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Your Editors: Joanna Lambe, Heidi Brown & Natalie Dalley

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**STOOLBALL DITCHLING** start their second season in the Central Sussex Stoolball Division. Their endeavour cannot be faulted; however the team are looking to improve on last season's 5th position, with a more concerted effort, especially in the cup competition  
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## VIVACE! CONCERT AT DANNY HOUSE

The Ditchling-based choir Vivace! is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a concert in the Great Hall at Danny House, Hurstpierpoint on **28th June**. As usual with Vivace! (named after the musical term for "Lively") will be a mixed programme of old and new music, with something to please everyone.

The grounds will be open to ticketholders from 6.30 pm, doors open at 7 pm and the concert begins at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available in advance from Jane at [janepem@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janepem@hotmail.co.uk) or on **07853 142894**. Please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Vivace! is a group of friendly people who enjoy singing for charity fund-raising events all over Sussex. We always welcome new recruits. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact [info@vivacechoirsussex.org.uk](mailto:info@vivacechoirsussex.org.uk), or come along and talk to us at the Danny concert. You don't necessarily have to be able to read music, as long as you can follow it and enjoy singing in harmony. *Richard Ware*

\*\*\*\*\*

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**NEWS FROM STONEYWISH** Michael has returned from a postcard fair with another fat wad of pictures for the Stoneywish Archive. As each is squeezed into place in the albums of this ever-expanding phenomenon, an overall picture of life in our local villages a hundred years ago gradually emerges. And this overall picture, like the outlines of an old-fashioned photograph emerging from its chemical bath, begins to crystallize into finer and finer detail. Here lies the untold story of Hassocks, or Ditchling, or Poynings – the subtle, *unmemorable* moments which did not make it into nostalgic memoirs or historical testimonies. The phantoms of tree, or gateway, which came and witnessed life for a hundred years perhaps, before slipping quietly out of the record and beyond anybody's recollection. The unnameable faces blossom, like a sprinkling of snowdrops on unmarked graves, yielding up hints of lives, rich beyond telling. And those houses, corners, footpaths which have survived into our own time remind us that we are not separate from this other world, but living in the thick of it, if only we could take the time to hear what it has to whisper to us. This glimpse of the past is not *curated*, not arranged

to fit a contemporary narrative, but it does transmit a kind of front-parlour, Sunday-best view of the world, which the hasty messages, scribbled on the reverse underscore. Such postcards were the texts and emails of the Edwardian era, when postal deliveries arrived several times a day and one could rearrange a tea-party or show a friend where one was staying (“a cross marks the house”) or send get-well wishes and receive a reply within hours. Here is the heart of Keymer Village: on a quiet day, with boys in caps playing marbles in the middle of the road and girls in pinafores looking on; on a working day with a postman on his bicycle, his letter-sack on his back, and a tradesman peddling the other way, and a horse and cart lumbering past The Greyhound, while a woman in a straw hat sits inexplicably on the kerb, perhaps unable to carry her shopping any further. The shopkeepers have lined up for their photographs in their long white aprons – The Stores on one side of the street – the Post Office on the other. Here is the same street on a busy day: the local Fire Brigade lead a memorial procession for King Edward VII, 1910. Their brass helmets gleam as they march solemnly to church; they are engulfed in a relaxed air of holiday excitement as the villagers spill off the pavements and jostle round them on their return. Lodge Lane: Two bearded elders stand at a cottage gate, passing the time of day with a man carrying two milk pails on a yoke. The roads are leafy, the cottages dilapidated. But flowing through all these pictures is a sense of the spaciousness of time. Work is hard and the hours long. Nobody has a comfortable way to wash and wages are meagre. But everyone seems



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to own the corner they live in. For them the violent upheavals of the 20th century, the apparently irreversible theft of time and individual sovereignty are beyond unimagining. Up on the Downs, they are still using oxen to plough and horses to harrow. In the rickyards they are still thatching haystacks and cornstacks with a confectioner's eye for beauty and perfection in every detail. There is an unspoken self-sufficiency, not merely practical, but inward – a learnt resolution, which I remember from my own great-aunts and -uncles of the same era, to take life's knocks on the chin. Also a determination to enjoy a holiday! Tea gardens, pleasure gardens abound. And skills abound. When it comes to building a float for the fair, or decorating the church for Harvest Festival, there are no half-measures taken. Their school reading and writing might be shaky at best, but these folk are no fools. They know how to take the measure of their world, read the sky over their heads, and look out for their own. Of course, what is missing in this pictorial 'window' is the sound of voices blathering, and there would have been blathering and arguing and gossiping and cats caterwauling and dogs fighting and cocks crowing and horse dung everywhere, and fleas even and privies to empty... Most of that

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has been tidied away, along with the seed cake and the lace doilies and the 'stink' of tobacco smoke. But to stand at this window and allow oneself to enter into it brings a sense of belonging which is worth recovering. I sometimes laugh that Michael spends more time in this 'lost' world than in our own present one, to which he retorts that I spend all my time lost in books. I am many centuries more out of date than him. But there is room for eccentrics in this all-embracing view of time, I am sure. We will go down as two hopeless ones! But perhaps we can retrieve things of value for others along the way.

A selection of Michael's postcards can be seen in his 'Museum' at Stoneywish. Simply ring the office (01273 843498) to book your personal guided tour and then you can enjoy the authentic 'blather' of his memories too, direct from the horse's mouth! Why not make up a party of friends and come along? The current exhibition features East End Lane in Ditchling, along with a more general display of local memorabilia.

Today is May Day, so I hope you seize this moment as your own and enjoy it. The loveliest of months lies ahead.

*Rosemary*



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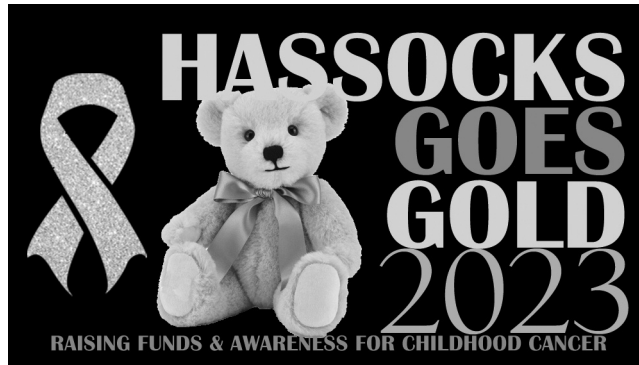
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**HASSOCKS GOES GOLD – IT’S WORKING!**

Earlier this year, feeling tired, and very sad about Pearl, I was considering that this year would be the last Hassocks Goes Gold.... But then two things happened...

