, consider Adastra Hall for your wedding, party, training course, meeting or class with rooms available. For availability - call Kay on **07764 531246** or email **bookings@adastrahall.co.uk**.

Chris Hobbs

*Deadline for November issue
is 1st October 2022*

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Tickets: £12.50 from Ditchling Post Office or online

www.boatmancryptics.co.uk/live-music.

HHD U3A CELEBRATES A TENTH BIRTHDAY

'Learn, laugh, live.' This u3a motto certainly caught the attention of some local people, as did its purpose, to provide opportunities for those no longer in full time work to come together and explore new ideas, skills and interests. A subsequent public meeting showed that the appeal resonated with many across the villages of Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint and Ditchling. Indeed, such was the enthusi-

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asm and support that it has carried HHDu3a through to its tenth anniversary. To mark the occasion members are having a celebration to catch up with old friends, to be entertained and to browse the displays from some of the HHDu3a groups providing physical activities such as walking and badminton, mind stretching language classes, board games and discussion groups. And much else. Members also come together for the Monthly Meeting, a Picnic in the Park or to listen to the Singers' Group.

In showcasing these activities HHDu3a is set on celebrating the past ten years and also inviting new people to join our groups, or even suggest new ones, and so help HHDu3a reach out into the next decade.

The event is on Friday **21st October**, 2 pm to 4 pm, at Hassock's Adastral Hall. All are welcome.

Jeremy Weinstein

OLDLAND WINDMILL KEYMER

www.oldlandwindmill.org.uk The Oldest Working Windmill in Sussex. Join us for our final 'Open Afternoon' of the year on Sunday **2nd October** 2 pm to 5 pm. The Mill will be run, weather permitting. Refreshments, tours of the mill and Memorabilia will be Available but no shuttle bus.

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*We thank Mr Falconer for this photograph of the old Orion Cinema
which was situated where Orion Parade is now.*

We are always looking for old photographs/postcards of Hassocks, Keymer, Ditchling, Westmeston, Hurstpierpoint, Albourne, Clayton, & Sayers Common.

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Our Newsletter and full information about ME and reMEMber can be found on our website – www.remembercfs.org.uk - or telephone **01273 831733** or e-mail me_cfs@hotmail.com

The latest Newsletter includes information about the NICE Guideline on CFS/ME, the launch of the report “Rethinking ME” at Parliament, long-covid and ME, and interesting articles by our members who have CFS/ME. We are planning a Zoom Conference for the afternoon of Saturday **19th November**. Our medical adviser, Dr Willy Weir, will speak about treatments that can help, Dr Charles Shepherd of the ME Association will cover “Hot ME Topics” and Dr Nina Muirhead will

tell us about her ME training programme for doctors. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting please e-mail me_cfs@hotmail.com with your contact details. *Janice Kent*

TOPSY-TURVY TEA Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Sussex afternoon tribute to Melvyn Tarran on Sunday **30th October** at 3 pm. Featuring Bruce Graham (ex-D’Oyly Carte) and Alexandra Hazard (National Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company) at Wivelsfield Village Hall.

For more details and booking contact: **Topsy-turvytea2022@gmail.com**. *Pennie*

STAR CINEMA The Star Cinema will be showing Downton Abbey - A New Era on Friday **21st October**. Tickets on the door (cash only please). The doors open at 7 pm and the film starts at 7.30 pm. Wine, tea, coffee plus the usual popular raffle. The Star team look forward to welcoming you. *Liz Edmunds*

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022 – AUTUMN SEASON Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf) takes the theme of “Transition” this year, and will be presenting seven different performances for you to enjoy between **19th and 23rd October**. Full information and booking details can be found at <https://www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/> but here is a brief listing:-

Wednesday **19th October**, St Martin’s Church BN2 3HQ: Over the Sea to Skye with Ensemble Hesperis - the real music of the popular drama Outlander, including songs of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion and 18th-century melodies from the Highlands.

Thursday **20th October**, St George’s Church BN2 1ED: Masterclass for Young Singers. See and hear emerging solo singers and vocal ensembles put through their paces by Alena Dantcheva, soprano and Michele Pasotti, theorbo – members of the Italian ensemble La Fonte Musica.

Friday **21st October**, St George’s Church: In Rime Sparse il Suono. Airs and laments by Sigismondo d’India, with Alena Dantcheva and Michele Pasotti - a rare chance to hear dramatic music by Monteverdi’s acclaimed contemporary,

Saturday **22nd October** – a big day with three events: 3 pm, St George’s Church: BREMF Live! - a showcase

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of short programmes by this year’s emerging ensembles of young professionals; 7.30pm, St Martin’s Church: Inspiring Bach with Spiritato and The Marian Consort - profound and uplifting cantatas, collected and admired by JS Bach himself. This is music from the very soul of the 17th century, crowned with soaring melodies and the glorious sound of trumpets and drums; 9.00pm, The Rose Hill BN1 4JL: BREMF Live! Clubnight featuring the BREMF Live! ensembles in a pub setting.

Sunday **23rd October**, St Martin’s Church: Les Lullistes contre les Ramoneurs with Ensemble Molière and Angela Hicks, soprano and Kieran White, haute-contre – a theatrical programme of exquisite French music.

Public booking opened in early September. Tickets can be booked on the BREMF website, or you can request a postal booking form by ringing **07958 790173**.

The Festival is committed to widening access and is again offering restricted view or standing “Prom” tickets to most events. Half price tickets are available for young people (aged 12-25 inclusive) and those in receipt of Universal Credit (or equivalent benefits) or Pension Credit. Children under 12 are entitled to free tickets, when occupying the same seating area as their accompanying adult.

