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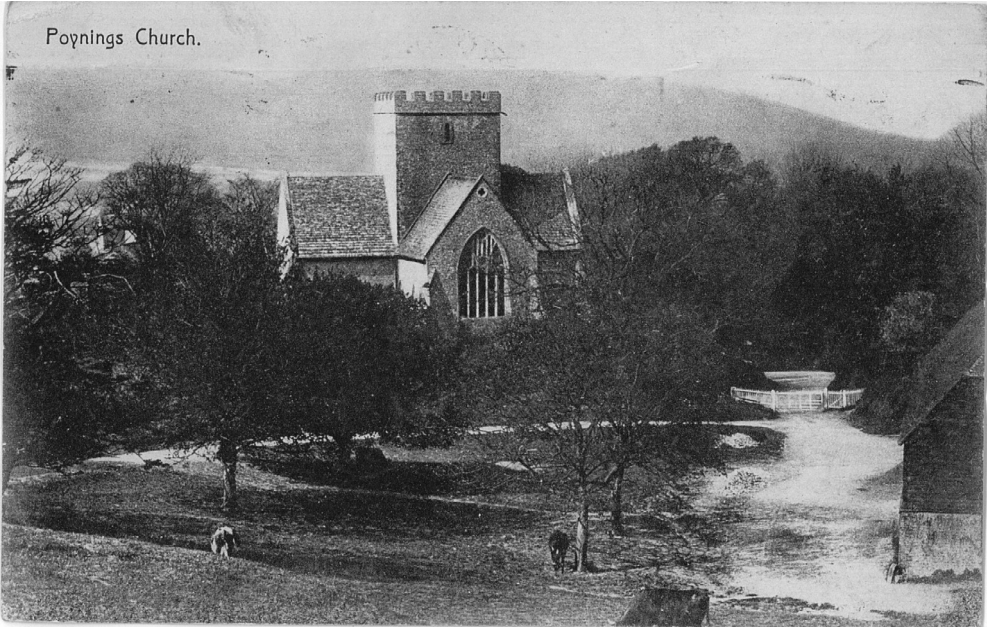
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We thank Dave Evans of Hurstpierpoint for the following postcard of Poynings Church which was sent on the 5th October 1921.

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - DITCHLING & DISTRICT BRANCH

Hello Everyone – just wanted to give you a few updates on what will be happening in the coming weeks.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal will launch this year on **27th October**. For the first time our Poppy Boxes will have the new plastic-free, completely recyclable Poppy. Made entirely from paper, the new design maintains the iconic Poppy and Leaf shape and can be recycled in ordinary paper recycling collections. This new recyclable Poppy will be blended with our old stock of poppies which are also partly made from recyclable paper apart from the centre and stem which are plastic. The RBL are committed to reducing single-use plastic across all its activities.

Poppy Boxes will be in many of the shops and businesses in Ditchling and we will also have some of our collectors in Westmeston and Streat. Our Poppy Collecting cans mostly take cash but they will also have a QR Code on which you will be able to take a card donation.

Armistice Day falls on Saturday **11th November**. At 11 am at the Ditchling War Memorial we will gather to lay a wreath to remember the fallen from WW1. Please do join us for this brief Act of Re-

membrance.

Remembrance Sunday in Ditchling: We will be led by our Standard Bearer, Colin Marshall and the Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, together will RBL Members and the Youth Organisations will march to the War Memorial. This will be followed by our usual Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial led by the Revd David Wallis, who will read out the names on the War Memorial, then the laying of crosses and wreaths. We will then gather in St Margaret's Church for the Remembrance Sunday service.

There will also be a Remembrance Sunday service at Streat War Memorial. Gathering before 11 am for the Act of Remembrance, laying of crosses and wreaths.

We do hope that you will join us for these services. Remembrance tide is of course for remembering our Armed Services who have made the final sacrifice. However, it is also a time of remembering others close to each of us who have passed.

If I can be of further help or you need any other information about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on **01273 845319**. Thank you for reading this.

Margaret Bovill

Ditchling & District Poppy Appeal Organiser.

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Our Coffee Shop is open 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday and Saturday 9 am to 11.45 am.

Our Charity Shop is open 9 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 11.45 am Saturday. Donations welcome.

We have a number of Clubs, activities and services on offer which are held during the week. Please see our website or call into the office for information. Hassocks Village Market and Repair Café is held at our Centre on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our Coffee Shop will be serving takeaway refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

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DITCHLING PLAYERS – NOVEMBER PRODUCTION In a change to the advertised production the Players are presenting “Three by Two” for their Autumn production.

The title refers to the fact that it's an evening of three one act sketches, each acted by two people. During the evening we will take you on a journey from a sea front esplanade to a prison cell and finally heaven all without leaving the comfort of your seat in the Ditchling Village Hall. Penelope Bennett & Jill Hewer have kindly agreed to direct these sketches and we are pleased to welcome back to the Ditchling stage, Susie D'Arcy, as well as some familiar, and new faces to the Ditchling stage.

The performances will be at 7.30 pm on **Thursday 23rd; Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November** with a matinée on Saturday at 2.30 p.m. Further information about tickets will be available shortly on posters, Facebook etc. and of course in the next edition of “Talk About” so please make a note of the dates. We look forward to seeing you there.

David Tetersell

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TEDDY'S FUNDRAISING UPDATE We are excited to invite you to Teddy's Festive Fair at Adastra Hall, 2 to 4.30 pm on Sunday **19th November!**

There will be a cafe selling cakes, mulled wine, tea and coffee alongside a wide range of stalls selling gifts, as well as Teddy's charity stalls and activities for the kids. If you are interested in having a commercial stall at the fair, or volunteering on the day, please get in touch at teddyandthebigc@gmail.com Please do also reserve a space in your diaries for Teddy's Role Playing Games Day at Dice and Drinks Cafe in Burgess Hill on Saturday **14th October**. Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to RPGs, there will be fun for all. There will be afternoon and evening sessions available – For tickets and more info see [@teddyandthebigc](https://www.facebook.com/teddyandthebigc) on Facebook for more info or scan the QR code.