Firstly, I was contacted by Teddy’s mother who, even though she is going through the very worst of times coping with Teddy’s Neuroblastoma diagnosis and treatment was so considerate to think to warn me in case I was triggered by their fundraising. I am indeed, just as she predicted. But I am also galvanised by the injustice of so many families like Teddy’s having to fundraise so much money for treatment abroad that should be offered and researched here.

The second call was from the Children’s Cancer & Leukaemia Group, the charity supported by Hassocks Goes Gold. I am really delighted to tell you that we have enabled not one but two new research projects to go ahead! As per our mission statement in Pearl’s name, both will fight aggressive types of childhood cancer with terribly poor outcomes.

The first project at the Institute of Child Health UCL, concentrates on Medulloblastoma - a common type of childhood brain tumour, attempting to create a new type of CAR-T immunotherapy treat-

ment to improve survival rates currently as low as 5%.

The second project will be at the University of Oxford, researching the use of stem cells to treat Juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia (JMML) an extremely rare leukaemia that is very aggressive. Currently only half of these children will survive for five years or more.

It is wonderful that the money raised in large part by this wonderful local community is having a real and direct impact on raising the level of vital research into Childhood Cancer.

So, I am happy to announce that Hassocks Goes Gold continues. The current amount raised for Pearl’s fund has just passed the £87,000 mark so I’m setting my sights on smashing £100,000 by the end of September! Raising funds for research and raising awareness will help so many children in the future, and we’ll have lots of fun along the way... there will be the glittering trail of sponsored Giant Gold Bows, Gold Tombolas at the village market, a Golden Dodgeball Tournament(!), the Sunflower growing competition (see separate article), the amazing Daily Auction and a Golden Gala finale on Friday **29th September**, and so, so much more... including very importantly the Golden

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Poster Competition – open to all ages. This year's theme of **GOLDEN TEDDY BEARS** is dedicated to Teddy and all money raised from the poster sales will go to help Teddy and the Big C.

Pick up an entry form from QD Stationery or download from Facebook/Hassocks Goes Gold – deadline for entries is **Friday 7th July**.

Details of all events will be on Facebook and [www.justgiving.com/page/hgg2023](http://www.justgiving.com/page/hgg2023)

Please get in touch if you'd like to get involved in any way or have a crazy golden idea, you'd like to get off the ground! Let's celebrate our success so far and set our sights even higher!

[hassocksgoesgold@gmail.com](mailto:hassocksgoesgold@gmail.com).

*Rachel Bartlett Bundy*

## **AND DON'T FORGET OUR SUNFLOWER GROWING COMPETITION**

We are delighted to announce our 4th annual Hassocks Goes Gold Sunflower Competition. Could you be the lucky winner of the tallest sunflower in 2023?? Last year, our winner Marilyn Cohen grew an absolute giant of a sunflower at 404cm. This year we have two categories: 'Tallest Sunflower' and 'Prettiest Sunflower'. So, if you manage to grow a beautiful sunflower but it's only 2 foot high you are still in with a chance of winning a prize!

The competition is open to all ages and to anyone living in Hassocks. Also eligible are any children who attend a school in Hassocks (whether they live in the village or not). We encourage entrants to plant sunflowers in front gardens if possible so that Hassocks residents can enjoy the flowers. Many

Shining a Light on Childhood Cancer

## Hassocks Goes Gold Sunflower Growing Competition

- Plant a sunflower in your garden (front if you can)
- Measure when grown from base to highest point
- Send a photo of your sunflower with its height in cms
- Or plant one in a pot instead and send us a photo

Two Prize Categories: Tallest and Prettiest

Open to current Hassocks residents & all Hassocks school children  
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Winners announced 1st Sept 2023

To Enter:

Post your sunflower photo & height on the  
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thanks to our sponsor Matt from Maple Leaf Gardens who has generously agreed to support this competition again.

To enter, post your sunflower photo (and sunflower height in cms if entering the tallest sunflower category) on the Hassocks Goes Gold Facebook page or email to [sunflowers4hassocks@gmail.com](mailto:sunflowers4hassocks@gmail.com). The closing date is the 24th of August. Winners will be announced on the 1st of September to mark the beginning of Hassocks Goes Gold month. Good luck!

*Rachel Barton*

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*We thank Richard Mitchell for the following letter:-*

I am researching my grandparents Wilfred Emery and Dorothy Pearce, who were well known in Hassocks: both were Parish and District Councillors and chaired the Parish Council; he was a church warden and she was well known in Amateur Dramatics. Recently I have been trying to work out how my grandparents met and have established the following:

In 1911, the Emery family are in Wellington Villa, Lodge Road Keymer Hassocks, my grandfather having been born in Cowfold, his siblings in Keymer.

In various Electoral Rolls (ER) from 1918-1938 I find Wilfred's parents living at Maymead, Keymer. In the 1939 ER, the address is given as Maymead, Lodge Road.

In the 1939 Register, their address is MayMead, Lodge Lane.

The press report into Wilfred's father's funeral say he was of Parkmead Villa – that may be a mistake, unless Maymead and Parkmead were related somehow.

Dorothy's mother (and presumably she) were at No 1 Parkmead Villas in 1922, according to the ER,

(my grandmother was too young to be on it).

The residents at No 2 Parkmead Villas then were living in Parkmead, Lodge Road in 1911, 9 doors away from Wellington Villa, Lodge Road.

This may be how my grandparents got to know each other.

This leads to various questions, and I wonder if you or someone who reads your magazine can help:

I wonder if Parkmead Villa was split into separate parts between 1911 and 1921?

Is there any information on Maymead, its location – and is it in anyway associate with Parkmead Villa?

Park Avenue is further down Lodge Lane, is that associated with Parkmead?

Where were Maymead, Parkmead, Wellington Villa, etc.

I have been looking at some old maps. Lodge Lane goes from Keymer south to Lodge Farm the other side of New Road which goes from Ditchling to near Clayton Tunnel. In some maps, the part of the road from the old Fire Station (at the end of Dale Avenue) northwards to the main road through Hassocks to Ditchling, the 'built up area' is labelled Lodge Road, though modern maps don't call any of it Lodge Road. It seems reasonable that addresses given as Lodge Road were on Lodge Lane. If you can help please email me [r.j.mitchell@reading.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.mitchell@reading.ac.uk).