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HASSOCKS GOES GOLD
SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 2022

This year has been a bit trickier for growing sunflowers with the lack of rain and hungry slugs, but despite this we had some very impressive entries from around the village. The winners were announced on 1st September to mark the start of this year's Hassocks Goes Gold campaign led by Rachel BartlettBundy.

Marilyn Cohen grew the tallest flower at an amazing 404cm with second place going to Clare Brittain at 307cm. We also awarded 4 runners up places to sisters Lara and Skye, Linda and granddaughter Summer, Quentin Browning and Kelly Foley. We were particularly delighted to see photos of bees enjoying the sunflowers in keeping with this year's Hassocks Goes Gold theme.

Many thanks to Matt Burnett of Maple Leaf Gardens who kindly sponsored the event, enabling us to make sure that money raised through Hassocks Goes Gold goes directly to improved care and research for childhood cancer. If you have been enjoying the gold bows around the village and the many events organised during September but have not had a chance to donate you can go to

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/HassocksGoes-Gold2022 to do so. Every penny is really appreciated! Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition this year, it has been lovely to see so many sunflowers around the village again.

Rachel Barton



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GROUPS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Youth Group @ St Francis Church We have 2 groups running every Thursday during term time.

School years 4 to 6 meet 5 pm to 6.30 pm and school years 7 to 13 meet 7 pm to 8.30 pm. Entry costs are very small and optional extra upgrade for tuck is available. We have free time which includes pool, table tennis, games consoles, table football, board games, air hockey and outdoor spaces are used. We then run an activity followed by free time again and we finish off the night with circle time where everyone gets to have a chance to speak and end with a pray to finish off our night.

Messy Church - Is a Churches Together event that runs every fourth Saturday in line with the village market (date changes for December). We meet in Hassocks URC 9.30 am for breakfast followed at 10 am by story, celebration and crafts.

The Next Messy Church is **22nd October**.

Toast Club - Held at the Powell House next door to the United Reform Church in Hassocks every Monday during term time 3 pm to 5 pm for school year 7 to 11. Activities include pool, table football, uno, wii console and toast. BBT (Bumps, Babies and Toddlers) - A group for play and chat held every Thursday in St. Francis Church Hall, Priory Road, Hassocks from 1 pm to 2.30 pm.

Hug in a mug! - A coffee (and cake!) morning for all. Held at St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer every Monday at 10.30 am and at Clayton Church Hall, Clayton every Tuesday at 10.30 am.

Hassocks Food Bank - Held at the Powell House next door to the United Reform Church in Hassocks from 10 am to 12 pm every Monday and Friday.

Donations very welcome! Collection points for donations are Bella and Meg's, Mansell McTaggart and Budgens in Hassocks.

Gary Pickett

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THE YEAR AHEAD AT THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL

After a much-needed summer break, we are extremely excited to be welcoming our children back in September. Our focus on providing the very best learning opportunities possible remains sharp and we will continue to build upon our successful OFSTED outcome last academic year. To continue to realise our vision of ensuring all children achieve academic success and gain skills for lifelong learning.

This year promises to be another exciting year. We are now back in full swing, following all the disruption that COVID brought to us and the limitations it imposed upon the way in which we were able to teach. During our teacher training days at the beginning of the term, the teachers focused on enhancing our curriculum still further and finding ways to provide the most motivating and engaging ways for children to learn. With all of the restrictions gone, it re-opens some exciting doors for teachers to use all of their creativity and imagination to positively engage children in learning – making learning memorable so that it becomes embedded. With trips and off-site visits to the local area back on the table from the summer term of last year, we are sure that you will see our children out and about in the village and surrounding area. We were also able to hold our first annual Sports day for several years during the summer term – this was fantastic. It brings the whole school community together for an afternoon.

It was so good to see everyone enjoying the sunshine and cheering the children on.

We are very proud of our school; our strong curriculum offer, the way in which we teach and the superb behaviour of the children. We have high expectations and aspirations for all. We will continue to build on all of the successes from the last academic years by ensuring our curriculum continually evolves and goes from strength to strength. This year our fantastic teachers will be working on further developing their leadership skills so that every subject in the school is being pushed forward. We are determined that all children experience a full curriculum where every subject is seen as equally important, providing them with a firm foundation in all subjects and preparing them for their next steps in education.

Leila Murray

HURSTPIERPOINT CHRISTMAS

FAIR organised by Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club will be held at the Village Centre, Hurstpierpoint on Friday **25th November** from 6 pm to 9 pm and on Saturday **26th November** from 9.30 am to 1 pm.

Entry is free and there will be a wide range of stalls selling a variety of Christmas gift ideas. Cards, advent calendars, craft kits, pottery, knitted crafts, jewellery and much more will be available.

Rebecca



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WASPS Legendary protest singer Woody Guthrie had the slogan 'This Machine Kills Fascists' emblazoned across his guitar. The lead singer of John Peel's beloved Half Man Half Biscuit had 'This Machine Kills Wasps' across his. Fascists and wasps. Equally hated and despised. But while one are a bunch of loathsome invertebrates that should be slapped every time they start to agitate us, I have to confess I have some empathy towards the wasps.

The wasps' world was created way back in April. A single pregnant queen emerged from her winter-long hibernation, flew, fed and founded a new colony. She single-handedly constructed 30 hexagonal homes from chewed-up wood, laid an egg in each and lovingly tended to her new babies which, when grown, became her workers. Through sheer determination, spit and sawdust they enlarged the colony, constructing an impressive, suspended structure. Other workers collected food – caterpillars, flies, spiders – to feed the now-flightless Queen as she produced more eggs.