Kat and Alastair, Teddy's mum and dad

WINE TASTING FOR TEDDY An exciting new fundraising event has just been launched for TeddyandtheBigC. Giles Cutlack of South Downs Cellars will host a wine tasting in Adastra Hall on Friday, **27th October**. Tickets are available online via the QR code in the accompanying visual, online via www.buytickets.at/rathergoodevents or you can pay in cash at Bella & Megs Café on Keymer Road, Hassocks. Giles will take the audience on a lively journey through a range of wines with accompanying nibbles in aid of Teddy's campaign. Book early to guarantee your places on the online seating plan. If you have any questions, please contact me on amanda-janefelix@outlook.com. Thank you in advance for your support for Teddy and we look forward to welcoming you. *Amanda Felix*



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DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Our next film on the **5th October** is a corker for dance, music and theatre fans. Pina; dance, dance otherwise we are lost (2011) directed by Wim Wenders. A film memorial for Pina Bausch and her company The Tanztheatre Wuppertal. Bausch has been described as the “god-mother of European dance theatre” and a powerhouse of contemporary dance practise. Originally conceived as a documentary Pina Bausch died unexpectedly during filming in 2009. Wenders was persuaded to go ahead with the production by Pina’s fellow dancers and the resulting film shows archive footage of her works as well as very personal reflections from her dancers who also choreographed new work in tribute to her in locations around Wuppertal. When Wenders made this 3D documentary Pina, there was even a re-release for its spectacular soundtrack which includes everything from the Sephardic folksong La Prima Vez, sung by Owain Phyfe, to the jazzy rump-shaker Fat Ass Joint by Brazilian producer Amon Tobin. So expect great music. A captivating and eye-popping tribute to an extraordinary dancer, Pina was Oscar-nominated for Best Documentary and won the Prix Italia in 2012. Certificate U. Running time 104 minutes. Subtitles.

On the **2nd November** our film is **The Farewell** di-

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rected by Lulu Wang. Base on an actual lie this is a film about culture and dying. Billi’s grandmother is dying of cancer. But will they tell her? A tragicomedy. Certificate 12A. Running time 100 minutes. English and Mandarin with subtitles.

Annual membership for the Ditchling Film Society runs from the time of joining and gives you free entry to 11 films and any extra “Special Events”. 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). Guest entry is also available on the door. The films are shown on the first Thursday of the month at Ditchling Village Hall. Doors open at 7.30 pm and you can buy a glass of good wine before the showing at 8 pm. Put the first Thursday of every month into your diary and join us for a glass of good wine and a great film.

There’s plenty of parking next to the hall. 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 and with breaking news. 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. Ditchling Film Society.

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SUSSEX PATHFINDERS Those of you who read our Website news pages and Facebook notes will have seen it's been a mixed bag of pleasant and difficult weather conditions on recent summer weekend walks. However, those stalwart members, who always appear oblivious to gales and driving rain, carried on regardless and no doubt spent their evenings feeling invigorated by the challenges they endured. For me, I immensely enjoyed those few pleasant days of sunshine and gentle breezes walking along previously unknown pathways.

Every year, there is one walk, where members considerably extend their walking world and meet in London. This year I will, hopefully (no rail strikes), be able to travel by train to walk in Osterley Park, Norwood Green, Grand Union Canal and Hanwell. Members and non members welcome but this is one of the few walks we need to know how many people will be in attendance. We don't want anyone to travel a long distance and then find the group has moved on without them.

On Sunday, **1st October** our walk starts at 2 pm in Ditchling and covers 5 miles of undulating fields and woods. Our webpage,

www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk gives full details of meeting arrangement but please contact me if you don't have access to grid points etc. and need more details diann.clarke@outlook.com.

I hope you find our varied programme of weekend walks, covering both East and West Sussex, interesting and remember there is no charge to join us on our walks.

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VILLA ADASTRA GARDEN FETE We thought you would like to know that our garden fete raised the wonderful sum of £1400 - maybe even a little more.

What began the day as a Garden Fete with everything set up outside, quickly (and rather frantically!) became an indoor event as the rain arrived late morning and hardly let up all afternoon. Despite this, the event was - as ever - very well supported by families, friends, and village residents. The Villa was buzzing with activity and many cups of tea and slices of cake were consumed.

The team at the Villa did a great job getting everything organised and to each one of you who donated lots of silent auction, crafted beautiful items for sale, bought us your books, bric-a-brac etc, helped with setting up and running the stalls, making and serving tea and cake - a big thank you! Also, to the Salvation Army band who kept playing despite the rain. All the funds raised will go towards providing equipment, entertainment and treats for the residents at this lovely care home in the village.

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NEWS FROM STONEYWISH August 2023. A few days ago I was picking damsons in our former orchard. The trees in this area were planted in high hopes, but sadly most languished as the ground becomes soggy after rain and the soil only wants to grow rushes and marsh thistles. It was a case of good dreaming - bad gardening! But all was not lost. One damson tree, with the tenacity of a wilding, has survived, and this year it has been loaded with fruit, so we have picked and shared, as everyone who has grown beans and courgettes has done this summer, joining the happy merry-go-round. I had set out in sunshine with my big green harvesting tub and soon was buried deep amongst the leaves, fingers teasing fruit from stem, eyes drunk with colours, green, gold, blue overhead and the exquisite thundercloud colour of the fruits themselves. Hidden voices filtered through: the erratic chirping of quail in their pen behind me and the more distant bleats of the goats on their rocky mound, and I found myself in a blissful state, as close to paradise, I suppose, as I can ever hope to be. Suddenly the golden light went out and fat drops of rain began to plop between the leaves. I emerged into a scene transformed. Damson-coloured clouds had massed and closed ranks overhead. Now they promised a drenching. I fled with my bucket, not wanting to get my pickings wet and took refuge at the Ticket Office. "Ah yes," said Amanda, who had consulted her phone. "They said it would rain by eleven." The icons on the phone plotted the weather data to the minute. Sun here. Rain here. Unquestionable 'facts'. But what of the ephemeral Reality I had just experienced... the world of damson-picking? That was a mystery, tucked in-between, which would only



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give up its last secrets in the jam or crumble somebody would later make. Retracing my steps, I passed the Emmet Hut and recalled how, at the same place the day before, I had heard roars of laughter issuing from the open door. The occurrence is not uncommon here. In fact, it often happens when families visit the exhibition inside. People go in with the weight of the world on their shoulders and come out feeling lighter and happier, hearts renewed. What is the secret? Is it damsonalchemy of a different kind? This small wooden cabin houses Michael's tribute to Rowland Emmet, who, in 1953, made his home in Ditchling and brought to the village his own unique brand of whimsical humour. For any who do not know, Emmet was a Punch cartoonist and inventor, who rose to fame with his kinetic sculptures in the middle years of the last century. Today he is one of our local unsung heroes. But those who knew him remember him as a gentle genius and his genius lay in finding the jam in life. Anything and everything had a jammy side for Emmet and his imagination took the weighty, familiar world of war and strikes and bad weather and scientific progress and transformed it into curlicues and arabesques of gentle subversion. His pencil left trails of these curlicues in his car toons, where computers relied on elephants for their memory, commuters trudged to work along empty tube lines and old ladies served scones on doilies under ramshackle tarpaulins, quite oblivious to the hurricanes raging round them. The curlicues escaped into the third dimension, evolving into working models, which were forged and assembled by teams of local craftsmen in workshops at East Chiltington and Streat. Then the machines themselves 'took flight' around the world, appearing in ex-