*Richard Mitchell*

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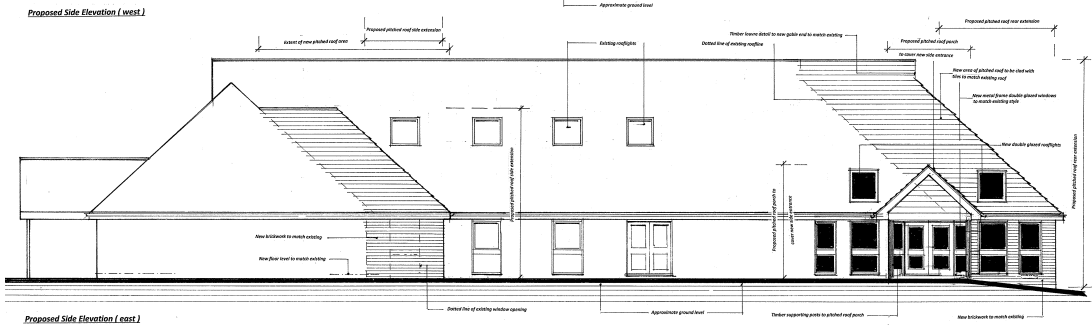
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**IN MAY 1987 ADASTRA HALL** opened following a massive fund-raising effort from the village. Fast-forward 36 years and the hall you see today, is pretty much the same. Yet, the village has grown, demand has grown for our spaces and it's time to make some changes.

Adastra Hall is run by a charity, by volunteers, and is really, really popular - we have, already for 2023 over 900 bookings and you only have to browse the pages of Talk About to see the number of clubs that meet in the building - U3a, WI, Field Society, Table Tennis, Short Mat Bowls, Star Cinema, Music Lessons, Art Lessons, Wakes, Weddings, Fundraisers, AGM's, and of course parties. Every booking tells its' own story - be it an opportunity to get people out of the house to socialise, to learn, or an opportunity to celebrate. All for the people of Hassocks.

The current hall committee recognise the need to continue to improve and we will have spent over £100,000 in the past 12 months on the building, in-

cluding our 42 panel solar electricity system which is to be installed shortly. In April, we applied for planning permission for 2 extensions and hopefully by the time you read this, permission will have been granted. We are going to extend the toilets, and we are going to extend the green room to create an alternative space to the main hall for around 60 people, with lovely views over the park and a new kitchen / servery.

This work, however is at least a year away from happening - we are hopeful of grants to fund half of the work, but with a price tag of around £500,000 we will be, once more, looking to the village to support our efforts. Donations, sponsorship of the new areas, legacies will all be considered so please, if you have any ideas, or would like to know more, please contact our secretary - Carolyn Barton - via the hall, via email: [carolyn.barton@adastrahall.com](mailto:carolyn.barton@adastrahall.com) or via our booking secretary on **07764 531246** who can pass your message on. Thank you! *Chris Hobbs*

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**THE WINDMILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL** We have been continuing our theme of celebrating the importance of reading and writing with a writing competition; challenging the children to write their own 'twisted fairy tales'. The idea is for the children to either twist an existing fairy tale; for example, changing the setting or part of the plot, writing it from a different character's point of view, or giving it a new ending; or they could write their own original one. We have had lots of fabulous, creative entries which are now with the judging panel to decide on an overall winner.

Our year 6 children have just returned from their PGL residential. The weather has been much kinder to them this year thankfully, and lots of fun has been had by all. We are very proud of the exemplary behaviour, courage and team spirit shown by the children – you are a credit to your families and the school! A team of 6 children from years 5 and 6 represented The Windmills at the Haywards Heath Lions Club Swimathon on Good Friday, competing against



80 other teams. They were impeccably behaved, polite, enthusiastic and supportive of each other. Before the start of the relay the children had made a collective decision to aim for 100 lengths. With a huge amount of effort and determination they reached the 100th length in the last 40 seconds of the race. The spectators were on their feet cheering for them. Their effort and determination paid off as the team raised £350 for local mental health charities; what a great achievement!

To mark the King's coronation on the 6th May the children have been thinking about the role of the Monarchy and how, in times to come, this will be a key point in British history that will be represented on timelines. Monarchy and democracy are key historical strands within our history curriculum that we discuss through the different historical topics – from the first Kings and Queens of England in the Anglo Saxon times, to the modern day monarchy. On the 5th May the children will have their own 'Street Party' at lunchtime. We will take out the tables from the lunch hall and arrange them

in a long row so that the children can eat together. This is very different from a normal lunchtime where the children eat their packed lunches in the classroom and hot dinners in the school hall. Bringing the whole year groups together on the playground, all 90 children, will really mark this as a community event. The children have been invited to wear red, white or blue on that day, or to dress like a royal, wear a crown or dress as if attending a royal tea party. It will

certainly be a memorable event!

We have more exciting activities planned for the summer term including Mid-Sussex Athletics, a geography trip for year 3 to learn about land use and how maps show you where things are, a trip to Butser Ancient Farm for year 4 to help learn more about life in ancient Britain, and a trip to Brighton for year 5, where they will visit the Royal Pavilion and learn about the Georgian era.

*On behalf of The Windmills*

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## HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A - NATURAL HISTORY GROUP 1

HHD u3a Natural History group 1 started in 2012 when the Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling branch of the national u3a was founded. This informal but enthusiastic group recently celebrated their 10th anniversary with a meal at The Hassocks Hotel. Afterwards they reminisced over photos taking during the ten years and enjoyed a light-hearted quiz.

Since then, they have visited Tide Mills, Newhaven, Bedlands Local Nature Reserve at Burgess Hill, and the Sussex Wildlife Trust Reserve at Woods Mill where this group photo was taken in April 2023. The group enjoys looking at, and sometimes photographing, anything to do with nature, trying to identify as much as possible. Besides sharing their knowledge of flora and fauna, group members are now learning about insects – an enjoyable challenge, because there is so much to learn.

The following were spotted while visiting Woods Mill.

Flowers 16: primrose, bluebell, lesser celandine,



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sweet violet, ground ivy, ivy leaved speedwell, wood anemone, daisy, blackthorn, lesser periwinkle, dandelion, pussy willow, white deadnettle, cowslip, common dog violet, comfrey

Birds 20: robin, chiff chaff, song thrush, dunnock, bluetit, great tit, nuthatch, blackbird, reed bunting, mallard, moorhen, coot, wren, blackcap, wood pigeon, crow, jackdaw, magpie, green woodpecker, herring gull

Others: bumble bee, honeybee, hover fly, vole, shrew, peacock butterfly, brimstone butterfly, 7-spot ladybird, bee fly.

