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LAST DATE FOR COPY for the June 2023 ISSUE is 1st May 2023

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TEDDY'S APPEAL UPDATE Thank you everyone for the fantastic response to our entry in last month's Talk About - we have been so touched by everyone who has reached out to us so far to offer support and to fundraise on Teddy's behalf.

At the time of writing, we have already raised over £50,000 towards our £250,000-£300,000 target and that wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful people and businesses of Hassocks and the surrounding areas. We know that together we can get Teddy access to potentially lifesaving cancer treatment abroad.

Thank you to Bryony Mae Flowers for her 'Tulips for Teddy' flash sale, which raised £300, and to De La Casa for organising a special lino printing workshop last month with proceeds to Teddy's campaign. Thank you also to all of the other businesses who

have made donations, put up posters and collection tins, or are beavering away in the background organising future fundraisers!

We hope to see a good turn out for Teddy's Quiz Night at Adastra Hall on Friday **5th May**, kindly organised by Chris, who many of you will know as the owner of The Purple Carrot. Teams can expect a fun quiz, delicious chilli (meat or veggie), as well as a raffle and pop-up shop from SugarLips Doughnuts for delicious desserts, all in aid of Teddy's campaign.

Book your team's table (up to 6 people per team) either with chilli or without, available from The Purple Carrot and QD Stationery. BYO bottle.

Would you love to get involved with fundraising too? Please email us on teddyandthebig@gmail.com Kat & Alastair

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

March meeting was 'hands on' making pretty Easter baskets. Made with enthusiasm they looked lovely. Thank you members for sourcing the paper, making the templates, providing the decorations and chocolate eggs. We congratulated another member for her triumph in winning the Table Tennis Doubles Trophy match which took place in February. She won it with her partner from Burgess Hill WI. It is the first time Hassocks WI has won anything sporty so we are proud of you. April meeting -invitation only 'Tea at the Palace' - Glammed up ladies were greeted with a glass of fizz. There was a Royal Toast for the Coronation.

Everyone enjoyed a splendid tea. The scones were donated by Bake Out in the village. Sincere thanks for your generosity. There was much applause for Stella who masterminded the menu, and her helpers. Well done, thank you so much for your hard work. It is appreciated.

During the month we enjoyed visits to Petworth, 'Exploration in Paint'. May will see us at the Van Gogh Immersive Experience at Brighton Dome. All details of everything are on the noticeboard and via emails. Some members of the Events Committee attended the Speakers Interview session day at Ashurst. Hopefully we have found new ideas. Other events in the wider area include 'New Age Kurling Evening with cheese and wine. 18th

May Cuckfield. 26th May, Chanctonbury WI Science Group have an afternoon talk 'Where have All the Insects Gone'. Full details of these are in the West Sussex WI News emailed to members. If you fancy doing something, arrange it, it will be fun.

Our May meeting is a talk - 'The Air Ambulance' come and hear about the vital work they undertake. Visitors are always welcome (donation) come and enjoy an evening with us.

Gerry

P.S. Hope you like the colourful post box toppers we have put up round the village to make you smile.

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB On 5th June, the club will be holding its annual dance on the Village Green in Ditchling. It will follow the format developed over recent years of dancing starting at 7 pm and continuing until it gets too dark to dance. I will be the caller, and a live band will provide the music. There is a small cost and please bring a small plate of food to share with others.

The club will open the Autumn Season with a dance on Sunday 3rd September, with Monday evening club nights starting on 17th September at the United Reformed Church Hall, Hassocks.

Further details can be found on the clubs website: www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk/

Sean Goddard.

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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Although Ditchling Film Society has been running for 40 years it is still developing and growing.

We've already shown Belfast, Olga, The Quiet Girl and The Duke in 2023 and there's a great programme lined up for the year ahead.

Our May film is Limbo (2020) directed by Ben Sharrock.

The Guardian newspaper first reviewed Director Ben Sharrok's Limbo in 2020 describing it then as 'a heart rending portrait of refugees stranded in Scotland.' The film was reviewed for a second time in 2021, when it was described as a 'gorgeous tragicomic take on the refugee experience', and then for a third time in 2023 by which time the description had transformed into "a hardbitten out-back noir".

No doubt public attitudes to refugees and immigrants more broadly have hardened over the three years since Limbo was first released. But anyone preparing to take the film on today should be prepared at least to try to put to one side those media portrayals of refugees that paint them as a faceless mass.

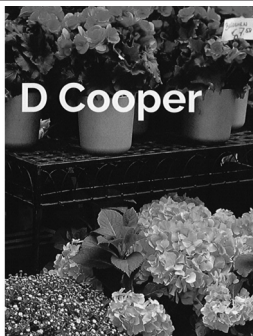
By contrast Sharrock allows his audience to see his refugees as diverse individuals who have been flung together in a remote coastal location somewhere in the North of Scotland.

Limbo abounds in the absurd and the tragicomic. Its use of vast panoramic vistas of sea and sky serve only to imprison. When we come to realise that each member of this disparate band harbours his own personal and sometimes unrealisable dream, each becomes more human to us, if we will allow it. Living in the present moment is denied them. What might be termed "their past lives" have not faded away yet each is obliged to wait for the letter that may or may not ever come, that may or may not grant them the status of rightful residence and a new future. They wait in limbo.

Certificate PG. Running time 103 minutes. Subtitles.

Our June film is Utama, (2022) directed by Alejandro Loayza Grisi. A film with breathtaking cinematography and naturalistic performances which captures love and tradition in times of climate change.

Certificate 12A. Running times 87minutes.



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We're keen to take on new members. The annual membership runs from the time of joining and gives you free entry to 11 films and we plan to run a special event in September. You can join anytime. We're also happy to announce a 20% discount for a film night meal at The Bull pub in Ditchling! (pre booked and showing annual membership cards). We hope to add more treats for members in the future so keep and eye out for updates on the website. Guest entry is also available on the door.

The films are usually show on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall. Limbo, however, is showing on the 3rd Thursday of the month on the **18th May**. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the showing at 8 pm. Go to our website

ditchlingfilm.org.uk. for membership news and join our mailing list to keep up to date with our films each month. Follow us on Instagram **@ditchlingfilmsoc** and Tweet **@Ditchlingfilm**.

Hope to see you at the next film.

Kate

THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

As the days get longer and warmer (hopefully) why not come and experience the warmth of the fellowship we share in the Beacon Parish? Whether you come with someone or on your own, you'll be among friends and will be made very welcome.