June was the golden age of the Empire. The colony swelled to almost 6000 wasps. There was a real buzz about the place. An entire self-contained Utopian society in matching yellow and black uni-

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forms working together to serve their illustrious leader. Inside the dome, the temperature was maintained at 32 degrees. When the temperature rose on hot days, the workers united and the whole colony whirred their wings creating a community-powered air-conditioning unit.

But dark rumours started. The Queen was becoming crazy for power. Workers' eggs were being destroyed to ensure only the Queen's offspring were raised. She had started to create other Queens in her image. With no more workers being born, work levels in the colony increased. The wasps were slaves to a tyrant.

Then came the news. The Queen is dead. Her mesmerizing hold over every wasp was lost. Revolution! The virgin Queens fled to mate, hibernate and start a new colony next year. Meanwhile the colony falls into anarchy. Paper walls are torn down, the temperature plummets. Rome burns. There is fighting and cannibalism. Those that stay face death from cold and starvation. One wasp manages to escape. Alone, betrayed by his leader, without family, without purpose he is confused and lost in an unfamiliar world. Like so many he turns to alcohol to quieten his pain and the fermented fallen fruits of Autumn provide temporary relief. Intoxicated

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and hungry he stumbles around searching for sugar.

And now in his dying days he bumps into us: giant creatures with sweet drinks and snacks. Our reaction to this 15mm political refugee? To swat him away with rolled up copies of The Daily Mail. So, this Autumn, have some sympathy for the lowly wasp.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guidebook, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

Michael Blencowe

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

October includes the first Generosity Week (**Sunday 9th to Sunday 16th October**) to be held in the Parish. At the time of going to press, details were still being finalised but do join us for a range of worship and social activities. See our

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website www.beaconparish.co.uk/services
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There will be a 10 am. service of Morning Praise at St. Margaret's, Ditchling on **Sundays 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th October**. On Sunday **16th October** our Morning Praise will be at St. Martin's, Westmeston at 10 am. and will be a celebration of Harvest.

Wednesday @ 10 am services of Holy Communion will take place on **5th, 12th and 19th October** at St. Margaret's. Do come and join us for our friendly SING! session on Wednesday **5th October** at 6 pm in St. Margaret's to sing some favourite worship songs and learn some new ones. Everyone is very welcome.

Our Sunday services are normally live streamed and can be found via the Beacon Parish TV button on our website <https://www.beaconparish.co.uk/> where details of any changes or additions to our list of services can also be found.

Sherrian Guest

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HURST RETHINK COMMUNITY JUMBLE TRAIL - Autumn dates

After the huge success of the first Jumble Trail in April and at the request of the lovely people of Hurst, Hurst Rethink Community are pleased to announce, "The Big Hurst Autumn Jumble Trail 2022." This time around the jumble trail will take place over two weekends: Sunday **2nd October** and Sunday **9th October** from 10 am until 2 pm.

People who live to the west of Cuckfield Road will be invited to set out stalls on Sunday **2nd October** and people who live to the east of Cuckfield Road will take part on Sunday **9th October**.

The changes from the last Trail have been made based on feedback we received, splitting the trail over two Sundays to enable more residents to take part, both as jumblers with their own stall and jumblees! We are going to offer a community space, hopefully The Village Green, for families who are isolated as Jumblers on their own road. Court Bushes toilet facilities would be open on both trail days, for people in the northern part of the village, as well as both facilities on Trinity Road and South Lane Rec.

This time St Peter and St James Hospice Distribution Centre on the Albourne Road are offering a free collection of any unsold jumble at the end of each Trail to help their Charity. If you would like to take advantage of this please email Emily direct at ecronin@stpjhospice.org.

Printed versions of the final lists of those taking part will be available to pick up from the Library, Surgery, PC Office, St Peter and St James Distribution Center and many shops on the High Street. There will also be a QR Code to scan and a link to take people to the interactive Google map, specific to each Trail.

There is also detailed information on the website, www.hurstrethink.org.

We really hope that lots of families get involved and look forward to seeing you for the jumble trail!

Hurst Rethink Community Team



Hurst Rethink Community

THE BIG HURST JUMBLE TRAIL AUTUMN 2022

< **WEST of Cuckfield Road**
2nd October 10 - 2pm

> **EAST of Cuckfield Road**
9th October 10 - 2pm

Jumblers
To register, email your address and postcode by the 18th of September for West and East to hurstjumbletrail@gmail.com

Jumblees
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DITCHLING PLAYERS - November production (**23rd to 26th November**) I'm sure many of you will be familiar with the term "gaslighting" but did you know that the word originated from a play whose author was born in Hassocks? In 1904 Patrick Hamilton was born in Hassocks before his family moved to Hove where he spent his early years. He became a novelist and playwright and his plays included 'Gaslight'.

After our audition in August, I'm pleased to say that the play is fully cast and, as you read this, rehearsals are well under way. 'Gaslight' is a thriller set in London in the late 1880's and is full of suspense and intrigue, just right for those dark November nights. Bella Manningham is becoming increasingly concerned, not only by her husband's frequent absence but also by strange things that are occurring in their home. Is Bella going mad or is there a much more obvious answer one which may be answered by the arrival of a detective, and how will it all end? To find out you'll have to come along and join us at Ditchling Village Hall where all will be revealed

As with our Spring production there will not only be the evening performances from Wednesday (23rd) to Saturday (26th) but also

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a matinee on the Saturday with Curtain up at 7.30 pm and 2.30 pm. Tickets are available from The White Horse, Ditchling (cash only) and online at ditchlingplayers.org.uk (a booking fee applies to online purchases).

David Tattersell

TREFOIL GUILD On 17th August a fish and chips supper was enjoyed by all members!

Our September meeting was held at The Bull, Shermanbury. We played skittles and celebrated 10 years of the Guild.