This Natural History group has 20 members and over the years three more Natural History groups have been established –

all meeting monthly. Perhaps the time is coming for a fifth group to start?

Information from Group Leaders Roy and Pat Ticehurst, and photos by Maureen Dodd.

u3a is a national movement which supports people in their third age to continue their learning and interests in an informal environment. Do visit our local website: [u3asites.org.uk/hhd/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/hhd/home). *Marie Fraser*

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**STAG BEETLE** I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequinned spandex. In June, Stag Beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There's around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long Stag Beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male Stag Beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whirl through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to

it that's when things get nasty.

In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers. With incredible strength a Stag Beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slamming them down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our Stag Beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a Stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.

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 guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join).

*Michael Blencowe*





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**Well what an amazing day we had on Saturday 7th May at The Hassocks Pub for TEDDY AND THE BIG C fundraiser!!**

**GRAND TOTAL £3914.82** 🎉

There are so many thank you's to say, first of all a huge thank you to everyone who came out in the rain to support us Saturday and raise such an amazing amount of money!!

Chris Lambe and Gillian Lambe a massive thank you for your sponsorship of the day!

Providing us the venue, contributing towards the activities that took place and a generous donation towards the final total.

The staff at The Hassocks for working their socks off all day and especially Chris and Tommy Moore for making sure it was still a success with emergency rain cover for all activities on the morning.

A massive shout to Ben Woodward for arranging the music for the day and an enormous thank you to all the musicians who donated their time and talent to us for the day!

A huge thank you to Tara The Garden Spa - Eco Salon in Hurstpierpoint and Melinda Alphabet Bespoke Creations.

Thank you to The Hassocks Poker team for their very generous donation.

Thank you to QD Stationery for their printing services for the advertising of the day!

A massive thank you to everyone who donated raffle prizes! The raffle alone raised £2508.32 and this wouldn't have been possible without all the generous donations.

And I think finally.... A massive thank you to my helpers on the day Teague Hickman, Rebecca Logan, Molly Raftery and Team Teddy who sold a crazy amount of raffle tickets and made the day such a huge success!

**If you'd still like to donate then please scan the QR code or fundraising buckets are in QD Stationery or on the Bar at the Hassocks Pub! *Laura Hole***

Scan here with your phone to donate now!



**CAN YOU MAKE A PLEDGE TO OUR AUCTION OF PROMISES?** Thank you so much to everyone in the village who has supported and continue to support us in our fundraising efforts for Teddy! At the time of writing, we are just about to hit £70k, with some fantastic events still lined up. Special thanks goes to Chris at The Purple Carrot Cafe for organising Teddy's big quiz, and The Hassocks Hotel for dedicating their Coronation fun day to raising money for Teddy's lifesaving cancer treatment.

Teddy turns 4 in June, and we want to celebrate his birthday with something big! We are planning an 'Auction of Promises' and are asking local people and businesses to pledge their time, skills, goods and services to be auctioned off in aid of Teddy's Appeal. This could be anything from an evening of babysitting or a special birthday cake, a few hours of your skilled labour or a special item from your small business, to a meal out at your restaurant or a stay in your holiday cottage. If you would like to pledge a promise, please get in touch at [teddyandthebigc@gmail.com](mailto:teddyandthebigc@gmail.com) and help us make this a big one for Teddy!

*Kat and Alastair*



*Sarah Hilton from Friends of Windmills School in Hassocks at family-run South Downs Nurseries with Clive Gravett, founder of The Budding Foundation.*

**SCORES OF CHILDREN AT A HASSOCKS SCHOOL ARE SET TO WATCH NATURE IN ACTION**, boosted by a donation from a Sussex charity.

Some 90 pupils at Windmills Junior will plant seeds and monitor their germination and growth. Nearby South Downs Nurseries provided the necessary pots, compost and all-important seeds as well as extra supplies for classroom experiments. The Budding Foundation, which supports young people across Sussex, funded the supplies and founder Clive Gravett says he's looking forward to finding out how the project goes.

"We can't wait to see how the children get on", he said. "It is always a delight to support such work."

*Trevor Butler*

**FREE TALK ON SWIFTS** Wednesday **14th June** 7 pm. Around here, the call of swifts as they scythe through the sky in twos and fours has been one of the iconic sounds of the summer. Every year these migratory birds arrive at the beginning of May from Africa and return there in August after nesting. Until a few summers ago, like many other villages, Hurstpierpoint had several thriving swift populations.

These are astonishing birds, they are the fastest in level flight, beating the peregrine falcon and the quickest hummingbird to reach motorway-style speeds of 69 mph, clocking up literally millions of miles in a lifetime. They can stay entirely airborne for 10 months, eating, sleeping and breeding as they surf the air currents, and they live for up to 21 years, partnering for life, and returning to the same nesting sites every year.

Swifts found themselves on the red list of endangered animals two years ago, and their species is currently in free fall. The ravages of climate change coupled with the fact that farmland offers very little sustenance to wild creatures has led to a precipitous decline in insect life, and swifts feed exclusively on flying insects. There is also a lack of suitable nesting sites. For millennia swifts nested in tall pines but adapted to roosting in the eaves of old houses and other high buildings. Renovations and plastic fittings mean space for these birds has dwindled to a critical point.

This year Hurst Rethink are actively promoting these birds' welfare in response to the dramatic drop in numbers locally. In March, ten audio nesting boxes were installed in Weald Close, where there used to be a healthy population. Hurst Rethink are monitoring the use of these boxes closely in this first year,

Everyone is invited to a free talk about swifts and other local wildlife, held at 7 pm in the back room of The New Inn on Wednesday **14th June**. Renowned swift expert Edward Mayer will give a talk, and experts will promote the cause of Sussex bats, pond life and hedgehogs. There will also be a plant stall and the chance to buy a drink. Please come and support us; by better understanding our local wildlife, we can better support it.

Visit [hurstrethink.org](http://hurstrethink.org) for more information.

*Charlotte Snook*

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

Our May meeting featured a talk on the work of the Air Ambulance. Our craft club made sun glass cases let's hope they get plenty of use, Summer is arriving eventually. The June meeting is cheese and wine with a twist. Decide on your favourite, favourite cheese.

Hassocks WI coronation post box toppers delighted many in the village. Some were photographed, one disappeared.

The craft club meeting in June will feature another decorative item to make during the afternoon with the help of our talented and patient crafty member.

The New Age Kurling was a fun evening. All details of all events are on the noticeboard, displayed during the evening and via emails during the month.