CORONATION TEA – Sunday **7th May** at 3 pm in Church Lane, Ditchling. Details on how to book are on our website – **www.beaconparish.co.uk**.

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pm in St Martin's Westmeston. Come and enjoy home-made refreshments then sing some of your favourite hymns.

NEW – Coffee & Chat for all ages in The Emmanuel Centre, South Street, Ditchling each Thursday morning from 10 am to 11.30 am.

SING – Wednesday **3rd May** at 6 pm – we learn new songs in a variety of styles and sing some old favourites.

SUNDAYS – Morning Prayer and Holy Communion at 10 o'clock in St Margaret's Ditchling every Sunday except Sunday 21st May, when the service will be in Streat Church.

WEDNESDAY@10 – Every Wednesday Holy Communion in St Margaret's Ditchling at 10 am.

Please check our website for any last minute changes **www.beaconparish.co.uk**.

We look forward to welcoming you, your family, friends and any visitors to the area.

Sherrian Guest

HASSOCKS TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD It is with regret that our April meeting will be our final one as the Guild is due to close at the end of the month. It is a pity, as we started meeting in the mid 1950's when it was an evening Guild, and we had nearly 100 members. Unfortunately, we cannot recruit enough members to form a working committee, and so it was decided that we would have to close like so many other clubs. I would like to thank members past and present for some lovely memories and to also to thank "Talk About" magazine for their support over the years.

Sheila Southwell

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THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL Another exciting month for us here at The Windmills! The Windmills Girls Football Team travelled to Dartford to compete in the South East English School Football Association finals. The girls battled hard in each of their matches, achieving 0-0 draws in each. Unfortunately, this meant that the girls' incredible football journey was over, however they still finish the season as Sussex County Champions and we couldn't be more proud of them.

We have also had a bumper month for netball - we entered 3 competitions and all in all, played 17 matches. We won 9, drew 2, and lost 6 scoring 30 goals and conceding 16. The teams were just incredible—showing amazing team spirit, positive attitudes, determination and enjoyment.

Our Dance Squad had the fantastic experience of per-



forming at Downlands and watching other dance groups. This year's theme was 'Dance Around the World' and they choreographed two dances to share including an energetic performance to George Ezra's 'Gold Rush Kid' and a showcase of different styles of Indian dance which the dancers had worked on in collaboration with Downlands' Dance Leaders. We are so proud of the commitment and perseverance the dancers showed to learn and remember both dances. At The Windmills we absolutely love singing. Every

Tuesday the 80+ choir members get up extra early to come and learn new songs and be part of our singing community. The choir recently put on a fabulous performance for their parents. Well done to all the children who took part and a big thank you to the staff who support them.

Earlier this term, year 4 had a close encounter with solids, liquids and gases when Dr Francis visited to share a special science workshop all about changes of state. The children enjoyed taking part in experiments, including making ice-cream!

To enhance and bring alive their space topic, Year 5 paid a visit to the Science Museum. The 'Exploring Space' exhibition was a sight to behold, and the children immediately got started on a treasure hunt, finding objects ranging from the giant Apollo II to perhaps the strangest object, a 'space nappy'! We also climbed to the very top of the museum to experience the brilliant 'Flight' exhibition, full of fascinating aircraft and aeronautical inventions. We were lucky enough to experience an educational show - Mission to Space - which was filled with amazing experiments, rockets and demonstrations of rockets flying with the help of some pyrotechnics! The children were a credit to the school and a joy to spend the day with.

*'On behalf of The
Windmills*



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GET READY FOR NO MOW MAY 2023

WITH HURST RETHINK This will be Hurst Rethink's third year supporting Plantlife's 'No Mow May' initiative and we are really excited to see what our gardens and green spaces will look like after two seasons of letting things grow a bit more wild in places we would normally keep neat and tidy.

For those who are new to this idea, No Mow May is a nationwide campaign where everyone is encouraged to put away their lawnmowers for the month of May and see what grows in their gardens and shared spaces. The more flowers that can grow, the more food for pollinators - and the more pollinators, the richer our biodiversity.

A more biodiverse landscape means more bees, more butterflies, more birds and more wildlife in general. What's not to love? And you don't have to stop there. 'Let It Bloom June' and 'Knee High In July' are the slogans the campaign promotes to encourage gardens to be left unmown right up until the end of the growing season.

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nearly 7.5 million acres of flower-rich meadow and pasture since the 1930s, and now only 1% of our countryside provides flowers for pollinators. But the good news is, there are 15 million gardens with the potential to grow pollinator friendly flowers and every flower left unmown makes a difference.

If you don't have a garden, you can still join in using a plant pot or any container you can find. Even an old shoe or crisp box will do!

As we gear up to No Mow May there are lots of ways you can benefit wildlife in your garden or any other outside spaces - from simple things such as not using chemicals (including slug pellets) to more fun activities such as building a small pond, constructing bug hotels and creating hedgehog corridors by cutting a small gap in your garden fence for them to travel through.

If you would like to know more about our group and for a full description of how to take part in the No Mow May campaign or any of our other initiatives, take a look at our website www.hurstrethink.org. *Charlotte Snook*

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HURST FESTIVAL IS DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE a fabulous new addition to our Super Sunday Community Event on the afternoon of Sunday **17th September** may we introduce to you: 'Hufts' - the new Hurst Festival Dog Show! To add to the excitement we are very pleased to have secured Brigadier Humphrey Portleroy Trotter and Judge Janey – two extremely experienced Official Judges to oversee proceedings at the Arena on South Avenue Recreation Ground and we hope you'll let us know any new categories suggestions by emailing us at admin@hurstfestival.org

Enter on the day and Rosettes to be won! We are also on the lookout for more Stalls and Food Traders on the day to join the local shops when we close the High Street and take over South Avenue Recreation Ground with free entertainment and free activities for all the family. We are also looking for buskers and performers for our open mic stage in the Village. Please email us at admin@hurstfestival.org if you would like to have a food or craft or charity stall or perform on the day.

Hurst Festival Manager



Dog Show categories so far are: Oldest Dog, Waggiest Tail, Most Sticky Uppy Ears, Fluffiest, Looks Like Owner, Best Puppy, Prettiest Bitch, Most Handsome Dog, Best Fancy Dress, Best Rescue, Best At Catching.

HEBER OPERA CONCERTS Heber Opera presents 'From Page To Stage' a concert of music celebrating the link between music and the literary and poetic works that inspired them. Saturday **20th May** in King Edward Hall, Lindfield and Saturday **27th May** in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. Both concerts start at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available online via www.ticketsource.co.uk/heberopera or by calling **07340 251875**.