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COME AND HAVE A BROWSE.

hibition halls and shopping centres and featuring in films, such as 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. International success made no difference to Emmett the man, who remained the self-effacing gentleman, happier to stop for tea with his assistants at a 'Transport Cafe' than hobnob with royalty. Michael worked for the Emmets as gardener and odd-job man, at their cottage in East End Lane. He remembers Rowland's drolleries. His courteousness. His perfectionism. The china cats were to be placed in *exactly* the right place on the cottage roof! The Christmas teddy bear in his festive umbrella-flying-machine had to be strung across the lane *just so* each year, to the delight of local children. Mary Emmett confided to Michael one day: "When we are gone, no one will ever hear of us again." And it almost came true. She had not realised that beneath Michael's odd-job-man exterior, lurked an enthusiast, equally determined to construct an ephemeral world of his own. The Stoneywish Archive grew out of this one-man mission to re-construct the Ditchling of living memory through postcards, pictures, letters, and artifacts. Emmett and his works received pride of place there from the start, and it is Emmett who is honoured at Stoneywish today with a whimsical Hut of his own. Here one can view his machines in action in a 15 minute film created by the Birmingham-based Emmett Society. Hence the laughter! And here one can lose oneself in the imaginary here-and-now, the cartoonland, full of crazy anachronisms, which Emmett cobbled together. On the one hand, lies the past: a quaintly decaying place of afternoon tea, antimacassars, lobster pots, and condemned rural railway lines; on the other, the future - a hi-tech realm of space travel and computers. The institutions and companies which championed this world became Emmett's patrons, happy to use his art to give their agendas a human face. But in Emmett's mind, a proper machine had only one function, which was to awaken us ever-so-gently to the folly of human ambition. Laughter ensued automatically. Assembled

from everyday paraphernalia: egg-whisks, feather-dusters, lampshades and bicycle pumps, these creations, massive or small, move to lullaby music, and go through extraordinary mechanical convolutions to achieve absolutely nothing at all. "...they must speak for themselves." Emmett said. "They are the direct opposite, I suppose of the implacable, soulless machine, driving relentlessly on, or those frightening electronic proliferations, ready at the drop of a Silicone chip to take us all over...My Machines are friendly, they are happy, they crave love, and I really think they get it." New generations of children, who have never seen a rotary whisk or a wind-up gramophone before, and might be expected to miss the point, still *get* it and enthusiastically respond. Each invention comes with a sales description benignly poking fun at the consumer dream. We share the joke, but also *are* the joke, as Emmett's humour deflates the self-importance so dear to us all. One cannot deconstruct such things. They are pure gossamer. But they have an enduring capacity to transform the humdrum into something new. If ever you feel life is pressing too hard upon you, then the world of 'in-between' is the best place to be, for it is in the hidden 'here and now' that the dreams we dream can grow and transform the material world. Magic is everywhere if we only know how to look. Artists and damson trees help to show the way. So here let me pay tribute to another Ditchling 'hero', who creates magical worlds with his pen. For I cannot go on any longer talking about sandwiches without acknowledging a debt to John Vernon Lord. Anyone who has seen his book, 'The Giant Jam Sandwich', will understand how the drawings which bring his pages to life have been running in my head all this while and how the exquisite penmanship in all his illustrations enables us see the world anew. Imagination intimates that reality is more fluid than we think. The sweetness is already buried within. Our task is to find it and share the jam!

Rosemary

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RACE & MUSIC QUIZ

NIGHT My name is Sharon Saunders from Bowley Funeral Service in Hassocks. We are holding a Race & Music Quiz night on Friday **24th November** at the

Hassocks Pub, starting at 7.30 pm in aid of The Honeypot Childrens Charity.

We appreciate that times are hard on most families at this time, however, we are looking for help and support to raise funds for this wonderful charity that helps children who are carers aged 5-12 to provide breaks from demanding & stressful responsibilities at home.

Honeypot has been providing respite breaks since 1996 in the UK nationwide

"We believe that every child has the right to make the most of their one chance at childhood, regardless of the circumstances they experience at home. This is why we exist."

So, what are we asking for and what can you do to help us raise these funds?

The evening will consist of 8 races with a music quiz between each race, there would be 8 horses in each race which can be named and owned before the night and put into the programme ie: 'Never a winner, owned by John Smith', each winner on the night will receive a bottle of wine.

There are some advertising spaces available too either page (A5 size) or half page.



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A raffle on the evening will be held so we are looking for raffle prizes .

Quiz teams of up to 8 people can be accommodated.

We do hope you will support this very well deserved charity and thankyou in advance for anything you can do to make it a fun evening.

Please email me if you can sponsor a horse, place an advert or donate a prize

sharon@bowleyfuneralservices.co.uk

Sharon and team at Bowley's

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The mill is an all timber structure which requires a great deal of maintenance, mostly painting. To support the maintenance programme we require numerous people who are willing to give their time to assist with this task. If you would like to help maintain this very important piece of Hassocks's heritage, then we would be really pleased to hear from you.

If you would like to find out more please contact us at **info@oldlandwindmill.org.uk**. *Karen*

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

Well, considering Hassocks WI does not hold an official meeting in August we had a busy month.

The Craft Club spent their afternoon cutting out, stitching, and stuffing a large number of heart shaped cushions for the breast cancer charity. The cushions provide comfort for patients being treated. The lunch picnic in the park was well attended. The sun shone and there was much chat. Next day some enjoyed a have a go session at Adastra Bowling Club. Thank you to the club for your hospitality, for sorting out the woods for our use, your members who so ably coached and encouraged us, with much patience for the fumble fingered attempts at bowling on your beautifully kept green.

The welcoming clubhouse and bar afterwards rounded up a fun evening. The book Group and creative writing group met. The Arty club enjoyed a visit to Van Gogh in Brighton. There was another theatre trip to London. Thank you members for organising it. I think we met up more than usual, being sociable is always good.