All visitors are welcome (donation) to our monthly meetings.

*Gerry*

**THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON** We start the month with another of our popular Children's Services on Sunday **4th June**. Join us at 10 am at St. Margaret's Ditchling for Morning Worship with Communion and a particular welcome for children and families. It promises to be a really joyful service.

Another great 'all age' occasion will be our afternoon service at Streat Church at 3.30 pm on Sunday **11th June**. Do join us for a cup of tea, delicious cakes and some great hymn singing.

Our regular services of Morning Worship with Communion will be held at Ditchling on Sunday **11th June**, at St. Martin's, Westmeston on Sunday **18th June** and back at St. Margaret's on Sunday **25th June**, all beginning at 10 am.

A reflective Wednesday @ 10 service of Holy Communion takes place at St. Margaret's at 10 am every Wednesday. A lovely time of rest during the busyness of the week.

If you enjoy singing, why not come along and SING! with us at 6 pm in St. Margaret's on Wednesday **7th June**: a good mix of new songs and old favourites.

Everyone will be made very welcome at all of our

services. Please always check our website [www.beaconparish.co.uk/](http://www.beaconparish.co.uk/) for any changes that have been made to services and events for June.

*Sherrian Guest*

**DOWNLANDS SUMMER FAIR** We are excited to announce our Summer fayre will be going ahead on Saturday **24th June** from 12 to 4 pm. This is the Downlands School Association's (PTA) biggest fundraiser. The Downlands School Association is made up of a combination of friendly dedicated parents and staff who work as a team to raise funds to enhance the school's environment.

Every student will benefit from the fundraising efforts of the Downlands School Association and in the past year they have helped finance new picnic tables, outside shelters and dining pods, so the students have more places to sit and eat. We are now fundraising to revamp the courtyards so the students can use them.

Please support Downlands and pop along on the Saturday the **24th June** from 12 to 4 pm, where we will have something for everyone to enjoy. Also look out for our fantastic prize draw which is supported by so many local businesses.

Music and Theatre performances, Dog Show, Burgess Hill Runners event, Inflatables fun, BBQ and refreshments plus Bar, student stalls and school uniform sale,

Come and see your school if you will start at Downlands in September 2023.

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*Alan Harman*

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**HHDu3a MONTHLY MEETING** Bill Avenell, at April's HHDu3a monthly meeting, scattered his talk, honouring the 'Queen of Subjects: Geography' with music, childhood memories and poems. His passion for the world of nature came, however, with a warning. Housing developments demanded water in excess of existing levels. Traffic jams arise as Smart Motorways struggle to manage the increase in car ownership. New roads can be built but at a cost of up to £30m per km. And there is an environmental cost.

Further afield there's climate warming and the devastation caused by hurricanes and volcanoes, the lasting legacy of the tectonic plates still moving deep in the Earth's outermost layers.

For all this he still found time to explain how, whether it's ice cream vans on the beach or restaurants in the High Street, businesses cluster together. And back to his love of nature, especially near to home, the North and South Downs and the Needles rising out of the sea at Alum Bay. In the end he reminded us that while some things change, other things are timeless, and he left us with Kipling's praise of 'Bare slopes where chasing shadows skim.'

For more information about HHDu3a go to [u3asites.org.uk/hhd](http://u3asites.org.uk/hhd).

*Jeremy Weinstein*



*We thank Dave Evans for this picture taken in the 1940/1950s of Mr Funnell and his cart horse. He was a carter for George Hole of Washbrooks Farm in Hurstpierpoint*

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**DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY** usually shows its films on the first Thursday of the month and June's film lands neatly on the **1st June**.

We're showing the very beautiful film *Utama* directed by Alejandro Loayza Gris (2022).

This is the story as it unfolds. In the arid Bolivian highlands, an elderly Quechua couple have been living a tranquil and traditional life for years. While husband Virginio takes their small herd of llamas out to graze each day, his wife Sisa keeps house and walks for miles with the other village women to fetch precious water.

When an uncommonly long drought threatens to up-end everything they know, Virginio and Sisa must decide on the future shape of their lives. Their dilemma is precipitated by the arrival of their grandson Clever, who comes to visit with news. The three of them must face, each in their own way, the effects of a dramatically changing environment and the threats it poses to tradition.

Clever wants his grandparents to move to the city with the rest of the family. What he fails to understand is that the question for Virginio and Sisa is not where to live, but where to die. And when they are gone, who will be left in the family to speak the indigenous Quechua language or live their way of life.

*Utama* is a gentle and superbly shot film. This visually jaw-dropping debut feature is directed by Bolivian photographer-turned-filmmaker, Alejandro Loayza Gris, with award-winning cinematography by Barbara Alvarez. *Utama* won the Grand Jury Prize (World Cinema Dramatic) at the Sundance Film Festival.

Certificate 12A. Running time 88 minutes. Language Quecha. English subtitles.

Our July film will be on **6th July** is *Hit the Road* by Panah Panahi. The films are shown on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall.

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St. Christopher's Home is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that provides reasonably priced rented accommodation to local people who meet the following criteria:

- Applicants are selected primarily from persons who have lived in the West Sussex County Council area for the previous three years, with preference being given to those from Hurstpierpoint, Sayers Common, Albourne, Hassocks and other neighbouring parishes. Others not fitting these criteria will be considered at the discretion of the trustees.
- Applicants should be 60 years old or over and preferably not in paid employment. Any exception to these criteria will be at the discretion of the trustees.
- The applicants must be capable of looking after themselves and are fit enough to keep their accommodation clean and tidy.

Issued by St. Christopher's Home Trustees – May 2023

Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the showing at 8 pm.

There's plenty of parking next to the hall. Go to our website [ditchlingfilm.org.uk](http://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](https://www.instagram.com/ditchlingfilmsoc) and Tweet @[@Ditchlingfilm](https://twitter.com/Ditchlingfilm). Hope to see you at the next film. *Kate O'Donnell*

**SUSSEX SEWING CLUB** Come join us on Saturday **10th June**, 10 am to 4 pm, at Westmeston Parish Hall. Sussex Sewing Club is a monthly get-together for people who love sewing. Bring your own project, your sewing machine, and spend the day working on your project in a relaxed environment, chatting all things sewing!

Please email [sussexsewingclub@gmail.com](mailto:sussexsewingclub@gmail.com) for more information on membership and the booking link.