Heber Opera always welcomes new voices and anyone who would like to join us is welcome to get in touch. Our next production is The Tales of Hoffmann by Jaques Offenbach in September, and rehearsals start for this show in early June. To contact Heber about taking part, joining our mailing list or bringing a performance to your community please get in touch using the details below or via the Heber Opera website, www.heberopera.co.uk. *Jenny Hawkes*

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45+ Unattached men and women in Sussex who want to meet new people in the 45+ age group are being given an opportunity to start their own club. A Sussex social club which got off the ground seventeen years ago and has several hundred members is opening its doors to a new club for younger members.

The Group's members tend to be aged 55+ but, back in 2006 when it started, its minimum age was 40. Now the club is finding that people in that age group are wanting their own club. So, Gill Rankin, member secretary of The Group, is inviting men

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and women to contact her to get the new club going.

More information on the way The Group works is available on www.thegroup.org.uk. Fresh ideas, an appetite for meeting new people and being involved in the Sussex social scene are the only qualifications needed. Contact Gill on gillrankin@blueyonder.co.uk.

Tricia

TREFOIL GUILD For our March meeting we held a Hot Cross Bun blind tasting and M and S. came out the best but also the most expensive! Some of the members then made beautiful dragon-flies out of Fantasy Film.

April meeting was our 80th Anniversary Challenge.

A Tree Planting Ceremony took place at Worth Park Gardens in Crawley. The weather was atrocious! Well done all who attended!

On **18th May** we will visit the Butterfly Gardens. We meet at the Guide Hall, Semley Road at 7.45 pm for 8 pm on the 3rd Wednesday in the month. For more information call **07546 495433**. Visitors welcome.

Pam

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH This morning there is a new note in the dawn chorus. Or rather two: Chiff-chaff, Chiff-chaff, Chiff-chiff-chaff-chaff! One of those greeny-buff, migrant warblers, which call their own name so distinctively during the summer months, has arrived. The sound is an early, joyful proof that Spring is really underway. And the thought of this tiny, this-tledown-bundle of feathers, braving the gales and squalls of an unfriendly March all the way from the Mediterranean, and arriving here in good voice seems little short of a miracle. My bird book says the chiff-chaff is four and a quarter inches long – only three-quarters of an inch longer than the goldcrest and firecrest, Britain's smallest birds. God-willing, it will soon be joined by fellow warblers and whitethroats and blackcaps and who knows, maybe other species once commonplace but now sadly rare. The great migration is underway. In many parts of Europe it was traditionally believed that the birds *brought* the spring. In Bulgaria, country folk even made pastry birds and hung them up round their homes to encourage the spring birds to return. Without the cuckoo to herald new life, it was believed a barren fate would await seeds, livestock and lovers alike. Spring was therefore ushered in with celebration: dancing (to wake up the earth with the tramp of feet), singing (to share in the exuberance of the birds), building bowers and holding water rites and May Day frolics (ahem!) to enhance the fertility of the fields. The arrival of the cuckoo, the nightingale, the turtle-dove and the swallow have been welcomed with joy in the songs and poetry of every age, and spring, and thereby Easter, has meant eggs since civilization began. So potent was this ferment of joy, that even despite the best attempts of the puritans to quash it, they finally had to resign themselves to toleration.

It has taken till 2023 for the great fertility festival to finally lose its fizz, and for our summer birds to be greeted by experts today with grim foreboding, data-sheets, electronic tags, suspicion and even criminalization, instead of dancing and singing. As for eggs... These too face morbid scrutiny. Thanks to 'bird 'flu', domestic fowl must be incarcerated this spring. The official finger of blame points indiscriminately at all. What happened to the old spirit of revelry? Resurgence? Are there to be no more cakes and ale? Well, I think we are still designed for hope and celebration. The slightest shaft of sunlight is enough to lift our

hearts and revive an innate surge of joy. Spring bird-song makes us all fall in love with life. (A good reason for not walking about wearing ear-plugs!) It is just that our world could do with more of it, for love promises neither safety nor security. The world will always be fraught with perils. To be perfectly safe one would have to be perfectly dead. But if a chiffchaff can launch itself into the wind, driven by a fearless urge to 'do or die', surely we can take courage too. A Sufi proverb tells of a legless fox who grew fat, living off the leavings of the lion. A man decided to follow suit and live off the leavings of the rich, but he starved at the street corner. The tale concludes, 'why be a lame fox, when you could become a lion, and provide food for others?' For 'food' one might read *joie de vivre*. There is, moreover, something bigger than ourselves, without which we could not live for a day – (the same force that instinctively powers each tiny ball of chiff-chaff-fluff in its miracle of being) – which is to say *the generative and regenerative nature of the Earth, itself*. I turn to the incomparable Alan Watts: "Apples are symptomatic of apple trees; roses are symptomatic of rose bushes; and we are symptomatic of the universe. The earth is not some big rock infested with living organisms, any more than your skeleton is a series of bones infested with cells. Yes, the earth is geological. But this geological entity grows people, and our lives on earth are symptomatic of a peopling solar system, which in turn is a symptom of our galaxy, and our galaxy is a symptom of a whole company of galaxies, and goodness knows what that's a symptom of." In other words, maybe we are not, as we are constantly told, surplus organisms infesting the earth. Maybe it is *okay* for us to be here. And maybe a closer connection to our dynamic cosmos would help us to fulfil a beneficial function and thrive without driving everything else over the brink. One of Aesop's fables concerns a man who saw a gardener watering his vegetables. He observed that the wild plants in the garden were vigorous and healthy, while the cultivated plants were weedy and puny and he asked the gardener why. The gardener gave this reply: "It's because the earth is a mother to the one and a step-mother to the others." In the gardens of the Guatemala Highlands, the traditional Indians planted borders of wild plants (weeds) around their corn, so that the vigour of the wild could 'infect' their crops and give them strength. A pragmatist would flat-footedly point

out that this also provided cover for the wildlife which created a balanced food web, and protection from 'pests' etc. etc. But rapture is still the glue that makes it all join up. Without rapture – no life. Masanobu Fukuoka with his 'one straw revolution' in Japan, revived the same practice, though his phrasing puts things more bluntly: "Drive Nature out of the front door and she comes round the back with a pitch fork." Bird 'flu?