Our **19th October** meeting will be our Fundraising Event. Speaker from St Peter and St James Hospice. Raffle and cakes for sale! We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. Visitors welcome. Call **07546 495433**.

Pam

HELP DOES ANYONE HAVE A COPY OF IAN NELSON'S BOOK, "Hurstpierpoint – kind and charitable" for sale, please?

I've recently moved to Hurst and would like to read about its history and how it's come to be the welcoming community it is today. Please email me at

barnabywe@gmail.com. *Wendy Barnaby*



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You are all welcome to our AGM which will be held here at the Centre on Wednesday **12th October** at 2 pm.

NEW !! Bingo on a Wednesday morning at 11 am - come along and have a go - all welcome. Lunches - We serve lunches on weekdays in our dining room - available. Free Wi-Fi available - come and have a coffee whilst you browse!

Please do call us on **01273 844461** to book a place. Do let us know by 10 am on the day at the latest. Our Menu is always on our website. If you need help with transport to come for lunch, we may be able to collect you in our minibus, do enquire in the office. Our Coffee Shop is open from 9.am-3pm serving refreshments. Our Charity shop and Coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings 9 am to 11.45 am.

Volunteers - Can you drive a Minibus? Do you have a D1? If so, we need you! We would like to put the bus on more days especially for the winter season looming not too far away, if you can help, please do give us a call or come into the office for a chat. We would also need volunteer escorts too who would help our members on and off the bus safely.

If you are new to the area or just haven't had the time to come in and have a look around, please do call in and we will give you a tour and a nice cuppa. Our aim is to combat loneliness and improve your social time, there is al-



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ways someone here to talk to. We look forward to welcoming you. We have a Charity shop open daily, come and have a browse.

All at Age Concern

THE HURSTPIERPOINT NSPCC committee recently held a jazz concert at Danny by very kind permission from Richard Burrows. Julie Roberts, vocals, Michael Hinton on the piano and Herbie Flowers on the guitar and the tuba gave the packed audience a very enjoyable afternoon.

The committee provided lovely canapes with the help of a few friends in the interval. The afternoon raised £1,075 which was a very good result. Thanks also to the shops for providing some of the raffle prizes.

Thank you to all the committee and friends who worked hard to put this event on. It was well worth it.

Jo Marshall



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HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We are a very friendly society, and we have regular meetings with excellent guest speakers who give illustrated presentations on a wide variety of subjects with historical or geographical themes. However, our membership is dropping because of retirement etc and we urgently need new members. We particularly would like to meet people who have recently moved to this area, and people in Hassocks, Albourne and Sayers Common who are interested in local history etc. Please get in touch with me – contact details below.

We usually meet on the last Friday evening of each month, September to May inclusive, and our meetings usually take place in the in the Guide Hall next to Trinity Road car park. But please note that our next meeting will be held on Friday **7th October** in the Methodist Chapel in Cuckfield Road, Hurst at 7.45 pm. There will be a presentation called “The Ti-

Gogga 

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tanic, One Man’s Journey” by Rob Goldsmith, one of the few people who has actually dived down to the Titanic.

On **28th October** Paul Green (ex-Argus) will give a talk called “A Step Back in Time” – things that made the news in Sussex from 1880 onwards; and on **25th November** the subject will be “The Art of the Goldsmith” by Anton Pruden of Pruden and Smith, Goldsmiths and Jewellers of Ditchling.

Our annual outing next year will be to St Mary’s House and Garden in Bramber.

One or two volunteers to help run our society would be greatly appreciated. This doesn’t involve a lot of work. So why not come along to our meeting on **7th October** and find out more about us? Or if you would like to know more beforehand contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail

w.kent123@btinternet.com.

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DOWNSFEST 2022 It is with great sadness that Downsfest will no longer be held again. The Downsfest ambition was to bring entertainment to the community in a festival environment supporting local acts and giving the opportunity of a 'Glastonbury' experience whilst raising funds for St Peter and St James Hospice.

Downsfest is a self-funding scheme and was run by a core team of three, who have collectively dedicated over 3100 hours of their own time, planning and organising the 2022 event. In 2019, the festival ran at a loss, but we decided to try once again, as well as fundraising for St Peter and St James Hospice. In 2019, we gave £1000 to the hospice and this year we managed to raise funds to pay for a days' nursing at the hospice.

Downsfest fixed costs were over £30,000 to put on! Sadly, the ticket sales failed to cover these costs. We did not take anything ourselves for the 3100 hours we collectively spent putting it on, in contradiction to some social media posts.

We sought sponsorship widely and had some great sponsors but not at the level needed for such a big undertaking. We did extensive research in the area and Downsfest was one of

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the cheapest events to attend in the locality, especially with the full day onstage music performances and circus program once inside.

We have realised we have achieved something amazing with Downsfest 2022. Here are a few examples of feedback from our festival-goers: "A fantastic local family-friendly music festival", "Great comedy in your backyard, what's not to like", "A real gem of a festival. Friendly, fun and a string of brilliant local acts," "Amazing local musical talent in a great location", "We had the best day at DownsFest! Who knew what amazing local musical talent we have! Loved every minute".

I am so proud and sincerely grateful to all the help and support given by my Downsfest team: Kelly and Nick who were my backbone, and to Sarah as stage manager and Phil, music director and photographer Chris. Also thank you to all the volunteers that helped over the two days.

Michelle Binks

THANK YOU We would like to say thank you to Mrs Watkins who has been delivering your magazines in Kings Drive & Queens Drive for many years. Many thanks for all your help.

Editors

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Diddie Smith (Infant Champions)

GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONS – 2022

Each year Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club recognise the achievements of their gymnasts and award gold and silver medals to the gymnasts who have passed the most agilities than any others of their age group.