WI meeting Monday **16th October** - 'Goblins, Ghoulies and things that go bump in the night'.

Craft meeting - Monday **2nd October** - Halloween themed.

November meeting Monday **20th November** - 'Deck the halls'.

November Craft meeting - Monday **6th November**.

Visitors (donation) are always welcome and we always have cake!

P.S. 2023 WI resolution is 'Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife'

Gerry

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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.

This will be your last chance to play this season. 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

We thank Ann of Ditchling for this email: I am absolutely delighted to receive the September edition of the Hassocks and Keymer Talk About. Two particular articles grabbed my attention - that from Rosemary with News from Stonywish: as always, eloquent, unusual and full of interest - and that from Michael Blencowe of Sussex Wildlife Trust on the Rose-Ringed Parakeet. I must look out for one of these beautiful birds. Thank you both for such stimulating articles.

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SINGLES CLUB CELEBRATES 17 YEARS A

party for 100 people from all over Sussex was held in Brighton recently for people aged 55+ - and the dancing never stopped.

Back in 2006, The Group opened in Haywards Heath. Later a venue was found in Brighton, followed by venues in Horsham, Lewes and Worthing.

Seven years ago, celebrating its first 10 years, The Group held a celebratory dinner. And then Covid. The Group had to stop meeting and had to cancel its planned 15 year celebration.

But, always keen to party, The Group's seventeenth birthday - odd number though it is - presented members with the perfect opportunity to get together.

We're very proud that unattached people have a

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means of meeting new friends through The Group. Our members tend to be aged 55+ but we don't have rigid age limits. Those who come along to a club night and join The Group receive an emailed diary twice a month and then they select the events they want to attend.

But it's not just dancing. There's golf, lunches and dinners, walks, theatre, live music and holidays.

The Group meets in Worthing on the first Monday of every month, Burgess Hill on the 2nd Monday, Brighton on the third Wednesday, Horsham on the 4th Monday and Lewes on the 4th Thursday. More details can be obtained from The Group's website www.thegroup.org.uk. *Tricia*



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“HELP FRANK FIGHT THE FREEZE”? Will you be able to keep warm this icy, bitter, arctic winter? 2.8 million older households in the UK won’t; they will struggle in fuel poverty even after the government

has capped energy bills. The cost of living crisis has hit us all hard, but it has hit these people harder, ballooning prices of heating homes so much even their jumpers will not be warm enough.

This means the frost and freezing air can make homes uncomfortably or even unhealthily cold. Is this fair, humane or comfortable for these families? Of course not!

Furthermore, living in fuel poverty may even make some choose between a warm house, a full plate of food or warm, clean, fitting clothes on their backs. However, some people may not believe this is a problem locally because many families live in their own houses with money to spare. While this is true, there are still several less fortunate families in places like Burgess Hill, and older households (which there are several locally) in fuel poverty require the most money to escape, according to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

My name is Frank Jones and I, alongside my family and Downlands Community School, have started a new, fantastic future initiative called “Fight the Freeze”, which we wish to launch in November. Providing sorely needed safety and solace from the cold, Fight the Freeze aims to set up a “warm bank”, which is a place where people can stay warm and pick up warm clothes (such as socks, scarves, hats and gloves) and blankets to prepare for the next chilly cold snap at home. Hopefully, we may host this in an important local

building for the community, for example Age Concern Hassocks (whom we are already in contact with), the church, Adastra Hall or Downlands Community School; we are working tirelessly to secure collaboration.

Using Fight the Freeze, we can ensure vulnerable families stay warm, both outside and at home, with the tremendous cost of using the heating. We will make the local area a warmer, more pleasant place to live, one house at a time, and build up stability for later winters.

So don’t wait! This is the time to give! Please make a difference today by scanning the QR code or navigating to <https://gofund.me/31e97212> and donating to our GoFundMe page - even £5 will make a great positive impact! Also, hang on to your pre-loved warm clothes to donate in the future.

Thank you for reading our story. Feel free to contact us at fight-the-freeze@hotmail.com, and I look forward to Fighting the Freeze with you in November!

Frank Jones

HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have two meetings in October. On Friday **6th October** commencing at 7.45 pm. Paul Green (formerly of the Argus) will speak on “Times Past” – matters that made the headlines in Sussex from 1880 onwards.

On Friday **27th October** commencing at 8 pm Dr Geoffrey Mead will speak on Daniel Defoe’s tour of South-East England in the 1720’s.

Both meetings will be held in the Guide HQ which is beside Trinity Road Car Park.

We are still looking for a new Chairman. It’s not an arduous task – we just need someone to open and close our meetings, introduce the speaker, and give out any notices. Please contact me for further info.

Bill Kent

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THE BEACON PARISH OF DITCHLING, STREAT & WESTMESTON

If you receive this magazine before 1st October, do come and join us for our Harvest Festival at St. Martin's Church, Westmeston at 10 am on that date. The church is always beautifully decorated for this joyous occasion. Tins, packets, and bottles of food as well as cleaning products will be gratefully received and passed to our local food bank. If you enjoy singing - at whatever level! - our next happy SING! session will be at St. Margaret's in Ditchling at 6 pm on Wednesday **4th October**. Come and learn some new songs and enjoy some old favourites too.

Sunday Worship with Communion will be held at St. Margaret's at 10 am each Sunday this month: **8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th October**. Everyone is welcome at any of our services, with the service on **22nd October** being one of our monthly Family Services, where we're blessed to have people of all ages joining us for worship.

Our weekly Wednesday @ 10 service of Holy Communion will take place at St. Margaret's each Wednesday during October and our social 'Coffee, Chat & Play' on Thursday mornings is in the Emmanuel Centre, South Street from 10 am to noon each week. Do bring along families, children, friends, and neighbours. There's plenty of play space both inside and outside for younger visitors and the homemade cakes are always delicious!

All three of our churches are open daily. Do drop in and experience God's presence in their quiet beauty. There are boxes available for any requests for prayer you would like to leave. As always, please check our website for any alterations to the above at www.beaconparish.co.uk/.

Sherrian Guest

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THE GROWING NETWORK as a community network that supports 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 Saturday 7th October 10.30 am to 12 pm at the Friends Meeting House in East Gardens, Ditchling BN6 8ST.

This is the Quaker Meeting House (not to be confused with the Old Meeting House in the Twitten)

Feel free to bring any seeds, seedlings or produce to share. Or just bring yourself!