Those who believe that the Earth is a 'big rock infested with living organisms' soon embark on fearful or greedy interventions. If the earth is simply 'stuff', inert and pliable, what is to stop those with the audacity and the means, from improving it, rewiring it, saving it or destroying it? What is to stop purists, who cannot tolerate the messiness of nature (what the poet Yeats called 'the complexities of blood and mire') from cleansing that rock of life altogether and scrubbing it clean and bare? (Alan Watts) Unweaving the web of life is a beginning that leads towards this end. Turning all living things into Nature's step-children is another. Such mean-spirited policies alienate and isolate creatures and life-forms which depend upon free contact for their health and survival. The oceans are said to be now so full of noise from human 'sonar' explorations, that whales and dolphins can no longer hear one another and are dying in increasing numbers, unable to navigate in safety. The atmosphere has been loaded with electronic signals, microwaves and EMFs with scarcely a thought about the possible consequence for bees and migrating birds. And us? Is it time for mankind to consider which kind of mother he would like his planet to be and then pipe down and let the chaff-chaffs have their say? We don't have to manage our wild cousins, or even film and 'save' them but just allow space and peace for them to live. Stop destroying habitats. Can there really be any benefit in human beings having it all, at the risk of losing everything? In this culture of superlatives: newest, biggest, fastest, smartest... how delightful it might be to settle for less and appreciate more; to cultivate the art of *not* needing; count wealth in contentment; switch off stress and listen to

nightingales once more...

On which note I will pipe down too, but not before sharing an old take on *twitter*. Here is Thomas Nashe (1567-1601): Hope you enjoy it!

"Spring the sweet spring,
is the year's pleasant king;
Then blooms each thing,
then maids dance in a ring

Cold doth not sting,
the pretty birds do sing:

Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!"

Rosemary

THE GROWING NETWORK IS TRAVELING FURTHER AFIELD THIS MONTH!

The Growing Network is a community network that supports all local people to grow and share food, with no one left out.

We are an all inclusive network of gardens, gardeners, food growers, would be food growers and recipients of freshly grown produce, freely shared amongst our neighbours and communities.

This month we will be at the following locations:
13th May - The Green Extravaganza, The King Edward Hall, Lindfield RH16 2HH – 10 am to 4 pm

25th May - "All things Compost" – an Evening Q & A at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens, Ditchling. 7 to 9 pm.

Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share to either of the first two events. Or just bring yourself!

27th May - Hassocks Farmers Market, Age Concern car park, Dale Avenue, Hassocks – 9 am to 12.30 pm.

For further information please contact

julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk.

Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman

WANTED If you have any old photos, poems, recipes, stories, events or anything of interest you would like included please email us at **ed@vil-lagemagazines.co.uk** or send it to QD Stationery, 52 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AR. Deadline for the June Issue is 1st May 2023.

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We thank Dave Evans for this postcard of Major Robert Temple Chevallier Cream MC (aged 38) and Celia Mary Starling (aged 27) wedding on 14th January 1921 at Newtimber Church. Celia was the daughter of William Henshaw Starling, the Rector of Newtimber Church at the time. Major Robert ws in the Royal Artillery and held an MC.

JAZZ LUNCH Come to the Hassocks Pub on Tuesday **9th May** for great food, great jazz and great company.

You will be entertained by The New Muskat Ramblers. Please Book in advance by calling **01444 235986**.

We meet at 11.30 am, the Jazz starts at 12 pm. A set lunch is served during the performance and the Jazz finishes at around 2.45 pm. Its held in the Function Room. *Chris Lambe*

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK This is open to anyone in need of support.

Held at the Powell House next door to the United Reformed Church in Hassocks. From 10 am to 12 pm every Monday and Friday.

Donations very welcome! Collections points for donation are Bella and Meg's, Mansell McTaggart and Budgens in Hassocks. *Gary Pickett*



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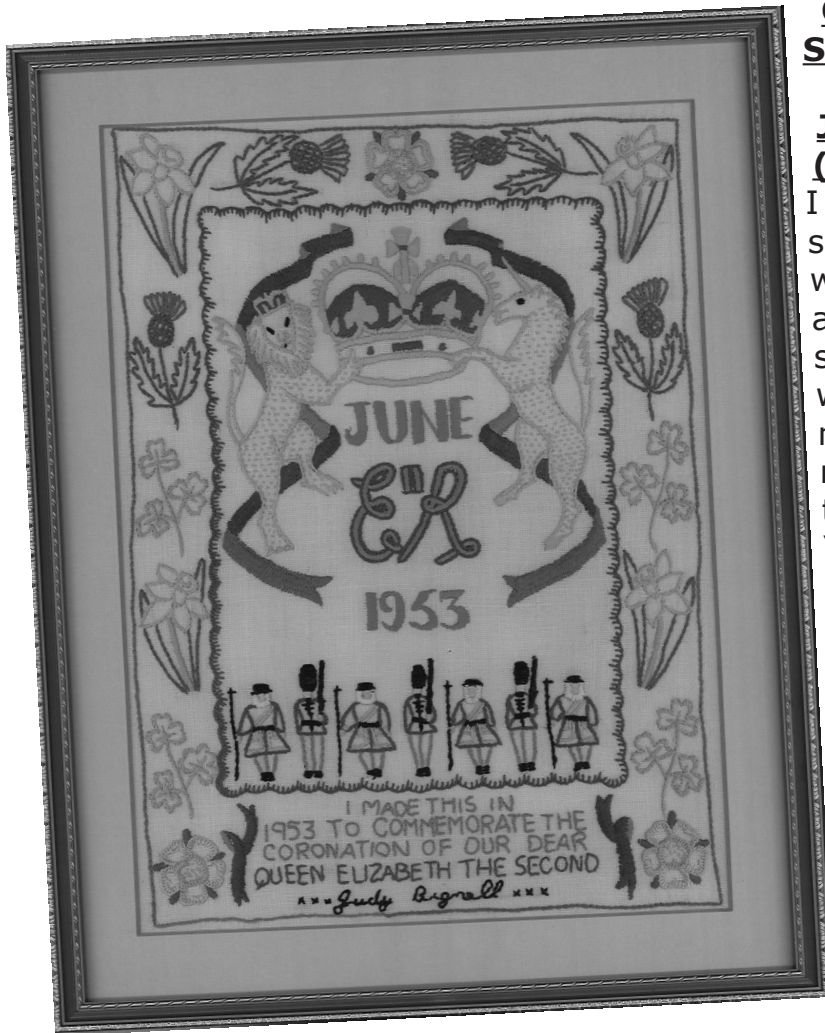


King
 George VI's
 Coronation
 Year
 1937



We thank Marion Haddrell for this booklet which she found in her parents loft advertising new builds in Grand Avenue in 1937 in the Brighton and Hove Herald for as little as £450.

Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation Year 1953



CORONATION
SAMPLER SEWN
BY
JUDY TILBURY
(NEE BIGNELL)

I have been sewing since I was 4 years old and stitched this sampler when I was 13. I saved my pocket money pennies to buy it from 'Woman' magazine where it was advertised for

5s 6d (27 1/2p)
- my mum helped me out by paying half.

When I had finished it I entered the sampler in the local

Flower Show and won first prize of 7s 6d (37 1/2p).

I still have close ties with Framfield - I lived at 4 Ebenezer Cottages until I was 18 and still regularly come back to visit friends.

I still sew all the time - everything from stitching samplers to soft furnishings to dress alterations!

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OPEN WEEKEND AT THE TURNER DUMBRELL WORKSHOPS, DITCHLING.

Have you ever driven past the complex of old farm buildings which make up the Turner Dumbrell Workshops and wondered what goes on there?

If you have wandered onto the site you may have found many studios with closed doors. We're at work! But on the weekend of **20th/21st May** from 11.00-4.00 we are going to be "Open House" and welcoming you in to take a look, have a chat and share our work, insights and possibly some skills! You'll be able to meet many of the makers and artists that work there. We'll be here to talk about what we do and show you as well. There will be painters Jo, Philip and Lisa, Calligrapher Patricia, Potters Jane, Sarita and Richard, printmaker Kate, upholsterer and furniture restorer Andrew, tableware designer Rebecca, basket maker and fibre artist Julie, vintage fashion dealer Kate also Katie, Kirsty and Jordan with their locally made sustainable fashion.

Julie will be running basketry taster sessions on both days (£5 each for up to one hr): on Saturday **20th May** you could be making cordage (string

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from common garden plants), on Sunday plaiting with fresh water rush and making little sample baskets from the plaits.

Patricia will be demonstrating her use of pens in calligraphy.

Lisa is offering a chance to get hands on with Botanical monoprinting.

And you can definitely get lucky and mucky with Jane in the pottery studio.

There will be Refreshments, parking and toilets on site. There's lots more information about us all on the Turner Dumbrell website <https://turner-dumbrell.org.uk/artists-and-makers/> and at artinditchling.co.uk Also for up to date information on the weekend's events you can follow us on Instagram [@turnerdumbrell](https://www.instagram.com/turnerdumbrell).

*From all of us at the
Turner Dumbrell Workshops in Ditchling.*

Deadline for the June issue is Monday 1st May

TURNER DUMBRELL WORKSHOPS DITCHLING

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'RAISE THE ROOF 2' Lou Beckerman and musicians in a fundraising concert at Danny House, **13th May**

South Downs Welcome Project (SDWP) is delighted to be presenting another vibrant and entertaining evening to lift the spirit. Expect a mix of jazz and folk – interspersed with performance poetry all delivered with style! And in the perfect setting of beautiful and atmospheric Danny House.

Lou writes: Our first fundraising 'Raise the Roof!' concert was heart-warming and I felt enormously proud of everyone involved – a great team! The event was successful as both fund-raiser and friend-raiser, and the Project is happy to report that the family who we've been helping to resettle here are doing really well.

Keeping the momentum, SDWP is broadening to additionally benefit another scheme, and the excellent Brighton-based charity Hummingbird Project – working specifically with young refugees - seems a natural choice.

As jazz vocalist and poet, I'll be joined by BAFTA award-winning composer and pianist Joss Peach, double bassist Terry Pack, violinist Mike Simmonds, folk musician Jo White, singer-songwriters Mike and Reina Reinstein and a surprise guest or two!

Last time there was great demand for tickets and we could have put on the show twice! Booking is now open and tickets can be purchased through www.southdownsrefugeeproject.org/raisetheroo £2/. We look forward to welcoming you.

Lou Beckerman

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bus running currently on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you or anyone you know would benefit from some company, then do come along and meet us. 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, do enquire in the office. Our Coffee Shop is open from 9 am to 3 pm serving refreshments. Our Charity shop and Coffee shop are also open on Saturday mornings 9 am to 11.45 am.

We have some afternoons spare at the moment if you wish to hire one of our rooms at very reasonable rates. Please do come and take a look and we can show you around.

Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 pm to 3 pm, Craft mornings on a Monday, Bingo Wednesday mornings at 11 am.

Art Group Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Canasta Thursday afternoon.

Village Market and Hassocks Repair Café will be held at our Centre on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our Coffee Shop will be serving takeaway refreshments, along with our Charity shop.

We will be closed for the Bank Holidays on Monday **1st, 8th and 29th May.**

All at Age Concern

*Articles for the June issue
can be emailed to
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22ND ARTS COMPETITION SUCCESS

Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club had another very successful morning with their 22nd Annual Arts Competition. For the first time in four years, parents and friends were able to watch all of the competitions in progress. The competition started in 2000 as part of Mid Sussex Arts Festival and has continued every year since, attracting nearly two thousand gymnasts and over a thousand entries. This year a hundred and fifteen gymnasts competed for trophies and medals in Rope Solos, Beam Pairs, Ball Pairs and Sports Acrobatic Sixes. Some of the competitors only joined the Club in the Spring term, while some of the Seniors have attended the Club for over ten years. Competitors come from all over the district:- Burgess Hill, Ditchling, Haywards Heath & Cuckfield, Albourne and many other villages, Brighton and Lewes, with more still from Hurstpierpoint & Hassocks. The children choose whether to enter, then choose which sections to do, their own music and then create and practise their own routines for performance.

The Beam Pair competition involves mounting the beam and performing six different skills before dismounting. This year's winners were:- Year 3 -

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Meila Appleby & Zara Hume, Year 4 - Ava-Mai Hotten & Arabella Turner, Year 5 & 6 - Faye Gotsinas & Matilda Dhanda, Year 7+ - Isabel Faulkner & Darcy Ganpatsingh.

The rhythmic apparatus is rotated each year and this year the pairs choice was Ball. The winners were Year 3 & 4 - Isla Gould & Poppy Dignum, with Year 5 & 6 - Rubi Goodman & Lily Howes.

The Rope Solo winners were:- Year 3 - Daisy Gigney, Year 4 - Gracie Allen-Laverty, Year 5 & 6 - Alicia Aitken and Year 7+ Imogen Holmes.