After completing the British Gymnastics' Core Proficiency awards, the gymnasts move on to the Advanced Proficiency in Sports Acrobatic Pairs, the Floor & the Vault. Each scheme graduated from Bronze, through Silver to Gold.

The silver cup for the Top Infant was presented to Diddie Smith. The Top Junior was Emilia Barker, while the Top Senior was Chloe Wright. The Top Boys were Connall Currie and Thomas Radford.

This year's full roll of honour is :- Year 1 –



Emilia Barker - (Junior Champion)

Rosie Jones & Imogen Bailey, Year 2 – Diddie Smith & Daisy Gigney, Year 3 – Maya Muncaster & Matilda Dhanda, Year 4 – Layla Whipp & Jessica Jones, Year 5 – Grace Nicholls & Elitha McKenna, Year 6 – Emilia Barker & Chloe Longley, Year 7 – Darcy Ganpatsingh, Year 8 – Isabel Faulkner & Grace Balcombe, Year 9 – Esme Graham-Evans & Maddie Harrild, Year 10 - Bea West & Layla Leschinsky, Year 11 – Chloe Wright.

More details of the Club can be found at **www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk**

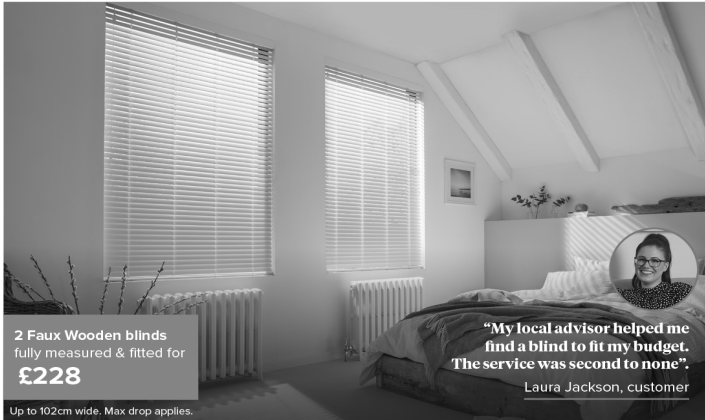
There are currently vacancies for pre-school children who have passed their third birthday. Parents of older children interested in joining should contact the Club to find the up-to-date position.

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HASSOCKS WI Meet Adastra Hall 3rd Monday in the month. Doors open 7.30 pm start 7.45 pm.

No official meeting in August but members certainly got out and about. We enjoyed a well-attended picnic in the park. Some members went to a matinee performance at Chichester Theatre. The Arty group had an interesting talk by artist Stephanie Smart whose exhibition 'The Regency Wardrobe', has been at Worthing Museum and Brighton Pavilion. Each piece is constructed in paper, inspired by historical events and stories during the Regency era. We also went to see the Sistine Chapel ceiling reproduction at the English Martyrs Catholic Church in Goring.

We enjoyed an evening meal at Aroma, fabulous food and finally some of us visited High Weald Dairy, Horsted Keynes, artisan cheese makers. There were lots of tasting samples, 'Sister Sarah' goats cheese was my favourite. Thank you Iris, Jayne and Marie for organising these events. More outings for members are shown on our noticeboard. Check it out.

Our October evening promises fun, we have a visit from a caricature artist. Craft club Monday **3rd October** at 2 pm in the Green Room. Come along, a friendly welcome to visitors (donation) and we hope you become new members.
Gerry

HASSOCKS COMMUNITY ENERGY FAIR Wednesday **5th October**, Adastra Hall, 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

Speakers from local Community Renewable Energy Projects.

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STONEYWISH Here are some thoughts about cows. First an account which innocently exemplifies what one might call the rational, scientific approach. It comes from a ten year-old child's essay: "Describe a bird or an animal", quoted by Rupert Hart-Davis in his commonplace book. After an abortive start, the author candidly admits: "I do not know much about the owl so I will go on to the beast which I am going to choose. It is the cow. The cow is a mammal. It has six sides - right, left, an upper and below. At the back it has a tail on which hangs a brush. With this it sends the flies away so that they do not fall into the milk. The head is for the purpose of growing horns and so that the mouth can be somewhere. The horns are to butt with and the mouth is to moo with. Under the cow hangs the milk. It is arranged for milking. When people milk the milk comes and there is no end to the supply. How the cow does it I have not yet realised, but it makes more and more. The cow has a fine sense of smell. One can smell it far away this is the reason for the fresh air in the country. The male cow is called an ox. It is not a mammal. The cow doesn't eat much, but what it eats it eats

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twice so that it gets enough. When it is hungry it moos, and when it says nothing, it is because its inside is all full up with grass."

We all know this cow. It is a machine of useful, if limited design. It belongs in a modern dairy where its net productivity can be measured and set against its cost effectiveness, its protein content and its carbon hoof-print - an object which may be further reduced to sets of data and finally dispensed with altogether if a better model can be produced. This cow has nothing to say which can be heard or understood in an age of Progress. Progress has seen fit to denigrate it as a dumb beast, then to exploit it as an industrial component and finally to condemn it as a threat to life and health. But this has not always been the way. As the Indian environmentalist Vandana Shiva points out, a free cow, living on her natural diet does not smell. Look closer and you will find that it is greed, and the twin betrayals of life imprisonment and synthetic 'food', which produce the stink. Spend time with a cow, if you can find one. She has a liquid eye, slow breath, time, endless time for rumination. She is curious, deep, and, like an elephant, full of wisdom. When