*Dianne Bowles*

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**MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 13th - 19th June.** International Men's Health Week (IMHW) is an international week celebrated in several countries the week preceding and including Father's Day to focus on issues facing men's health. The week is an opportunity to highlight the importance of men's health and promote their physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. The goal of International Men's Health Week is to increase awareness of male health issues on a global level and encourage institutions to develop health policies and services that meet the specific needs of men, boys, and their families. It is important to be conscious of serious health conditions, so, for this year's Men's Health Week, which runs **13th - 19th June** it's time for men everywhere, to give themselves an MOT - whether it's your mental or physical wellbeing, men across the UK and Internationally are being asked to check-in with their bodies and minds. We ask Barnaby Chappell, Consultant Urologist, what things we can do in terms of our urological health, to just check everything is as it should be?

"I can understand why men shy away from issues with their urinary tract, erectile dysfunction or prostate but, like most illness or disease, we need to know more about these problems, and although the more we search for them, the more cases we find, it does help us get closer to helping people live longer with something like prostate cancer. With the PSA test, available through your GP, for example, we can identify who might be at

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risk of prostate cancer and monitor them accordingly. The earlier we spot symptoms, the greater the chance of finding curative solutions for them."

The consultant added that symptoms don't always mean bad news and that if men visit their doctor early on, they might save themselves a whole lot of worry. "Many of the signs that people associate with the prostate can be harmless. For example, problem urinating can be caused by the enlarging of the prostate gland, but that does not necessarily mean cancer. Also, erectile dysfunction can actually have more to do with the heart and can precede heart conditions that may present themselves in a few years' time. So it's definitely worthwhile being examined to manage, prevent or treat that."

"Finally, I would urge men to check their testicles regularly. It is usually possible to cure testicular cancer. But it is easier to treat when it is diagnosed early. Doing this regularly means you will soon get to know what feels normal for you. A normal testicle should feel smooth and firm, but not hard. It can be easier to check the testicles during, or right after, a warm bath or shower when the scrotal skin is relaxed. Hold the scrotum in the palm of your hand. Use your fingers and thumb to examine each testicle. You should feel for any lumps or swelling, any differences between the testicles. It is normal for the testicles to be slightly different in size or for one to hang lower than the other."

*Janet Francis*



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**CALLING ALL SINGERS** Heber Opera holds its first rehearsal for its 2023 production - The Tales of Hoffmann by Jaques Offenbach - on Sunday **4th June** at 7.30pm in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre. We welcome new members who enjoy singing and acting and would be delighted to see some new faces at our first rehearsal. There is no charge for attending a single rehearsal which gives you the opportunity to see if you like Heber Opera. The Tales of Hoffman is sung in English and will be performed in four Sussex venues at the end of September.

For more information, please contact me [jen.hawkes@btinternet.com](mailto:jen.hawkes@btinternet.com) or **07770 962811**.

*Jenny Hawkes*

**AGE CONCERN** Dale Avenue, Hassocks. **01273 844461** [www.achassocks.co.uk](http://www.achassocks.co.uk)

Come along and have a coffee or lunch at our Centre, we serve lunches Monday to Friday, with our 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.

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able rates. Please do come and take a look and we can show you around.

Chair Pilates on a Monday 2 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.

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**WORLD EARTH DAY** 22nd April 2023, the registered charity 'Ditchling Beacon and Commons' officially launched its new website which aims to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of the Ditchling Commons.

Chairman of the charity, Peter Eastwood plantsman and horticulturalist has lived adjoining the Common for over 50 years and has been a regular visitor to both Ditchling Beacon and Ditchling Common since childhood, says:

*“Understanding the biodiversity of our local area is the key to helping us protect it. Climate change is the challenge of our time and that’s why helping the local flora and fauna thrive in our local areas will not only help mitigate against climate change but also help to create amazing natural spaces for us all to enjoy. We look forward to seeing the photo entries to celebrate earth day and celebrate the wonders of our natural world.”*

About Ditchling Beacon and Commons - There are two commons in the Parish of Ditchling; Tenantry Down on Ditchling Beacon and Ditchling Common, about two miles to the north of the village. Ditchling Beacon and Commons is a registered charity – 1178255. The responsibility of managing the Commons is vested with the Ditchling Beacon and Commons Company and through its Trustees delivering the objective of promoting the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment. Please read further details of its governance.

For regular updates please follow their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Ditchcommons](http://www.facebook.com/Ditchcommons) or [www.ditchlingbeaconandcommons.org.uk/](http://www.ditchlingbeaconandcommons.org.uk/).

For more info email [info@ditchlingbeaconandcommons.org.uk](mailto:info@ditchlingbeaconandcommons.org.uk) or phone me on 07985 594192.

*Hugh Felton*

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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.

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. So, we have no more meetings now until Friday **6th October** when Paul Green (ex-Argus) will give a talk called “A Step Back in Time” – things that made the news in Sussex from 1880 onwards.

However, on Saturday **8th July** we will be visiting St Mary’s House and Gardens in Bramber for a guided tour. A few places are still available. Please contact me if you would like to come along.

We need to increase our membership in order to keep our society running. If you would like to know more please contact me - telephone **01273 832280**, e-mail [w.kent123@btinternet.com](mailto:w.kent123@btinternet.com).

*Bill Kent*

## SUMMER CONCERT - SUSSEX CHORUS

Saturday **24th June** 7.30 pm at St Andrew’s Church, Burgess Hill RH15 0LG. [www.sussexchorus.org](http://www.sussexchorus.org)

Mozart Clarinet Concerto in C, Laudate Dominum and Mass in C Minor.

Tickets available from **01444 412579**, Burgess Hill Help Point & [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk).

*Angela Holroyd*

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this term... To ease them in there were games in the Hut, on Lodge Hill and at the Rec. All encouraging teamwork whilst new patrol leaders demonstrated excellent skills in promoting what Scouting is all about, a true sense of comradery. On the colder wetter evenings Cubs would meet in the hut drawing Chinese dragons and making lanterns or getting chef skills under their belts in preparation for future competitions, cooking, by torch light, under shelter, pancakes in the hut garden. Finally, they had a visit to

**DITCHLING 1ST SCOUTS** Despite the dark evenings, inclement weather, and mud that is unavoidable in Ditchling it has been quite a Spring term for Ditchling 1st Scout Group.