The last two sections were Sports Acrobatic Sixes, where six gymnasts perform a sequence including agilities, balances and dance. The routines were well choreographed and featured intricate balances. The Junior Six winning team was Olivia Sparks-Carolan, Diddie Smith, Phoebe Dare, Miller Turpin, Angelina & Joanna Derias.

The Senior Six competition was a very close affair, resulting in a first place tie between Emma Alcock, Grace Nicholls, Faith Roberts, Faith Aldridge, Imogen Cox and Emily Church and another Thursday Six:- Isabel Faulkner, Elsie Beveridge, Esme & Isla Graham-Evans, Emily Darbyshire and Darcy Ganpatsingh.

Adding together the scores from their entries, the Overall Champions were calculated, the winners gaining their titles by just tenths of a mark. Scarlett Thwaites won the Overall Junior Championship and the Senior title was won by Isabel Faulkner.

The next opportunity for the gymnasts to compete will be the Club's 39th Annual Championships on the **1st July**. Spectating is welcome throughout the morning.

There are vacancies to join the Club in most groups. For further details regarding the Club please visit their website

www.hurstpierpointgym.co.uk

Andrew Hair



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Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club Winners of the 22nd Arts Competition

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THE HURST OPEN GARDENS team is absolutely delighted to announce that Hurst Open Gardens is now booked for this year so save the date if you don't want to miss out!

It will be on Sunday, **4th June** from 1 pm until 5.30 pm children under 14 get in free.

As always, we will have a variety of different gardens for you to wander around and enjoy – ranging from stately and manicured to pocket-sized with nooks and crannies for everyone to explore.

We are in the process of organising the gardens at the moment but you can rest assured there will be seating available at some as well as teas and – of course – delicious locally home-made cakes.

We will keep everyone updated as the arrangements progress so watch out for posters, notices in this and other publications, Facebook (Hurstpierpoint Open Gardens) and our website

www.hurstpierpointopengardens.co.uk

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to open your garden, please phone me on **07808 572215**. This year we are particularly focussing on the area west of St George's Lane and as far north as Danworth Lane, including Cuckfield Road/Western Road etc.

We also really welcome cakes and plants for sale on the day, which really help to swell the coffers. All proceeds go to our local St. Peter and St. James Hospice where funds are always much needed and appreciated.

See you on **4th June!**

Jo Kaddish

STAR CINEMA We hope you have enjoyed the film season at the Adastral, which ended in April. The Star team wish you all a happy (and sunny) few months until we see you again in September.

Liz Edmunds



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BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY meet on Wednesday **3rd May**. At Cyprus Hall, 7.45 pm, (doors open 7:15pm).

This month's talk is entitled 'The Work of the Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service', by Trevor Weeks.

Admission: Members free. Small fee for visitors. All welcome!

www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com.

Flo Whitaker

HASSOCKS CROQUET CLUB Croquet is a sport for everyone. New members are welcome to join us. If you live locally and would like to learn how to play Croquet or are already an experienced player, why not consider joining The Hassocks Croquet Club. We are a friendly local club who play Croquet most weekdays in the daytime during the season (from April to October) at The St. James's Montefiore Cricket Club, Keymer Road, Hassocks (On the right-hand side of the Road from Hassocks to Ditchling - Look out for our Green Sign)

Basic training will be provided. New players can borrow the Club's mallets.

For further details please send an e mail to tony.m.bright@gmail.com or visit our Website www.hassockscroquetclub.net for more information.

Tony Bright

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HHDu3a MONTHLY MEETING Everyone recognises the proud profile of the Houses of Parliament but Dr Richard Ware, our recent speaker, revealed the dangerous fragility of the Westminster estate. And his struggle when, until his recent retirement, he was centrally involved in a project to restore the building.

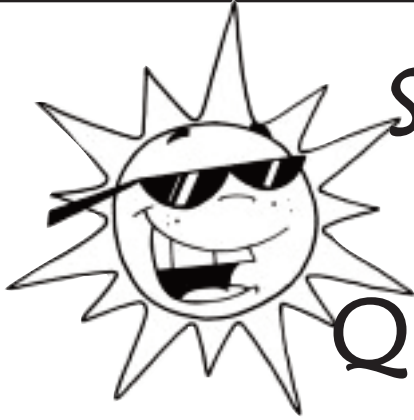
But first Richard provided a fascinating history of its central role from the 11th century in our national life but also some of the crisis the buildings suffered across the centuries. This includes fires culminating in a WW2 bombing which destroyed the Commons Chamber. All this, plus the sheer age of the buildings, have taken their toll. There is flooding as rain overflows the inadequate gutters and leaks through beautiful but ill-fitting Victorian era windows. There's asbestos, crumbling columns, metal corrosion and 250 miles of dangerously ancient cables coiling their way through the cellars. MPs know urgent decisions are needed to restore the Westminster estate but balk at the billions the repairs would cost and where, in the very years it could take to fix, could Parliament meet? Like the MPs the u3a audience had no answers but we at least enjoyed being let into the discussion.

For more information about HHDu3a google <https://u3asites.org.uk>hhd>. *Jeremy Weinstein*

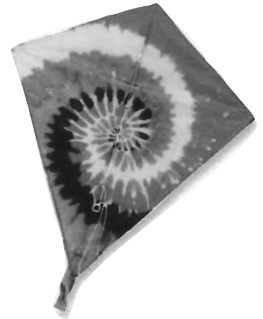
IT'S GREAT FUN BELONGING TO HURST HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A.

We are part of a national movement which supports people in their third age to continue their learning and interests in an informal environment. Members are all either retired or aiming towards retirement by working part-time. There are over 40 interest groups - many activities are free, meeting in each other's homes, or sharing the cost of local venue hire, or arranging outdoor trips together. The photo is of Art Group 2, comprising members from all three local villages. Gordon from Hurst says: "There are other gentlemen in the group - I'm not always surrounded by ladies!"

Each group is autonomous with its own venue and term dates. A new group leader is guided by an existing leader until the group is well underway. So - become a member - visit our website www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd, go to the welcome page, download the membership application form, and choose from the long list of activities. You will be made very welcome. *Marie Frazer*



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Join 4Sight Vision Support for a fantastic day out in the Sussex countryside, and at the same time raise funds to help the charity's work providing support and specialist information to blind and sight impaired residents throughout West Sussex. The Sponsored Walk will be held on the beautiful Angmering Park Estate, which is not usually open to the public, on Saturday **10th June**. There is a distance choice of three miles which is suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, six miles, or a half marathon distance of 13.1 miles. Everyone is welcome to join in, including your beloved pooches on leads. For those living with sight loss, there is the option to walk independently or sign up with a companion as a guide, and trained sighted guides are also available. Transport can be arranged to and from Bognor Regis and Angmering train stations.