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When one of our calves on the farm accidentally drowned some years ago, the mother and her companion cows, stood together at the site for several days in a ritual of mourning that was humbling in its dignity and beauty. Of course, we know that cows are sacred in India, but they were once considered sacred by all peoples with a pastoral tradition. The White Cow appears in mythology as a mother symbol of fertility and abundance. Like the milking-goat whose horn was the cornucopia, (the horn of plenty), she was worshipped across much of the ancient world. Robert Graves tracks the spread of her cult in his study of the Greek Myths. As Io, the white moon-cow, she skipped her way in a gadfly dance from the shores of the Ionian Sea, around the Black Sea to the Caucasus and back via Thrace, Asia Minor, India and Arabia, to Ethiopia. Finally, she travelled down the Nile to Egypt, Libya, and Greece where she was claimed by Hera, Queen of Heaven. Io can be glimpsed in

the moon-goddess legends of many cultures and was also linked with Astarte, Isis and Kali. Today, in traditional pastoral communities, households still venerate their cattle as members of their own extended families. The house-cow represents wealth, health and security, but significantly more. She holds up a mirror to the human heart. In cultures where the dominant feelings are those of gratitude and reverence, her role is that of honoured friend. In cultures dominated by fear and greed, she becomes a mere tool for profit. Her ways are thought too slow. Her wisdom seems irrelevant. Yet, in her native state, a cow is a 'plant-based' miracle - the greenest and cleanest of animals, embodying the spirit of regeneration. Alive, she is a life-bringer, not only to her own offspring, but to all who can thrive on her gifts of milk, butter, cheese, yoghurt. With her intelligent grazing skills, she maintains a balance between pasture, soil, and all the life-forms which depend

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upon them. She provides manure for the ground, warmth for the stable (and for the house too if you live in Tibet!) beauty for the eye - poetry for the soul. She teaches patience and when she dies, she gives her meat, her bones, her horns and hide as precious materials to be cherished and used. Every part of her finally goes back to replenish the earth from which she came. She can live locally, even in cities, (there were dairy cows in Hyde Park in 1910!) thus dispensing with food miles. Her raw milk contains lactase, the enzyme which helps to make dairy digestible, and which is destroyed during pasteurization. Can she really be the same creature as that global menace we are advised avoid? Which animal is real? In Celtic legend the fairy cow gave a pail of milk to all who needed it, until a witch came along and milked the cow into a sieve. This violation milked the cow dry, and thereafter there was no more milk and the people went hungry. It seems the question this beast asks us is: what do we want from life? If the answer is an unending MORE, the demands we make on our cattle will break them and break us too. A cow as industrial unit becomes a mere bio-lab for pathogens and pollution. Its intensively produced milk and meat will deliver little but indigestion. Its slurry is noxious. It consumes fossil fuel and produces greenhouse gas. It will destroy the planet. Before you know it, this cow has turned into a scapegoat. No longer inspiring love or awe, she fills us with alarm and fear. Yet, disturbing as she and her sisters are, the mad cow, the foot-and-mouth cow, the methane cow are only the first in a long line of other culprits. Behind them come chickens and poultry, migrating birds... Who is next? According to the current global narrative of doom, our fellow human beings may also be viewed as undesirable rivals, disease-bearers, resource-users. Surplus to requirement. Riven by suspicion and fear, all sense of belonging falls apart. Perhaps the world's surviving peasants and pastoralists, many of whom live cheek-by-jowl with genuine hunger can show us a better way. Before we dispense with the mirror of our hearts, is it worth seeing what would happen if we gave up on dread and instead cultivated the attitude of affection and trust towards life that was once our birth right? This would not make us invulnerable, but it just might restore a capacity for joy. We do not have to sour everything with dissatisfaction or milk plenty into a sieve. A crofter's life in the Western Isles was once fraught with peril.

For those caught between the storm and the wolf at home, and the marauding Dane across the sea, the one thing certain was hardship. And yet the Hebridean songs which survive from those 6th century days radiate a surprising warmth and hope and love of life. Every hearth and cradle and barn, even the milk churns and the threshing flails had their own protective blessings and incantations. Simply milking the cow was an act of devotion: "My speckled heifer will give me her milk,/ And her female calf before her./ Ho my heifer! Heifer! Heifer!/ Ho my heifer! Kindly, calm,/ My heifer gentle, gentle, beloved,/ Thou art the love of thy mother."

Across the world in South Africa, the Xhosa people celebrate kinship with their cattle same way. A Xhosa chant goes: "To milk the cow is to praise the hand of God that moves before us/ To feed the cow is to worship the spirit that breathes within us/ To kill the cow is to accept the darkness within us/ To spurn the cow is to spurn the gift of God that gives us life/ Milk the cow and feel the rhythm that beats inside us/ Touch the cow and feel the spirit that breathes within us/ Kill the cow and feel the sorrow that lies before us..."

The Old English for cattle, 'kine', has links to the Old Teutonic word for 'brotherhood' and suggests a shared origin with the verbal root for 'kin'. For us, recovering kinship with all that sustains us might be a saving thing. In the Narrative of Doom, the Earth itself is demoted from loving mother to dysfunctional machine. How long before she too is deemed no longer fit for purpose? My hope is that before that happens, we will remember our family ties and heal the rifts. Singing to the earth – now that might be a start!

Rosemary



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BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK As a midwife, I am acutely aware that not every pregnancy ends happily. Baby loss awareness week is an opportunity to recognise the wide variety of experiences, to remember the little ones who are no longer here, and to offer recognition and support to those who mourn their loss.

Baby Loss Awareness week is **9th to 15th October**. The week concludes with the international Wave of Light. From 7 to 8 pm local time, across the world, people will light candles in an act of remembrance.

As in previous years, I plan to host an event with Father Alex at Keymer Church.