For further information please contact

julie@simpleayurveda.co.uk

Julie Ulbricht & Kate Sherman

HEBER OPERA has just finished its run of The Tales of Hoffmann and is planning its production for 2024. We always welcome new members but if the thought of a show is a bit daunting, Heber has some Christmas concert engagements in December, as well as carol singing events that might be a gentle introduction to the group.

If you are interested in taking part in any of these, rehearsals start in late October. Please get in touch if you would like more details

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Jenny Hawkes

**Deadline date for the November 2023
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The above photo is of Lodge Farm taken in 1924.



The photo to the right is of Clayton Farm.

We thank Carol Bullimore for sending in these photos that her dad Cecil Grinstead took. Cecil used to have the stores in Keymer.

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WANTED - SCOUT TROOP LEADER 1st Hassocks Scout Group There is an exciting opportunity for the right person to volunteer at 1st Hassocks Scouts on a Wednesday evening and lead an existing team of experienced leaders.

The successful applicant will have access to national training packages as well as local support and mentoring. In addition, volunteering with young people is very rewarding and looks great on a CV.

Unfortunately, if this person is not found in the near future the troop will be forced to close with the subsequent loss of places to many young people from the village.

Some facts about scouting today:

- You don't have to have been a scout when you were young.
 - You don't need to be an outdoorsy person like Bear Ghrylls, whilst he is our chief scout, volunteers come from all walks of life with a wide variety of interests and skills.
 - Scouting prides itself on being open to everyone of any age, gender, or ethnicity.
 - Scouting no longer has a religious requirement.
- If you know of someone who could fill this role, please ask them to contact me at gsl@1sthassockscouts.org.uk as soon as possible. Thank you.

Bill Whitehead

THE PLAYERS' HURST FESTIVAL PRODUCTION of ART continues its September run

until 23rd at their Theatre on Hurstpierpoint High Street at 7.30 pm – but during the daytime preparations are already under way for the Players' 2023/24 Pantomime – “Red Riding Hood”.

Auditions for the adult cast took place in late August – the grown-ups are already studying their scripts and it only remains to select a smaller cast of children for full rehearsals to begin towards the end of October/early November. The Players would be interested to hear of children under the age of sixteen who would like to audition – and if you are adult and might be interested in becoming a licensed chaperone to care for the children during rehearsals and performances, do let us know. Maybe you are already licensed or need to renew your licence – we can help.

Auditions for the cast of six children will take place from 2.30 pm on Saturday **14th October** and Sunday **15th October** at the Players Theatre, Hurstpierpoint.

Once again, the Players' “panto-supremo” Bob Sampson is both writer and director and if you are interested in bringing your child along to audition, or would like to know more about chaperoning responsibilities, please contact Bob directly at this e-mail address: sampson.bob@gmail.com.

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BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023

–AUTUMN SEASON Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf) is returning to its familiar pre-pandemic format this year with a series of exciting events in October. The theme for 2023 is “New Horizons” and, appropriately, there is a lot of new talent on offer, as well as several well established and much-loved previous BREMF performers.

The main festival starts on Friday **13th October**, but before then there are several pre-festival events. On Saturday **7th October** musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will present their lively Oae Tots concerts for children aged 2-5 and their parents, grandparents or carers. In fact, the music will be so good that you might like to borrow a child for the morning! You can choose between 10.30 am or 12performances at Brighton Unitarian Church. On **Thursday 12th October at 7.30pm**, in Brighton’s Ironworks Studios, there will be a ground-breaking collaboration between baroque and jazz musicians called Freshly Ground Bass, taking as its theme popular basslines from across the centuries.

The main festival has 10 different events. These

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are scheduled to make it possible for you to attend all of them if you’re really keen, and if you book for 6 or more you’ll benefit from a 10% discount. All the events are described in detail on the BREMF website (go to www.bremf.org.uk/whats-on/), but here are some of the highlights. A sub-theme of BREMF 2023 focuses on female composers and female voices and experiences, with three events linking these aspects of early music. On Saturday **14th October** at 7.30 pm in St George’s Church, Kemptown you can hear the Fieri Consort performing wonderful music by two 16th and 17th century Italian composers - Barbara Strozzi and Maddalena Casulana. Under the title The Excellence Of Women this concert pairs works by Strozzi alongside newly discovered madrigals by Casulana in what is sure to be a memorable concert. On Saturday **21st October**, 1 pm in St Nicholas Church, BBC Music Magazine award-winners Helen Charlston (mezzo-soprano) and Toby Carr (lute & theorbo) will be challenging the 17th century obsession with female abandonment and lament. Whilst we will hear some lamenting music as part of the programme, includ-

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ing Monteverdi's Lamento d'Arianna, this lunchtime concert will also focus on the 'Battle Cry' of women through the centuries. Completing the trio, on Sunday **22nd October**, 7.30 pm in St Martin's Church, Lewes Rd. Musica Secreta will be exploring music and stories of women, including music written by convent composers and dedicated to the Virgin Mary as well as St Clare. Their programme Mother, Sister, Daughter includes music which has been newly discovered by ensemble director Laurie Stras as part of her research into convent music, from a time when becoming a nun was a recognised career path for a woman who wanted to pursue her own talents and interests.

Alongside all these delights there will also be concerts by The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork (Friday **13th October**, 8.30 pm), Ensemble Hesperii (Saturday **14th October**, 1 pm), a collaboration between BREMF choirs, children from Brighton primary schools and African music experts (Sunday **15th October**, 7 pm), and a performance by

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the Italian medieval specialists La Fonte Musica (Friday **20th October**). The festival will also again showcase young emerging professional early music groups in its ever-popular BREMF LIVE! programme (Saturday **21st October**, 3.30 pm and 9 pm). Finally, you can immerse yourself in the glorious sounds of the music of Bach & Buxtehude on Saturday **28th October**, 7.30 pm. If you've been before, you'll hopefully know that BREMF events are very friendly and welcoming. They take place in a variety of interesting venues around Brighton and it's a great way to get to see some really interesting buildings whilst listening to exceptional music. You can find out more about all the venues, how to get to them and where to park by visiting the venues page of the BREMF website – and of course you can book your tickets on the website too!

Mike Clemens

NSPCC BRIDGE TEA AT DANNY HOUSE,

New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. On Wednesday **11th October**, doors open at 1.30 pm for a 2 pm start. Please bring your own cards etc. and table. For tickets visit <https://giving.give-star.com/event/nsppc/bridge-danny2023>
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HASSOCKS UNITED REFORMED CHURCH has a new minister! David Cumbers

has arrived in Hassocks and is busy getting to know people, and the area, before he is ordained and inducted (and officially becomes 'the Reverend David Cumbers').