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The entrance fee, covers the costs of putting on the event, which includes refreshments and a bespoke wooden medal. 4Sight Vision Support is also hoping that participants will help raise additional funds to help its vital work across the county, and would encourage a pledge of £50 in extra sponsorship. A special event T-shirt is also available for a fee.

For more information and to register, visit:
<https://www.4sight.org.uk/sponsored-walks-23/>
call **01243 838001** or email
fundraising@4sight.org.uk

4Sight Vision Support would like to thank Nigel Clutton and the Angmering Park Estate for their support.

Cathy Clark

DITCHLING WI meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Ditchling Village Hall, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

At our February meeting we had an excellent talk 'History and work of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.' As a result of this inspiring talk we are looking forward to a visit to Kew which will be seen in a very different light.

In March we also enjoyed an extremely interesting talk 'The Women of Herstmonceux' which gave us a real insight into women's lives going back over several centuries.

We have interesting speakers throughout the year. Guests are welcome, so why not come and join us?

Rosemary Burns



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DITCHLING PLAYERS May Production - **9th to 13th May**. Well, everything is ready for our next production, the set is up, the cast have learnt their lines and everything is ready behind the scenes.

I'm aware that in last month's article I didn't tell you much about this production, sorry! '**Gaslight**' written by Patrick Hamilton, who was, incidentally, born in Hassocks is a dark thrilling tale of emotional manipulation set in London in the late 1900's and full of suspense and intrigue. It's also the origin of the modern term 'gaslighting' which describes many sorts of coercive control. This is sure to be a popular production and we're fortunate to have some extremely talented local actors in the cast.

Tickets are now available from either TicketSource or via our website - ditchlingplayers.org.uk with performances starting at 7:30 pm. Please note that there will be no matinee performance for this production and a booking fee applies to any online bookings. If you would like to purchase your tickets in person the White Horse Inn, Ditchling are kindly operating as our box office but this is for Cash Only payments

I understand that tickets are going well so get yours now to avoid disappointment.

David Tattersell

BEE SWARMS During these next few months, some honey bee colonies will grow too big, and split, with half leaving the hive to find a new home. They are usually at their most gentle, but can look alarming to onlookers.

These bees are precious, they will gather in a large 'ball like mass', whilst they consider their next move! When they have gathered is the time to

phone for us.

Please can you ring Nick **07931 751556**, Heather **07792 551413** or Ken **07970 635034** and we will come and take them safely away. We do NOT charge for this service. *Heather McNiven*

ALL THE RIGHT NOTES will be presenting a Summer Sing on Wednesday **24th May** at 7.30 pm in the United Reformed Church in Keymer Road, Hassocks. Showcasing the very varied music we've been working on so far this year, it will include pieces by Lewis Capaldi, Burt Bacharach and Simon & Garfunkel among many others, as well as solo items and songs for the audience to join in. Full details will be available on

www.alltherightnoteschoir.com after Easter, when tickets will go on sale from choir members.

Paul Simpson

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~~~ WHAT'S ON IN MAY ~~~

1ST HURSTPIERPOINT GIRLS' BRIGADE - Methodist Church Hall, Hurstpierpoint, Wednesday's term time. Age 4 to Sch Year 3 5.15 pm. Years 4 to age 18 6.30 pm. Margaret Taylor 01273 832286.

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

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK - Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks. 10 am to 12 noon. Monday & Fridays. Donations can be dropped to Bella & Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens.

HUG IN A MUG - St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer. Monday 10.30 am (excl. Aug 29th). and at St Johns Church, Clayton. Tuesdays 10.30 am.

SUSSEX FLY DRESSERS GUILD Clayton Village Hall, Thursdays 7 - 9 pm. Beginners to Advanced sussexflydressersguild.org.uk.

MORNING PRAISE & HOLY COMMUNION - The Beacon Parish, St Margarets Church Ditchling, 10 am. on 1st, 2nd & 4th Sundays. 21st May will be at Streat Church. Always check www.beaconparish.co.uk.

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.

WEDNESDAYS@10 - The Beacon Parish, St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 10 am. Holy Communion.

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. Thursday 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 & free time - pool, table football, board games.

DITCHLING YODAH YOUTH GROUP - Open to those young people in school year 6 - 11 we meet at The Emmanuel Centre 24 South Street, Ditchling on a Tuesday evening 6.30 pm to 8 pm. We have pool, table tennis, games consoles and lots of activities.

BABY & TODDLER GROUP - A group for play and chat with coffee & cake. Held every Thursday in The Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am to 11.30 am term time.

COFFEE & CHAT - Emmanuel Centre, South Street, Ditchling. Thursday mornings 10 am - 11.30 am.