The event will be on Saturday **15th October** from 6.45 pm to 8 pm. It is open to everyone, whatever your experience of baby loss, however long ago, whatever the circumstances and whatever your religion or beliefs. We aim for

this to be a truly inclusive event.

During the service there will be the opportunity to light a candle and to share the name of the baby/babies you are remembering if you wish. If you are unable to attend but would like your baby or babies included, please get in touch and I will be honoured to speak their names and to light a candle on your behalf. My email is angie@walkingwithyou.org.uk

The evening is one of quiet reflection and acknowledgement. At the end of the Wave of Light hour we invite you to stay for light refreshments.

It is an informal event, but it would be helpful to have some idea how many people intend to come along so would appreciate bookings through our Eventbrite page <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wave-of-light-2022-keymer-west-sussex-tickets-410476033867?aff=HKT>.

Angie Bowles

WEATHER LORE – FACT OR FICTION

an illustrated talk by Ian Currie, Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and editor of Weather Eye.

Hurstpierpoint Horticultural Society. 7.45 pm Tuesday **11th October** in the club room Hurstpierpoint Village Centre.

Kathy Green

Any articles for the November Issue

can be sent to:

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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER ~~~

Clubs, Societies & Groups please let us have your programmes and/or events to **PUBLISH FREE** in this section. Email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk or send to **QD Stationery 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR**. For more information call **01273 846978**.

WEEKLY MEETING

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK, Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks. 10 am to 12 noon. Monday and Fridays.

TOAST CLUB Powell House (next to United Reformed Church) Hassocks. Mondays (term time only) 3 to 5 pm. for School Years 7 to 11. Pool, table football, uno, Wii Console and toast.

HUG IN A MUG St Comas and St Damian Church, Keymer. Monday 10.30 am (excl. Aug 29th)

HUG IN A MUG St Johns Church, Clayton. Tuesdays 10.30 am.

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, Wednesdays 10 am. Holy Communion.

BBT (Bumps, Babies and Toddlers) St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. Thursdays 1 to 2.30 pm. A group for play and chat.

UKRAINIAN FAMILIES COFFEE MORNING Guide Hut, Hurstpierpoint. Thursdays 10.45 am - 12.45 pm followed by English lessons at 1 pm

YOUTH GROUP St Francis Church, Priory Road. Tuesday 5 pm - 6.30 pm School Years 4 to 6. 7 pm - 8.30 pm School Years 7 to 13. (Term time only). Lead activities and free time - pool, table football, board games etc.

THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. Morning Praise - 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday each month

EVENTS

10th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 10 am to 12 pm Coffee morning raising funds for Hassocks Goes Gold.

1st 4SIGHT VISION Bognor Regis Seafront. Well being 5 mile walk. To register call 01243 838001.

1st FLU CLINICS Hurstpierpoint Surgery. 8.30 - 11 am. Book via SystemOnline.

2nd OLDLAND MILL Oldlands Lane, Hassocks. 2 pm - 5 pm Open Afternoon - no shuttle available

2nd MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT Sayers Common Village Hall, 10 am - 12 pm. Sunday Brunch - full English Breakfast

2nd HURST RETHINK Various addresses west of Cuckfield Road, 10 am - 2 pm. The Big Hurst Jumble Trail 22. See www.hurstrethink.org.

2nd DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Green 11 am - 4 pm Apple Day - bring your apples to be pressed, bar, food, cakes etc.

3rd HASSOCKS WI Green Room, Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club. Visitors welcome.

4th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. AGM.

5th THE BEACON PARISH St Margaret's Church, Ditchling 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs and revisit old. All welcome.

5th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

5th HKD TRANSITION GROUP Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Hassocks Community Energy Fair - speakers from local renewable energy projects. All welcome.

6th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

7th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Methodist Chapel, Hurstpierpoint. 7.45 pm 'The Titanic, One Man's Journey' - Rob Goldsmith. Visitors welcome.

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8th FLU CLINICS Hurstpierpoint Surgery. 8.30 - 11 am. Book via SystmOnline.

8th SUSSEX SEWING CLUB Westmeston Parish Hall 10 am - 4 pm. Like minded makers spend the day doing a hobby they love. To book sussexsewingclub@gmail.com.

9th HURST RETHINK Various addresses east of Cuckfield Road, 10 am - 2 pm. The Big Hurst Jumble Trail 22. See www.hurstrethink.org.

10th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm AGM followed by a report by Michael Nailard on the work of the Woodland, Flora & Fauna Group

11th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.45 pm. Weather Lore - Fact or Fiction - Ian Currie.

11th JAZZ AT THE HASSOCKS Hassocks Hotel, 11.45 am. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01273 842113 to book.

12th AGE CONCERN Dale Avenue, Hassocks 2 pm. AGM - all welcome.

12th HASSOCKS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 8 pm. Gardening the World' - the Horticulture of the Commonwealth War Graves commission by Sarah Nathaniel. All welcome.



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14th BURGESS HILL HERITAGE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 8 pm 'The Ditchling Guild' - Stephanie Fuller from Ditchling Museum. All welcome.

14th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm start. www.msars.org.uk. Nag and Natter.

14th JAZZ EVENING Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. With Aneesa Chaudhry & K2, Jazz, Blues, Classics and Asian Fusion). Tickets from Ditchling Post Office.

15th INTERNATIONAL WAVE OF LIGHT St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer, 6.45 pm - 8 pm. Part of Baby Loss Week. Light a candle in an act of remembrance. See article about how to book.

15th FLU CLINICS Hurstpierpoint Surgery. 8.30 - 11 am. Book via SystmOnline.

16th BEACON PARISH St Martins Church, Westmeston, 10 am. Service of Morning Praise and celebration of Harvest.