He comes from Essex, where he was a lay preacher and a leader in his local church and for the past four years he has been studying for ordained ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge.

He will share the leadership of the Hassocks church with elected local leaders (known as elders) and other church members. David is based in Hassocks but is also minister to the United Reformed churches at Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath. He is aged 46 and is married with three teenaged



children. His working background is in customer service.

David said: 'I am excited about moving to Hassocks with my family; I am ready to get to know the local community and the surrounding area and to work with the United Reformed Church to serve the village.'

The ordination and induction service, took place in September at Kings Church Burgess Hill.

Stuart Dew

CAN YOU HELP? We have a few roads that need a volunteer to deliver this free magazine in Hurstpierpoint once a month. College Lane, Wolstonbury Close, Lynton Close, Trinity Road, Willow Way, St Georges, High Street and Albourne. Please contact us **01273 846978** or email ed@villagemagazines.co.uk.



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DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT TALK

The current exhibition at Ditchling Museum of Art & Craft focusses on the professional life of Hilary Bourne, a notable 20th century weaver and designer, with her partner Barbara Allen. Hilary spent her childhood in Ditchling returning in later life when she and her sister Joanna, founded the original Ditchling Museum. To accompany the exhibition, the Friends of DMAC host a talk by Ditchling History Project on Thursday **26th October**. Titled 'A Beginning and a Returning' the talk will show the village that Hilary knew more than a century ago and tell of her vision decades later to create a village museum with a gallery dedicated to Ditchling's unique place in the 20th century art and craft movement.

The talk is at the museum at 7 pm with drinks from 6.30 pm and is free to Friends and DHP members and a small charge for non-members. Booking is essential from rspryde@icloud.com or 07771715048.

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JOINT VENTURE - ADASTRA BOWLING CLUB AND THE WI

On the 22nd August Adastra Bowling Club hosted twenty-two ladies from the Hassocks Women's Institute for a fun evening and instructions regarding the basics of lawn bowls. Coaches and other Club members were on hand to instruct the ladies, who found it both challenging and great fun. Amongst the ladies were some very good bowlers, who were encouraged to consider joining the Club for next year's season. After the bowls everyone adjourned to the bar and the evening continued in great style. Well done to the Women's Institute Ladies.

Are there any other groups who would like to include an evening of bowls on their itinerary for 2024?

Once again thank you WI Ladies and our members for an very enjoyable evening.

Barrie Sheffield

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THE HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A MEN'S MEETING GROUP was set up



earlier this year by popular demand. It meets on the second Monday of the month. Venues and activities are planned each month in advance, for example lunch in a local hostelry or restaurant. Members are free to invite fellow actual or potential u3a members who might want to join the Men's Meeting group. This is just one of more than 40 interest groups, most of which are free. Become a member of the u3a and join one or more of our groups. Or come to an open meeting, held monthly in Hassocks or Hurstpierpoint, where all are welcome at a low cost, with a speaker and refreshments. To find out more about our groups or events, or to download an application form, visit www.u3asites.org.uk/hhd. Or you can email: hhd3amem@gmail.com.

u3a is a national movement which supports people in their 'third age' to continue their learning and interests in an informal environment.

Marie Fraser

HOVERFLIES EVERY-ONE LOVES BEES, DON'T THEY?

Knowing that our bees are in decline has prompted protests and petitions and highlighted the important service these buzzing pollinators provide to our planet. Without them our crops and ecosystems would collapse. Yet many other pollinators that provide the same service don't get the same level of public support. So



today I'm waving my flag for the hoverflies. For some reason, they're not as loveable as bees. Perhaps it's because most of the time people mistake them for wasps. This isn't totally our fault because that's exactly what the hoverflies want you to think. The 283 species of hoverfly in the UK come in many shapes, colours, and sizes but most of them sport yellow and black stripes, making them easily confused for wasps, bees, hornets and bumblebees. It's a strategy called Batesian mimicry and was first proposed by Leicestershire lepidopterist Henry Bates in 1861. Hoverflies are harmless. They don't sting

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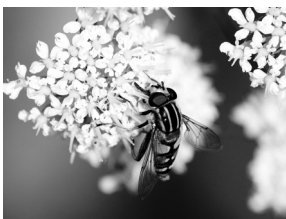
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and can't bite but they have discovered you don't actually have to be dangerous to deter predators – you just have to look like something that's dangerous. Yet their devious mimicry isn't the most incredible thing about them. Their wings are the things. Hoverflies (like all flies) have just two wings (half as many wings as bees and wasps). Whereas other flies keep their wings straight, hoverflies incline theirs to create an angled downward stroke at a remarkable rate of 120 beats per second. This allows hoverflies to fly to a most amazing place: nowhere. Hoverflies have become the motionless masters of mid-air. It's not all sitting around in the sky though. During their few days of life, hoverflies fight, fornicate and feed and while busy collecting energy-giving nectar and protein rich pollen they inadvertently provide that vital pollination service to our flowers and crops. And hoverflies have earned the title of 'The Gardeners Friend' because about 40% of them have a larval stage which is basi-



cally a tiny crawling stomach that roams around your flowerbed eating aphids. Pollination, pest control – next thing you know these beneficial little insects will be mowing the front lawn for us too. So why not thank these friendly flies by planting some of their favourite flowers in your garden - parsley, fennel, borage, hebe, sedum and alliums - and consider putting in a pond no matter how small. Do your bit for the pollinators and they'll keep the world working for us.



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 our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guidebook, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join.

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Rosemary and Garlic Encrusted Brie mixed leaves & cranberry dip

Tomato & Basil Soup roll & butter

Lightly Dusted Calamari mixed leaves, & tartare sauce

~~ MAINS ~~

Roast Turkey Breast with pigs in blankets

Roast Top Side of Beef with yorkshire pudding

Lamb Shank (£3 extra)

all with seasonal fresh vegetables & roast potatoes

Creamy Fish Pie salmon, smoked haddock & prawns in a velvety cheese sauce, with fresh vegetables

Sweet Potato, Spinach & Ricotta Lasagne with side salad & garlic bread slices (v)

~~ DESSERTS ~~

Christmas Pudding with custard

Rich Chocolate & Raspberry Tear with cream

Tarte au Citron with cream

New York Cheesecake with cream

Mixed Sorbet (ve)

Cheese and Biscuits (£2 extra)

Coffee and Mince Pies to follow

£24.50 per person

All dinners must be ordered in advance. Please advise us of any dietary requirements.