IRISH SET DANCING (Not River Dance!) The Hassocks Pub, Station Approach East, Hassocks. Most Mondays 7-10 pm. Phone 07802 847234. First session free.

~~~EVENTS~~~

2nd DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. 'Image Manipulation' Gordon Bain.

3rd BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. 'The work of the Sussex Wildlife Rescue' Trevor Weeks. All welcome.

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3rd THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs in a variety of styles and sing some old favourites.

3rd HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL GROUP Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm. 'Ukraine & Hurstpierpoint' Jenny Brown. Visitors welcome.

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

5th TEDDY'S APPEAL Adastra Hall, Hassocks. 'Teddy's Quiz Night' See article. Tickets from QD Stationery or Purple Carrot.

6th HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

6th/7th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Jack and Jill Windmills 10 am - 4 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Mills on Air'.

7th THE BEACON PARISH Church Lane Ditchling, 3 pm. 'Coronation Tea' to book visit www.beaconparish.co.uk.

7th HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

7th OLDLAND WINDMILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer, 11 am - 4 pm. 'Event Day'. All welcome.

8th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning come and try Bowls. All welcome.

9th - 13th DITCHLING PLAYERS Ditchling Village Hall, 7.30 pm. 'Gaslight' written by Patrick Hamilton. Tickets from www.ditchlingplayers.org.uk

9th LUNCHTIME JAZZ AT THE HASSOCKS Hassocks Hotel, doors open 11.45 am for 12 pm. A set Lunch included in the entrance fee. Call 01444 235986 to book.

9th THE GROUP The Con Club, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. www.thegroup.org.uk. A club for unattached men and women, aged 55+.

9th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 7.45 pm. 'Roses - All About Roses' an illustrated talk by Jacqueline Aviolet followed by a small plant sale.

10th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

11th WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Tamara info on Keymer Parish Church website.

11th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7.30 pm. www.hurstfilms.com. Film - Hit the Road (12).

12th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'On Air Night'

13th SOUTH DOWNS WELCOME PROJECT Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. 'Raise the Roof 2' Lou Beckerman & musicians fundraising concert. See article for Tickets.

13th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning come and try Bowls. All welcome.

14th THE BEACON PARISH St Martins, Westmeston 3.30 pm. 'Jam and Jerusalem' Come & enjoy homemade refreshments & sing some favourite hymns..

15th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. The Air Ambulance Visitors welcome.

16th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by HHD U3A. All welcome.

18th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Limbo.



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18th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7 pm. www.hurstfilms.com. NT Live performance of Best of Enemies starring David Harewood & Zachary Quinto.

18th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

18th HAS SOCKS TREFOIL GUILD 'Visit to the Butterfly Gardens'.

19th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Direction Finding Evening'.

20th ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB Adastra Park, Hassocks 10 am - 12 pm. Open Morning come and try Bowls. All welcome.

20th/21st Turner Dumbrells workshops Ditchling 11am - 4 pm Open Weekend see article for more info.

22nd CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

24th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

24th ALL THE RIGHT NOTES URC Church Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. 'A Summer Sing' see www.alltherightnoteschoir.com. Tickets from Choir members.

25th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, East End Lane, Ditchling, 7 - 9 pm. 'All things Compost' Q&A Evening.

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26th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7.30 pm. www.hurstfilms.com. Film - Summer of Soul (12)

26th HURST, HAS SOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Court Bushes, Hurstpierpoint, 2 pm. 'Buffalo Bill & Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee' Bill McNaught. All welcome.

26th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm. AGM followed by 'The History of the Devils Dyke' Chris Horlock. Visitors welcome.

26th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Radio Discussion Evening'.

27th MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

27th MENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Fr Alex info on Keymer Parish Church website.

27th THE GROWING NETWORK Hassocks Village Market, Age Concern, Dale Avenue, Hassocks, 9 am - 1 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Children welcome too.

27th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'From Page to Stage'. Tickets 07340 251875

27th HAS SOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

27th REPAIR CAFE & SPIRE IT Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 10 am - 1 pm. Bring items for repair book your slot call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.

28th HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 2.30 pm. www.hurstfilms.com. Film - A Bunch of Amateurs (12A)

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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

To start this month, I'm going to go back 15 years to the good old days of no online shopping or superstores, people depended on their local shops especially the dog breeders of this world. The one I used to deliver to most regularly, was a guy called Alan, he lived on the London Road just down from the Friars Oak. He only ever bred small dogs and was always careful how many times he bred from his females. I can clearly remember carrying a bag of dog food into his front lounge, and seeing this tiny puppy sitting in a cage on its own, I asked what was wrong with it and he said he thought he'd sold it, but she had changed her mind and cancelled. He then gave me a postcard to put up on our notice board advertising it. I looked down at the puppy in the cage, then picked up the postcard and left. When I got back to the shop, I took the card out of my pocket to put in the window and just glanced at it. I don't know what happened, but that pretty little face just captured my heart. I phoned Alan to say I would be coming back for the puppy which was a female Yorkie cross Pomeranian with the £350 pound he wanted for her. My plan was to have her at the shop with me, but the next obstacle was to let the wife know I just bought myself a puppy, which was OK because like me she fell in love with its beautiful little face. I'd already decided I was going to call her Cher because I was a big fan of the singer, but that went out the window when Nola vetoed that idea by announcing she will be called 'Tinkerbell' and so 'Tinkerbell' had arrived in our lives. My other plan to have the little doggy with me at the shop also didn't quite go how I wanted. To be fair Tink, as she came to be known, loved her dad - I'd rescued her from that awful cage but she just worshipped and adored Nola, as much as I tried to have my little doggy with me, it was never to be, there was only one place the little doggie wanted to be, and that was by Nola's side, or better still in her arms. 15 years sounds such a long time, especially when you look back to all the wonderful times they had together which created unforgettable memories. Tink was the most perfect little dog you could ever hope to own, if I'd ever been allowed just one wish in my life it would have been she'd live forever but like most animals little doggies have a habit of breaking your heart. At about 10 years old Tink developed pancreatitis, which was OK, it could be managed with medicine and careful feeding, then along came arthritis, but a new miracle injection once a month helped that enormously. Tink lived for her food and chasing balls, sadly the ever advancing years stopped the ball chasing but then along came the doggy buggy, she loved being pushed around Ditchling by Nola. While on a trip to Torquay to visit the grandchildren Tink became unwell and Nola rushed her back home to visit Kathy to find out what was wrong. Her kidneys were starting to fail and after repeated visits to the vets it was decided that nothing more could be done and Tinkerbell, my beautiful Tinkerbell, had reached the point of no return. It was a sickening feeling but giving her a good death is the last great duty any dog owner can grant them. Nola contacted a friend of ours, Suzen Gregson of Vets2Home, who we'd used before and was amazing. A dignified death is her guarantee. Nola brought Tink to the shop so I could spend time kissing and cuddling her and just repeating over and over again 'I love you my beautiful girl!', then after one very long kiss on her nose Nola drove her home for one last outing in her buggy which she loved and then just sat and cuddled her for a couple of hours till Suzen arrived. It was only right that Nola was with Tink for the last goodbye, they adored each other. Now she's gone the house is so empty and quiet, this magical dog just brought so much love into our lives, even if my heart feels like it is breaking it remains full of undying love for my beloved Tinkerbell.

On another note, I was in McColls the other day and who was in there having quite a lengthy conversation with our Maureen? Dianne Buswell the flame haired Dancer from Strictly Come Dancing. Perhaps she was trying to persuade Maureen to become a contestant - The Stars do come to Hassocks.

Sad News about Paul O'Grady, he was a regular visitor to the Friars Oak Pub when it was owned by a very colourful character called Malcolm. I saw him a couple of times when Lily Savage was doing the cabaret circuit - very saucy. I'm pretty sure Malcolm won the lottery, sold the pub and moved to a warmer climate - good old days. Steve

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