The Scouts have demonstrated perseverance, vim and vigour, battled through heavy rain to come second in the Ultimate Challenge – the 2023 Overland Hike, a 2 day competition for Scouts and Explorers in East Sussex. Although open to over 12s our younger members also took part in the training and even spent a night in the Scout Hut after completing a night hike with various challenges along the way. We also entered 2 teams in the district cooking competition coming 1st and 3rd serving up delicacies such as Leek and Potato Soup, Macaroni Peas, Paella and Banoffee pie – all on camp stoves and Trangia's! The scouts raced around London in a national Monopoly Run competition. It was hugely fun, fiercely competitive and in our group the younger scouts came an incredible first followed by the older Ditchling Scouts in second place! Well done, Scouts!

With howls and hissing, Cubs started the year warmly welcoming 4 new members who swam up from Beavers. And what an introduction they had

Burgess Hill Fire Station, culminating in trying to direct a high-pressured hose!

The Beavers enjoyed an eclectic term with animals, constellations, cooking in cans and raucous dancing... They not only got to visit Plumpton College to learn about animal husbandry and overseeing cows being milked by robots, but the Animal lady also came to the Scout Hut bringing with her: giant snails, snakes, cockroaches, spiders and an ENORMOUS RABBIT! The Beavers hiked out in the depths of winter to do some stargazing on the downs – yes, there was one evening without rain – Pancake Day was celebrated by cooking pancakes in tin cans (I still don't know how they did that) and they reeled it all off with a Beaver style Ceilidh....

So, who says the Scout Movement is all about hiking????!!! Certainly NOT Ditchling 1st Scout Group!

If you would like to find out how your child can develop skills to become a do-er and give-it-a-goe-er please visit our website to join our waiting list [www.1stditchlingscouts.co.uk/join](http://www.1stditchlingscouts.co.uk/join).

*Hannah Loram*



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**BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY** are delighted to be holding a one-day choral workshop on Saturday, **17th June** at St John's Church, Burgess Hill when we shall be singing choruses from Jenkins' enormously popular *The Armed Man*. We shall be led by the renowned Michael Stefan Wood BEM and accompanied by our distinguished accompanist Phillip Sear. The fee for this day is inclusive of score hire. Places for this workshop can be booked at: [www.burgesshill-choral.org/come-and-sing-day-2023](http://www.burgesshill-choral.org/come-and-sing-day-2023) or by ringing: **07522 493966**.

*Jane Leng*

**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 are able to borrow the Club's mallets.

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*Tony Bright*

**BEE SWARMS** During these next few weeks, 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 me 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*

**THE DOWNLANDS SUMMER FAYRE** will take place on **24th June** between 12 to 4 pm - everyone is welcome.

It features an art exhibition showcasing the work of GCSE art students, a music and dance festival, plant sales, fun run and dog show as well as lots of stalls, and refreshments.  
*Jo Miles*

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### THE PARKLANDS ROAD ALLOTMENTS

are joining with gardens at The Old Thatch and Lodge House (both in Lodge Lane) and 5 Ewart Close to open a Hassocks Garden Trail on Sunday **25th June** between 1 pm and 5 pm as part of the National Garden Scheme to raise funds for charity. Teas will be available at St Edward's Church also in Lodge Lane. More information can be found in the National Garden Scheme yellow books available in garden centres and online at [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk).

*Julie Latham*

**THE GROWING** is a community network that supports all local people to grow and share food, with no one left out.

We meet each month over a cup of tea to share seeds, seedlings and extra produce along with gardening tips and friendship. We'd love to meet you whether you're a veteran gardener or would be grower of vegetables and if you'd like to find others to help you get started. You don't even need to have a garden!

This month we are meeting on **10th June** to coincide with Ditchling Open Gardens 10.30 am to 12 pm at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share. Or just bring yourself!

For further information please contact [julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk](mailto:julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk).

*Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman*

### HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW

2.15 pm on Saturday 24th June in Hurstpierpoint Village Centre Summer flowers, fruit and vegetables, Floral art, cookery, handicraft, photography and children's section. Exhibiting is free and open to all. Pick up a schedule with all the information from Jan Ton Newsagents in Hurstpierpoint High



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*Kathy Green*

### HASSOCKS PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME 2023/24.

Hassocks Parish Council is inviting applications for grants to assist local community groups or for projects and activities that will benefit local residents.

Applications are considered twice yearly, and the deadline for the first round of applications is **31st August** for consideration in September.

Full details can be found on the website – [www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hassocks-pc.gov.uk) or for further information please contact us on **01273 842714** or email [info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@hassocks-pc.gov.uk).

*Ian Cumberworth*

**TREFOIL GUILD** For our April meeting it was the Guilds 80th. Anniversary and we had challenges to choose from. Candles were made from acorn cups, and we named a country for each of the letters in EIGHTY. There was a tangram challenge and we learnt the Promise in Sign Language. In May we visited 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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## ~~~ WHAT'S ON IN JUNE ~~~

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## ~~~WEEKLY MEETINGS~~~

**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 and Fridays. Donations can be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens.**

**HUG IN A MUG - St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer. Monday 10.30 am (excl. Aug th) 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](http://sussexflydressersguild.org.uk).**

**MORNING PRAISE & HOLY COMMUNION - The Beacon Parish 10 am 11th & 25th June at St Margarets Church, Ditchling & 18th June St. Martins, Westmeston. Always check [www.beaconparish.co.uk](http://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 and free time - pool, table football, board games etc.**

**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 from 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 for more info. First session free.**

## ~~~EVENTS~~~

**1st DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Utama.**

**1st MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.**

**2nd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.15 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Direction Finding Evening'**

**3rd HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.**

**4th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 10 am. Childrens and Family Service.**

**4th HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 7.30 pm. 'Tales of Hoffman' Jaques Offenbach. Tickets 07770 962811.**

**4th HURST OPEN GARDENS various locations [www.hurstpierpointopengardens.co.uk](http://www.hurstpierpointopengardens.co.uk) for more info.**



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**4th** HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

**4th** OLDLAND WINDMILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer, 2 - 5 pm. 'Open Day' - for all the family. All welcome.

**5th** HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club - Knitting & Crochet. Visitors welcome.

**5th** KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB Village Green, Ditchling. 7 pm. Annual Dance. Live band with caller Sean Goddard.  
www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk.

**6th** DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Villag Hall pm. 'Rogues, Rascals & Rebels of Kent & Sussex' Chris McCooey.

**7th** BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.45 pm. 'The Gardens of the South Downs & Surrey Hills' Richard Shenton. All welcome.

**7th** THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! Learn new songs in a variety of styles and sing some old favourites.

**8th** WOMENS BREAKFAST The Greyhound, Keymer 10 am. Join us for breakfast and some great chat. Book with Tamara info on Keymer Parish Church website.