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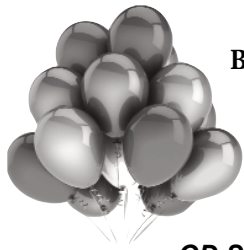
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17th HASSOCKS WI Adastral Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Caricature Artist - Helen Pointer. Visitors welcome.

18th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Ditchling Downs WI. All welcome.

19th - 23rd BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL Various venues. Autumn Season theme 'Transition' more info www.bremf.org or 07958 790173.

19th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Fundraising Event plus a member from St Peter and St James Hospice.

19th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

20th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 2 - 4 pm. For people with memory problems & their families/carer. Games, talks, music and refreshments. To book call 01273 494300.

21st HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastral Hall, Hassocks 2 pm 10th Anniversary Celebrations. All welcome.

21st STAR CINEMA Adastral Hall, Hassocks 7 pm. Film - Downton Abbey. Tickets on the door.

22nd REPAIR CAFE United Reformed Church, Hassocks, 10 am - 1 pm. Bring items for repair book your slot call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

22nd HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET National Tyres Forecourt, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

22nd MESSY CHURCH United Reformed Church, Hassocks 9.30 am. Breakfast, stories, celebrations and crafts. All welcome.

24th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastral Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm 'The South Downs - what makes them special' - Glynn Jones.

28th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Methodist Chapel, Hurstpierpoint. 7.45 pm 'A Step Back in Time' - Paul Green. Visitors welcome.

28th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 6.30 pm - 11 pm. www.msars.org.uk. Surplus Equipment Sale.

30th GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY OF SUSSEX Wivelsfield Village Hall. Topsy Turvy Tea - an afternoon tribute to Melvyn Tarran featuring Bruce Graham and Alexandra Hazard. Book topsyturvytea2022@gmail.com.

30th BONFIRE & FIREWORKS Danny Park, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. Gates open 5 pm. See article for more details. Advance tickets from QD Stationery in Hassocks and Pierpoint Pets and Mision Mackay in Hurstpierpoint.

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A HELPING HAND FOR THE HOMELESS Much-needed outdoor furniture has been donated to the largest charity tackling youth homelessness in the county. Accommodating 750 young people every night, across their seven sites, YMCA Sussex and Surrey were delighted to receive picnic tables and garden seats for their DownsLink group. On a visit to South Downs Nurseries in Hassocks, the YMCA's Sam Hart and James Gaydon met me, founder of the Budding Foundation.

We support young people through the county and work closely with family-run Tates of Sussex Garden Centres to meet various needs", explained Clive.

Clive Gravett



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

Hello everybody, glad to see you've all survived the summer holidays, the weather has certainly been on our side, but what we need right now is a little rain. Let's hope Mother Nature is kind enough to spread it out a bit, we really don't want monsoon conditions here that really would be the icing on the cake, but it's not all bad you know. The empty shop next to Marram, the one I've been trying to tell you what it's going to be for ages now but my reaction was a bit like when I heard a Vaping shop was opening. I could hear myself saying really in Hassocks, but high streets are changing and sadly retail outlets are a dying breed, even more so now that we have these eye watering overheads, but very shortly we will have Sawai a Thai massage parlour offering traditional Thai massage. Now what can I say let's start with perhaps form an orderly queue behind me guys and girls, or you could've knock me down with a feather. I never Sawai that coming, but massage is big business so, why not in little old Hassocks it'll just take a bit of getting used to that's all. Mind you after a bit of investigation I've found we are surrounded by them, there's one in Hurst and another in Burgess Hill, like I said Thai massage is big business.

Here's a few snippets of information which you may or may not know already - sad to see Norman Hobbs the television and audio shop in Haywards Heath is closing down. I'm sure he's been open as long as me, I used to love looking in there whenever I was in Haywards Heath. If you wanted the best quality and service you went to Norman Hobbs, but he said the combination of internet and energy has forced him to close, but he will continue to be available, if you need any information phone him.

If you find it difficult to rent anywhere in Ditchling that's probably because there are well over 20 Air BNB's which is an incredible amount. No wonder you keep getting people shouting about building more flats and houses in the area, trouble is in this money driven society the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, take those houses they are building off Ockley Lane a standard two-bedroom house will apparently sell for about £400,000 because of the rises in building materials will probably be even more than that when they eventually go on the market - anyone ever met a poor builder?

Mary and Derek Smith lived in Woodmancote in a house called Dragons which resembled an old airport control tower. Derek ran nursing homes and Mary was a bird and animal importer. The very first animal I bought off Mary was a kinkajou. He was a large bush baby Marsupial, we called him Kinky, he was with us for years and a perfect pet, but it was all types of birds we used to get from Mary to sell in the shop in the 70s and 80s, they were big business. One day Mary phoned me to say she just had a consignment of Toco Toucans in and we had to come over to see them. Next day we were there, she must have had about 100 of them in the Avery, they were hilarious flying around and playing. Toco Toucans are real characters and very striking to look at which is why Guinness used them as a drawing to advertise their drink. Next day I phoned Mary to ask if I could buy the little one that was sitting quietly in the corner on its own, she knew which one I meant because he seemed to be more people friendly, he grew into a very beautiful Toucan and became a real attraction for the shop. Tookie loved the attention he got just for being so beautiful to look at, then one day the phone rang, it was a representative from J Walter Thompson which was an advertising agency based in London. He asked if I had a Toucan which would sit in a crowded pub on a perch without panicking, I had to be honest and said I really wasn't sure, but I was willing to give it a try. Two hours later a limousine arrived to collect us to start our journey and what a journey it turned out to be more about Tookie next month.

Steve

HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392