A non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required with booking.

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What's On in October

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

For more information call **01273 846978.**

Regular Events

THE BEACON PARISH OCTOBER- Services of Morning Worship 10 am at St Margarets, Ditchling at 10 am on **8th, 15th, 22nd (family service) & 29th Oct.**

Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10 am at St Margarets Church, Ditchling.

Coffee, Chat & Play Thursday mornings in the Emmanuel Centre South Street Ditchling from 10 am Always check www.beaconparish.co.uk.

KEYMER FOLK DANCE CLUB October Mondays **2nd, 16th & 30th Oct** when Keith Calver is the caller for the evening. Keith is the regular caller at the Shoreham Folk Dance Club.

We meet from 7.30 at the URC Hall, Hassocks, www.keymerfolkdanceclub.co.uk

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.

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

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

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.

Pool, table tennis, games consoles and lots of activities finishing with circle time and prayers

HASSOCKS FOOD BANK - This is open to anyone in need of support. Held in Powell House (next to United Reformed Church), Hassocks. 10 am to 12 noon. Every Monday and Friday. Donations can be dropped to Bella and Megs, Mansell McTaggart & Budgens in Hassocks

HUG IN A MUG - A coffee (and cake) morning for all at either St Cosmas and St Damian Church, Keymer, Mondays at 10.30 am or at St Johns Church, Clayton on Tuesdays at 10.30 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.

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

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

YOUTH GROUP at St Francis Church, Priory Road, Hassocks. 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, games console etc.

Daily Events

1st SUSSEX PATHFINDERS 2 pm 5 mile of undulating fields & woods visit www.sussexpathfinders.org.uk for more info.

1st HASSOCKS PHILOSOPHICAL FORUM Purple Carrot Cafe, Hassocks 2 pm. All welcome.

1st HEBER OPERA Hurstpierpoint Village Centre 6 pm. 'Tales of Hoffman' Jaques Offenbach. Tickets 07340 251875.

1st OLDLAND WINDMILL Oldlands Lane, Keymer, 2 - 5 pm. 'Open Afternoon' - for all the family. All welcome.

2nd HASSOCKS WI Adastral Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. Craft Club - Halloween themed. Visitors welcome.

Hassocks - Defibrillator Locations

Location	Opening hours	Address	Telephone
Railway Station	Outside the ticket office area 24-hour access	Keymer Road	
Adastra Bowling Club	1 – 8 pm Mon, Wed & Fri 10 – 8 pm Tue, Thurs, Sat & Sunday Bowling season only - late April to late September	Adastra Park – north field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern	9am – 4pm Mon to Fri. 9 am -12 noon Saturday. Closed Sunday.	Dale Avenue Located at entrance, available during opening times	01273 844461
Freedom Leisure Centre (at Downlands Community School campus, Dale Avenue)	7am - 9 pm, Monday to Friday 8.30am – 4pm Saturday 9am – 3pm Sunday 9am – 3pm Bank Holiday (unless otherwise stated)	Downlands Community School Dale Avenue Located at entrance lobby of Leisure Centre – available during opening hours	01273 841348
Hassocks Dental Surgery	9am – 6pm Mon, Tue, Thurs. 8.45am – 4pm Wed 9am – 5pm Fri.	54A Keymer Road Available during opening hours	01273 842987
Graystone Referral Centre	8.30am – 5.30pm Monday 8.00am – 5.30pm Tuesday - Friday	38 Keymer Road Available during opening hours	
Keymer & Hassocks Sports & Social Club	On the wall in the covered alcove at the front of the building 24-hour access	Adastra Park – south field Via Orchard Lane or Keymer Road	
Age Concern Hassocks	9am - 4pm, Monday to Friday 9am – 12pm Saturday	Dale Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 844461
Hassocks Health Centre	8.30am - 6pm, Monday to Friday	Windmill Avenue Available during opening hours	01273 834388
Thatched Inn	Outside the front of the pub 24-hour access	Grand Avenue	01273 842946
Weald Lawn Tennis And Squash Rackets Club	9am - 9pm Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Saturday - Sunday	South Bank Available during opening hours	01273 844283
South Downs Garden Centre	8am - 6pm Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm Sunday	Brighton Road Available during opening hours	01273 845232

3rd HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 7.45 pm. The Robins take on Horsham YMCA. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

4th HURST MONTHLY SOCIAL CLUB Guide HQ, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 2-4 pm. 'My Travels with Mary Gibbens'. Visitors welcome. More info 01273 649023.

4th BURGESS HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill doors open 7.15 pm. 'Sussex Witchcraft' Chris Horlock. All welcome. www.burgesshillhorticulturalsociety.com

4th THE BEACON PARISH St Margarets Church, Ditchling, 6 pm. Sing! your heart out or maybe just come & listen.

5th DITCHLING FILM SOCIETY Ditchling Village Hall 7.30 pm. Film - Pina (PG).

5th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Court Bushes Community Centre, Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint 2 pm - 4 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

6th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm 8 pm 'Times Past- matters that made the headlines in Sussex from 1880 onwards' Paul Green formerly of the Argus. Visitors welcome.

7th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 10 am - 12 noon. Coffee Morning - raising funds for Chailey Heritage.

7th - 28th BRIGHTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL Various performances. Theme 'New Horizons'. Please see article for all info and how to book.

7th HURST VILLAGE MARKET, New Inn, Hurstpierpoint 10 am to 1 pm. Sussex Products and Gifts.

7th THE GROWING NETWORK Friends Meeting House, East Gardens, Ditchling. 10.30 am - 12 pm. Feel free to bring any seeds or plants to share or gardening books/tools you don't need. Children welcome too.

8th DITCHLING DOWNS WI Ditchling Village Hall 7 pm. AGM followed by 'The History of Uckfield Picture House' Kevin Markwick

8th DITCHLING SINGERS Keymer Church Hall 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

9th THE GROUP The Railway Pub, Station Road, Burgess Hill. 7.30 pm. A club for the over 55 unattached. www.thegroup.org.uk.

9th HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. AGM & Quiz Time.

11th BRIDGE TEA Danny House, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint 1.30 pm Fundraiser for NSPCC. See article for more info and how to book.

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

13th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Millfield Suite, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.45 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Talk by John Berry'

14th 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.