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**9th** MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'On Air Night'

**10th** 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.

**11th** DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall, Keymer, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

**11th** THE BEACON PARISH Streat Church 3.30 pm. All Ages Service - teas, cakes and hymns.

**13th** THE GROUP The Con Club, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. www.thegroup.org.uk. A club for unattached men and women, aged 55+.

**14th** HURST RETHINK The New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 7 pm. Free Talk 'Swifts & other local Wildlife' Edward Mayer. All welcome.

**14th** BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**15th** HURST VILLAGE CINEMA Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint, 7 pm. www.hurstfilms.com. National Theatre screening of NT LIVE: Fleabag (15)

**15th** MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Advice & Support. To Book 01273 494300.

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**16th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** 7.30 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Birthday Party by Jack & Jill Windmills, then down to the Jack and Jill Pub for refreshments.

**17th 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.

**17th BURGESS HILL CHORAL SOCIETY** St John's Church, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. One Day Choral Workshop. To book 07522 493966

**19th HASSOCKS WI** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Wine & Cheddar Cheese Tasting. Visitors welcome.

**20th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Film Society. All welcome.

**21st HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD** Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. Monthly meeting. Visitors welcome.

**23rd MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk). 'Talk on what we do at the Burgess Hill Summer Fayre'

**24th HURSTPIERPOINT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Hurstpierpoint Village Centre, 2.15 pm. 'Summer Show', Teas, cakes, raffle and produce auction. Schedules from Jan Ton News.

**24th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY** 'Outing to St Mary's House & Garden in Bramber'.

**24th MESSY CHURCH** URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

**24th ALBOURNE SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR** Age The Street, Albourne, 11 am - 2 pm. Bouncy castle, martial arts, magician, stalls, displays, face painting and entertainment.

**24th DOWNLANDS SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR** Dale Avenue Hassocks 12 - 4 pm. Dog Show, BBQ, Music, Theatre, Art Exhibition, student stalls etc.

**24th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET** Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

**24th 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](http://www.hkdtransition.org.uk).

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**24th SUSSEX CHORUS** St Andrews Church, Burgess Hill, 7.30 pm. Summer Concert Tickets 01444 412579.

**24th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 1.30 - 3.45 pm. Summer Show. Refreshments, produce stalls. All welcome.

**24th POYNINGS COUNTRY FAIR** Rectory Garden 2 - 4 pm. Pimms, live music, hobby horse gymkhana, books, raffle cream teas etc.

**25th HASSOCKS CHARITY GARDEN TRAIL** Parklands Road Allotments, The Old Thatch & Lodge House in Lodge Lane & 5 Ewart Close, Keymer. 1 - 5 pm. Part of the National Garden Scheme. Teas at St Edwards Church. All welcome.

**25th DITCHLING SINGERS** Old Meeting House, Ditchling, 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome!

**25th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY** attending Burgess Hill Summer Fayre

**26th CAMEO** Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. An enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

**28th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR** Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. Book a place 01273 494300.

**28th VIVACE** Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint from 6.30 pm. 20th Anniversary Concert. Tickets 07853 142894.

**30th JAZZ ETC** Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. The Month of Love. Aneesa Chaudhry & K2 singing Blues, Jazz Classics and Asian Fusion. Tickets Ditchling Post Office.

**30th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A** Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'A Long Way Home' Michael Blencowe. All welcome.



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## **STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP**

I must admit that I was going to start this month Talk About with the revelation that work has finally started on the magical facelift that was going to transform the old, tired exterior of National Tyres into bright gleaming attraction, that motorists would gasp at as they drove by, but alas, after umpteen planning notices pinned to the post outside, it still remains very tired. Mind you it doesn't seem to affect business, they always seem to be very busy. I suppose that isn't very surprising given the amount of potholes around here. If it isn't your tyres that cop it, then it's your shock absorbers - Beware Lodge Lane pothole capital of Sussex.

Because of the cost of living crisis and work our son Darren doesn't come up very often anymore, so I don't get to see him and the grandkids very much, probably about twice a year, they live in Torquay so it's quite a hike. Golly don't kids grow fast these days one minute you're patting them on the head, the next you're stretching your neck just to talk to them. Anyway as it was Nola birthday, they all came up to help her celebrate which she thoroughly enjoyed. Naturally all three boys Cole 17, Riley 14 and Leon 9 loved it in the shop playing with the cats, but boys have to eat a process that seems to start early in the morning and only stops when you go to bed at night. As a treat they all went to the Corner Cafe for breakfast an experience which Darren and wife Rachel described as amazing, all six of them had full English breakfasts with drinks, desserts and a service they've never experienced before, all for less than 40 quid. Darren said when you've got a big family and you have to watch the pennies, you really can't beat a place like the Corner Cafe. I wish we had something like it near where we live.

As with most young people when they get the opportunity for a night out and you have already made babysitters i.e. Grandparents, then it's best to do it while you can. So that evening they popped over the road to the BN6 Craft Beer micropub which they found very welcoming, friendly and considering what a lot of places charge these days very reasonable. They left there and took the train down to Brighton for a bit of a boogie, Rachel loves to dance but Darren a little less. However, the end of the evening was a lot less fun because everywhere they went, they were turned away from, because it seems you can't get in anywhere unless you've got ID. He explained to the gentleman on the door that he was a 45 year old father of three from Torquay with his family and out with his wife for a good time, but no ID, no entry and you can't argue with someone the size of a small country. So, that was the end of their evening. The following night they went to Haywards Heath and had a great time in the entertainment venues and no one asked for ID.

Another year has passed and it's that time of year again, yippee, I'm another year older, but really don't feel any different than I did when I was 21, no aches, no pains and I still don't need glasses, let's hope it lasts. I still think my secret is surrounding yourself with animals, they keep you calm, (most of the time) with calm comes less wrinkles and my go to Elixer of Eternal Youth CBD oil it works for me and some of my animals, don't be frightened to try it, who else looks as good as me at 71 - OK, don't answer that.

Last month I mentioned a very colourful character I used to know called Malcolm who had the Friars Oak way back and he had gone to a warmer climate, well he did he come back and now he has the Grenadier Pub in Hailsham. I am reliably informed it's painted bright pink and I should imagine it's one of the busiest and noisiest pubs in town.

Thank you everyone for all your kind comments about Pat and Tinkerbell - it's been emotional.

Don't forget if you have a sick or sickly Hoover of any make, then we are a drop off for it to be repaired any queries just phone.

Love Steve and all the pets.

**HASSOCKS PET CENTRE, KEYMER ROAD, HASSOCKS 01273 842392**