14th HASSOCKS FOOTBALL CLUB The Beacon Ground, Brighton Road, Hassocks KO 3 pm. The Robins take on AFC Uckfield Town. Bar and Food available. Free entry to kids 16 and under.

14th TEDDY AND THE BIG C Dice & Drinks Cafe, Burgess Hill, various sessions. Teddy's Role Playing Games Day. See article for more details.

16th HASSOCKS WI Adastra Hall, Hassocks 7.30 pm. Goblins, Ghoules & things that go bump in the night. Visitors welcome.

17th DITCHLING VILLAGE ASSOCIATION Ditchling Village Hall 9.45 - 11 am. Coffee morning hosted by Ditchling Downs WI. All welcome.

18th HASSOCKS TREFOIL GUILD Guide Hall, Semley Road, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. A Ghost Walk in Lewes with fish and chip supper. More info 07546 495433. Visitors welcome.

19th MEMORY MOMENTS CAFE Adastra Hall, Hassocks 10.30 am - 12.30 pm. Know Dementia, Education, Advice & Support. To book call 01273 494300.

22nd GILBERT & SULLIVAN The New Bury Theatre, Hurstpierpoint College BN6 9JS. 2.45 pm. Topsy-Turvy 2 A celebration of the life of Melvyn Tarran in aid of Cancer Research. www.ticket-source.co.uk/topsy-turvy-2.

22nd DITCHLING SINGERS Old Meeting House, Ditchling 4 - 6 pm. New singers most welcome.

23rd HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'My Wild Life' Paul Reader

23rd CAMEO Keymer Church Hall 2 pm - 4 pm. Open to all - come and enjoy an enjoyable afternoon over a cup of tea.

23rd HASSOCKS FIELD SOCIETY Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 7.45 pm. 'My Wild Life' Paul Reader.

25th BRAIN WAVES CHOIR Adastra Hall, Hassocks, 11 am. For people of all ages with any neurological condition. To book a place 01273 494300.

26th DITCHLING HISTORY PROJECT Ditchling Museum 6.30 pm. 'A Beginning and a Returning' All welcome. Please book 07771 715048.

26th LIBERAL DEMOCRATS SURGERY HASSOCKS Parish Council Offices Committee Room 11 am - 12 pm. Kirsty Lord, Sue Hatton, Kristian Berggreen & Chris Hobbs. No appointment necessary.

27th HURSTPIERPOINT HISTORICAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY Guide Hall, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint 7.45 pm 8 pm 'Daniel Defoe's tour of South-East England in the 1720's' Geoffery Mead. Visitors welcome.

27th HURST, HASSOCKS & DITCHLING U3A Adastra Hall, Hassocks 2 pm. 'Filching Manor Collection, including Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird K3' Karl Foulkes-Halbard. All welcome. Small entrance fee.

27th TEDDY AND THE BIG C Adastra Hall, Hassocks. Wine Tasting Evening hosted by Giles Cutlack of South Downs Cellars. to get tickets www.buytickets.at/rathergoodevents (see article).

27th MID SUSSEX AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY Starford Hall, Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill 7.30 pm. www.msars.org.uk. 'Surplus Equipment Sale'. Refreshments available. All welcome.

28th MESSY CHURCH URC Church 9.30 am. Meet for breakfast and crafts with a story.

28th HASSOCKS VILLAGE MARKET Age Concern Car Park, 9 am - 1 pm. Local produce, bread, honey, cheese, wine, veg etc.

28th REPAIR CAFE Age Concern Centre, Hassocks, 9.30 -11.30 am. Bring items for repair more info call 01273 040110 or www.hkdtransition.org.uk.



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STEVE'S BACK PAGE GOSSIP

It's been a bit of a sad month with our local wildlife, I suspect with all the building going on certain species are finding it difficult to find habitats. Firstly, a couple from the new Ockley Lane estate bought in the most beautiful little water vole they found on their drive, I've never held one before they're quite rare but it had an injury caused by road traffic and sadly didn't make it. Then a lady rescued a baby weasel which was very confused on our High Street, not the place you'd expect to find one. Once again it was just so cute and pretty but sadly that also didn't make it due to the damage to its back. The next one really confused me, I couldn't work out how it could have happened, a lady brought in a young swallow, it wasn't a baby, and as you know swallows very rarely land they mostly live on the wing but this one had a fishing hook through its chest with a lot of line attached. The lady that bought it in had cut away quite a bit of the line and I cut off quite a bit myself. How did a tiny bird like a swallow come into contact with a hook and line that had embedded itself in its chest, then manage to fly back to where his parents were? I know fishhooks and line can be irresponsibly used and disposed of so I'm assuming somehow that it was in the air when the poor bird flew into it, this one will forever remain a mystery. The hook had punctured the lung so once again sadly didn't make it. I must point out that all wildlife brought into us is collected from us by Sharon and her excellent team who are part of the Wildlife Rescue Ambulance Service, most get to see the vet in time but sadly some pass away in transit.

Another record broken last month was that we had six lost dogs brought into us and not a single one had a collar and disc on which incidentally is the law. Yes, they were all microchipped and eventually all were safely reunited with the owners, but because of data protection it's a more long winded affair so please be aware not everybody has got a chip reader. Since the world went harness mad less people have a collar on their dogs with the relevant details, the discs should have your phone number, house number and post code no names are required.

I see that very shortly McColls is going to morph into Morrisons. In order to do this, it will be closing for 10 days, this means no Post Office and when it re-opens the Post Office as you know it now will have moved to another part of the shop. Maureen, of course, will remain in charge but it'll be interesting to see how it turns out. The closure is from 3rd - 13th October.

I had a very interesting conversation with one of the owners of the National Tyres Garage Site across the road. He wants the people of Hassocks to put forward what they would like to see on that piece of ground, obviously something commercial, but would you like the library to move to a new site? Anything and everything you would like on that piece of ground then please write into the Talk About or e-mail (all details of this on the inside front cover) and I will pass them on. I will be honest, I do find it refreshing that for once it's not all about money, so come on give it your best shot and let's see what happens. Also, this will be a bit of a slow burner, so don't expect anything spectacular to happen this year, but I will keep you updated on what's going to happen before it happens - so watch this space.

Steve's shopping cart this month - if you've got chickens and want to make sure they stay worm free without using chemicals then a natural safe chemical free chicken feed containing herbal vermx is only £17.50 for 20 kilogrammes. No changes this month on horse feed or bedding prices, shavings £10.50 Bedmax £8.50, Miscanthus £8.75, Aubiose £11.50. Steve xx

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